



Addressing Maternal Health Inequity during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Housekeeping

- Event is being recorded and the recording will be posted online afterward.
- The slides and speaker biographies are available online.
- All participants are muted.
- Type your **questions** into the Q&A box at any time. We also encourage you to upvote and comment on the questions others ask.



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Addressing Maternal Health Inequity during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Methods

- In spring and summer 2020, we conducted individual and small-group interviews with 40 maternal health experts, perinatal care providers, consumer advocates, philanthropic funders, and frontline health workers serving pregnant women to identify and examine key concerns about maternal health equity and challenges raised by the pandemic. We also conducted, and periodically updated, a comprehensive scan of publicly available information on maternal health equity during the pandemic from national policy and research organizations, professional and provider trade organizations, and leading maternal and infant health advocacy groups.

Methods

- Our findings primarily reflect insights into and responses to the pandemic that emerged between March and September 2020. Because of social distancing requirements and the urgency of this topic during the pandemic, this analysis has some limitations. We could not interview mothers directly, and though we interviewed provider and advocate stakeholders, we recognize they do not represent mothers' viewpoints. In addition, our interviewees were predominantly on the East Coast, but we acknowledge community needs and realities differ by location and understand the importance of authentic community voice, partnership, and engagement as solutions are developed, implemented, and evaluated. We center this work, part of the Urban Institute's larger Transforming Health and Health Care Systems project, around the Center for Social Inclusion's definition of racial equity:* when "people, including people of color, are owners, planners, and decisionmakers in the systems that govern their lives" and society "[acknowledges and accounts for] past and current inequities and provides all people, particularly those most impacted by racial inequities, the infrastructure needed to thrive." *

- What is racial equity? Center for Social Inclusion website. <https://www.centerforsocialinclusion.org/our-work/what-is-racial-equity/>. Accessed October 19, 2020.

The Briefs

- Maternal Telehealth Has Expanded Dramatically During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Equity Concerns and Promising Approaches
- Improving Patient and Provider Experiences to Advance Maternal Health Equity: Strategies to Address Inequity During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond
- The Pandemic Has Increased Demand for Data and Accountability to Decrease Maternal Health Inequity
- Maternity Care Financing: Challenges and Opportunities Highlighted by the COVID-19 Pandemic

Pre-COVID-19

- Policies
- Health Care Systems
- People
 - Providers
 - Consumers

COVID-19

- **New Virulent Virus with unknown impact on people who are pregnant/birthing**
- Lack of ability to follow basic public health strategies despite desire in some places
- Consumer and Worker Safety/Health Concerns
- Economic Disaster
- Fear and bravado

COVID-19

- Policies
- Health Care Systems
- People
 - Providers
 - Consumers

During COVID-19-Rapid Changes-Worsening Inequities

- Telehealth/telemonitoring
- Increased Stressors
- Separation
- Rapidly changing rules
- Isolation; lack of birthing supports; pre and post-delivery isolation and quarantine
- Lack of adequate testing and protection equipment
- Inability to fulfill basic needs
- Quality questions
- And more...

Post COVID-19

- People
 - Consumers
 - Providers
- Health Care Systems
- Policies



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