



CENTERING COMMUNITY VOICES FOR BLACK MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

ACIMM

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birth equity (noun):

The assurance of the condition of optimal birth for all people with a willingness to address racial and social inequities in a sustained effort.

Dr. Joia CreaPerry
Founding President
National Birth Equity Collaborative

Mission

NBEC creates transnational solutions that optimize Black maternal, infant, sexual and reproductive well-being. We shift systems and culture through training, research, technical assistance, policy, advocacy and community-centered collaboration.

Values

We stand on our values of **Radical Joy**, reproductive and sexual freedom, Black Lives, sisterhood, anti-racism, power, and Black Feminism/Womanism.

Vision

Our vision is that all Black Mamas, babies and their villages thrive.

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Separate and unequal: Structural racism and infant mortality in the US



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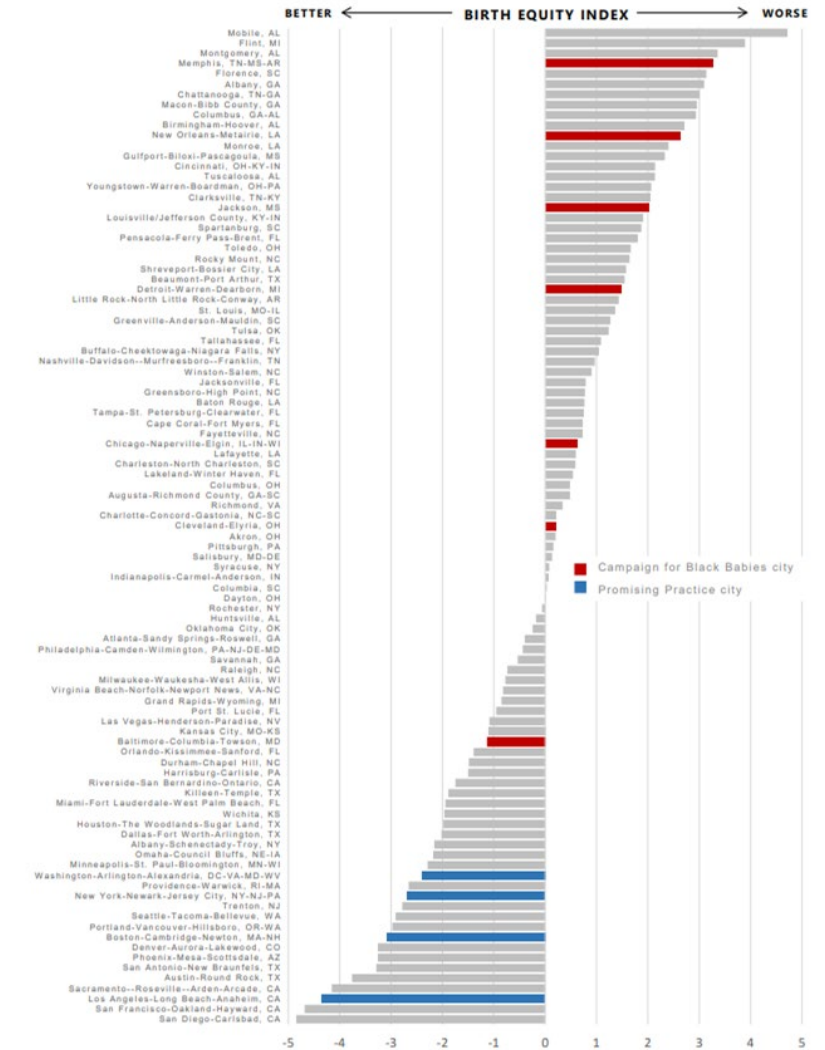
ABSTRACT

We examined associations between state-level measures of structural racism and infant mortality among black and white populations across the US. Overall and race-specific infant mortality rates in each state were calculated from national linked birth and infant death records from 2010 to 2013. Structural racism in each state was characterized by racial inequity (ratio of black to white population estimates) in educational attainment, median household income, employment, imprisonment, and juvenile custody. Poisson regression with robust standard errors estimated infant mortality rate ratios (RR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) associated with an IQR increase in indicators of structural racism overall and separately within black and white populations. Across all states, increasing racial inequity in unemployment was associated with a 5% increase in black infant mortality (RR=1.05, 95% CI=1.01, 1.10). Decreasing racial inequity in education was associated with an almost 10% reduction in the black infant mortality rate (RR=0.92, 95% CI=0.85, 0.99). None of the structural racism measures were significantly associated with infant mortality among whites. Structural racism may contribute to the persisting racial inequity in infant mortality.

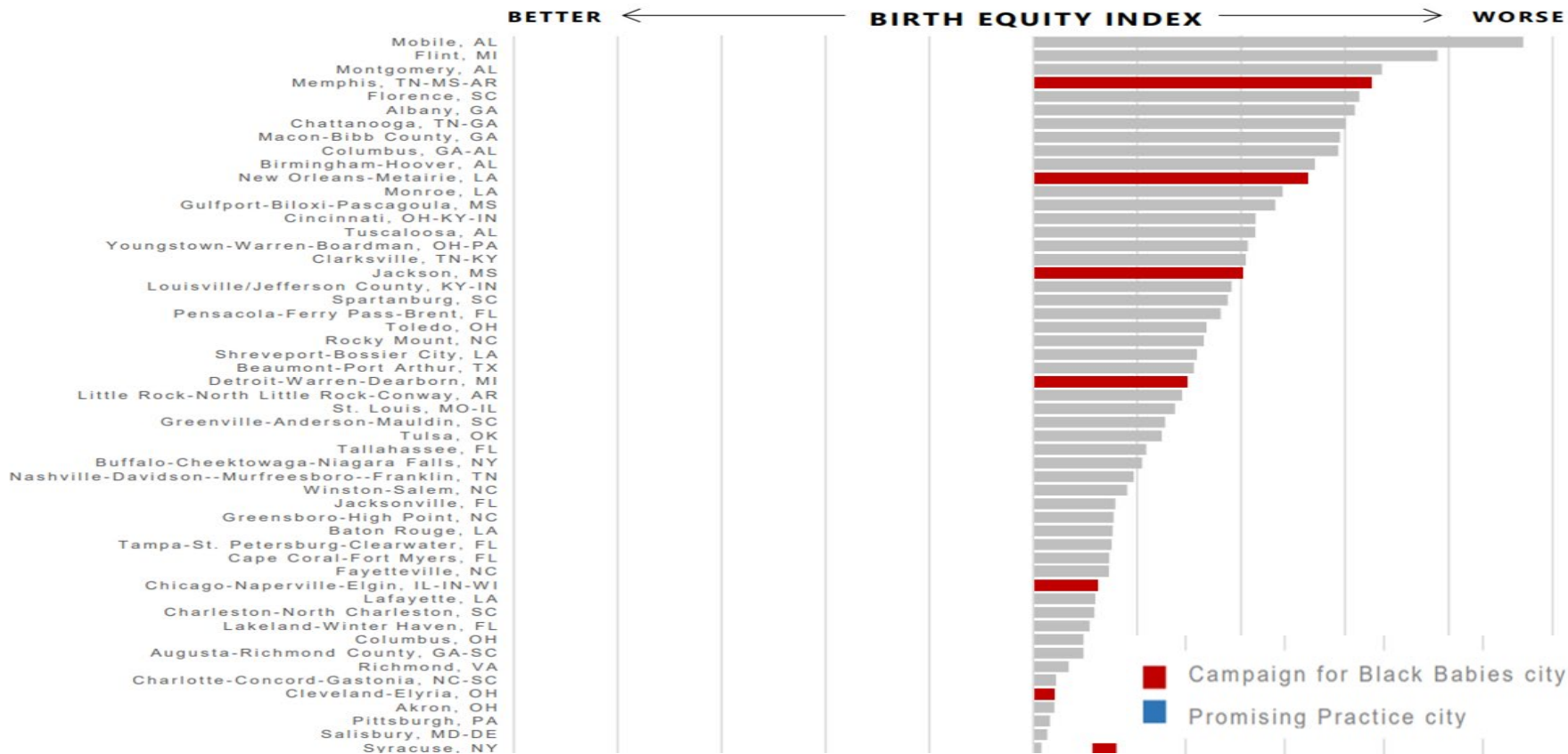
Birth Equity Index

NBEC needed quantifiable context on which cities had the largest burden of Black infant death

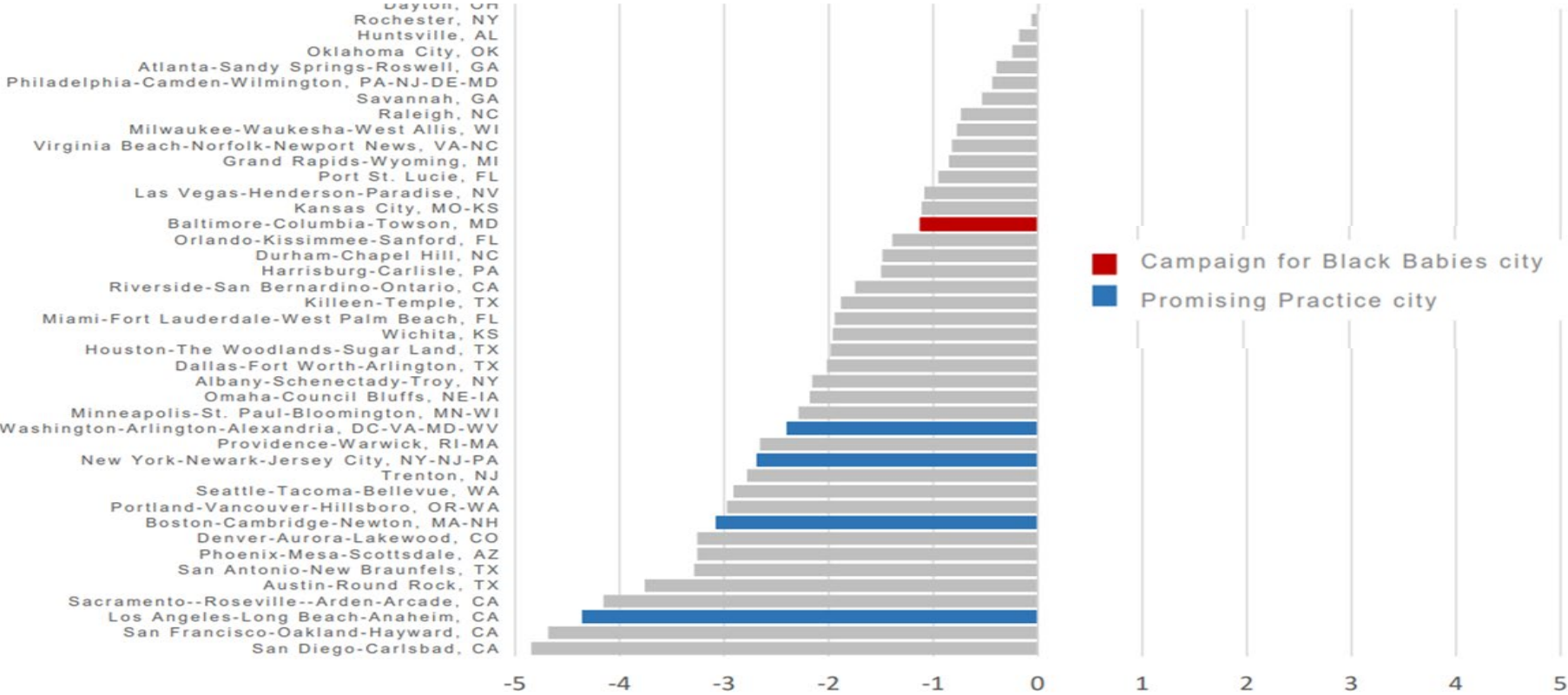
- Nationwide data fact finding
- 100 cities with largest Black population
- Analyzed over 50 social determinant of health indicators
- Created an Index



Birth Equity Index 2



Birth Equity Index 3



Lessons Learned

Healthy mamas create healthy babies

- The largest leverage point we have for infant health equity is maternal health
- Birth outcomes are determined by people's access to information, resources, quality care and equitable healthcare institutions (including payers and social safety net systems)
- There are multigenerational implications to consider in the reproductive life course of birthing people
 - Socioeconomics, wealth, opportunity
 - Structural divestments and access to care
 - Environmental hazards
 - Epigenetics
- **Reproductive Justice** is the appropriate life course framework for Birth Equity
- **Research Justice** and **Cultural Humility** are appropriate research methodologies for Birth Equity₈

Thank you!



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