

State-level interventions on key drivers of maternal health inequities:

A multi-method analysis of
California laws & regulations

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Background & research question

- Wave of new legislation seeking to improve maternal health and/or maternal health equity
- New conceptual model identifies key drivers

How do California's recent laws & regulations address key drivers of maternal health inequities?

Conceptual model (Hardeman et al 2022)

Developing Tools to Report Racism in Maternal Health for the CDC Maternal Mortality Review Information Application (MMRIA): Findings from the MMRIA Racism & Discrimination Working Group

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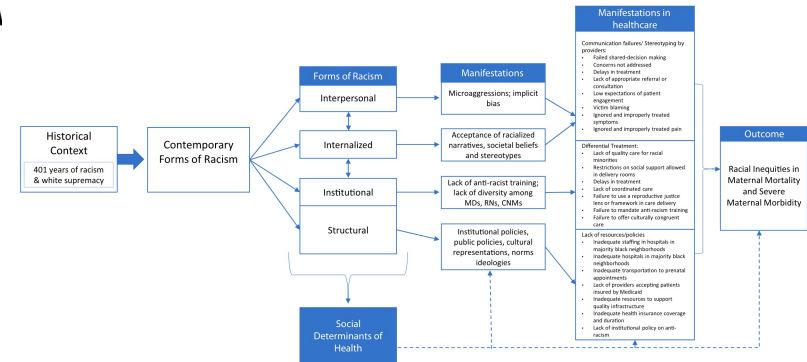


Fig. 1 A Conceptual Model of how Racism Operates and Results in Inequities in Maternal Morbidity and Severe Maternal Mortality

Hardeman et al. 2022. *Matern. Child Health J*

Methods

1. Landscape analysis

California laws & regulations that had the express goal of improving maternal health: 2019 – 2023

2. Operationalization of conceptual model

3. Deductive thematic analysis

Methods – Landscape analysis sources

California Legislative Information

California Department of Health Care Services

- CalAIM, Medi-Cal Transformation
- Enhanced Care Management Policy Guide
- Equity and Practice Transformation Payments Program
- Approved State Plan Amendments

California Health Care Foundation (chcf.org)

The Commonwealth Fund (commonwealthfund.org)

Health Affairs (healthaffairs.org)

United States Department of Health and Human Services:
Healthy People 2030

California Department of Health Care Access and Information
(HCAI) (hcai.ca.gov)

California Governor's Budget Proposal

Policy Center for Maternal Health (2020mom.org; CA policies)

Health Care Transformation Task Force (hcttf.org)

California Black Health Network (cablackhealthnetwork.org)

California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (cmqcc.org)

California Medical Association (cmadocs.org)

New York Times & Washington Post (multiple articles)

Urban Institute: Understanding Training and Workforce Pathways to Develop and Retain Black Maternal Health Physicians in California

Kaiser Family Foundation - Medicaid / Medicaid Postpartum Extension Tracker

Review to Action Working Together to Prevent Maternal Mortality
(reviewtoaction.org)

Black Women for Wellness Action Project (bwwactionproject.org)

California Department of Public Health: Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division

Public Health Institute (phi.org) - California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review

Department of Managed Health Care - 2022 Health Equity and Quality Committee Recommendations Report

California Omnibus Act

Center for Health Care Strategies (chcs.org)

CDC.Gov - Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality

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Methods

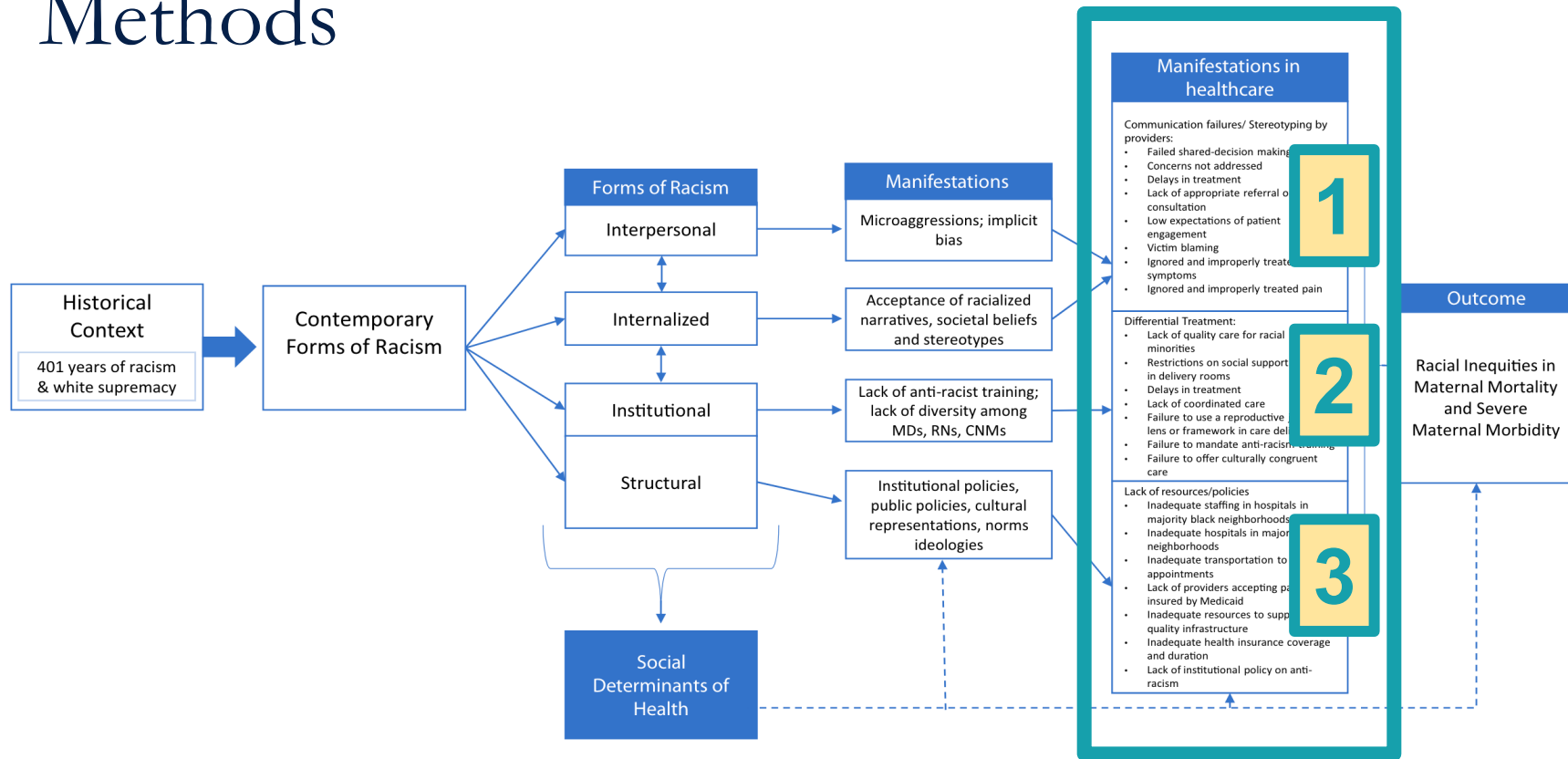
1. Landscape analysis

California laws & regulations that had the express goal of improving maternal health: 2019 – 2023

2. **Operationalization of conceptual model**

3. Deductive thematic analysis

Methods



Hardeman et al. 2022. *Matern. Child Health J*

Methods – Thematic categories based on Hardeman et al 2022

Driver 1 – Problems in communication, stereotyping, and other interpersonal interactions, resulting from interpersonal racism/bias

Driver 2 – Differential and/or suboptimal treatment for racial minorities within healthcare settings (e.g., lower-quality care, inequitable burdens of hospital policies), resulting from institutional racism

Driver 3 – Lack of resources and/or policies that could support the health and healthcare of racial minorities (e.g., inadequate hospital staffing in minoritized neighborhoods, inadequate access to health insurance), stemming from structural racism.

Methods

1. Landscape analysis

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3. **Deductive thematic analysis**

Methods – Deductive thematic analysis

- Focused on the direct target of the policy
- Unique efforts w/explicit goal of improving maternal health
 - Regulations that exclusively supported the implementation of another regulation were not counted as a separate intervention
- Iterative rounds of categorization, discussion, refinement
 - Two coauthors
 - Full agreement

Results

- 11 laws and 4 regulations (n=15)
 - Passed 2019 – 2023 in California
 - Explicit goal of improving maternal health

Results – Landscape analysis snapshot

2019-2020	2021	2022-2023
SB 464 – Dignity in Pregnancy & Childbirth Act	Momnibus (SB 65) California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Committee (CA-PAMR)	SB 1207 Health care coverage: Maternal and pandemic-related mental health conditions
AB 577 - Continuity of maternal mental health care	Midwifery Workforce Training Act Medi-Cal Doula Benefit	AB 904 Health care coverage: Doulas
AB 845 - Continuing education on maternal mental health (MDs)	CalAIM regulations Medi-Cal Postpartum Expansion Community Health Workers Preventive Services Enhanced Care Management and Community Support	SB 667 Healing arts: Pregnancy and childbirth
AB 1237 - Nurse midwife scope of practice	Equity and Practice Transformation Payments Program AB 1204- Hospital Equity Reporting - Health and Safety Code	

Results – Deductive thematic analysis

n	Driver	Types of policies
2 laws (13%)	Driver 1 – Problems in communication, stereotyping, and other interpersonal interactions , resulting from interpersonal racism	Provider antibias training; Bias-informed training on maternal mental health care in physicians' CE
1 law (7%)	Driver 2 – Differential and/or suboptimal treatment for racial minorities within healthcare settings (e.g., lower-quality care, inequitable burdens of hospital policies), resulting from institutional racism	Hospital communication to patients about their right to be free of discrimination; how to report discrimination.
14 laws or regs (93%)	Driver 3 – Lack of resources and/or policies that could support the health and healthcare of racial minorities (e.g., inadequate hospital staffing in minoritized neighborhoods, inadequate access to health insurance), stemming from structural racism.	Expanded patient access to postpartum and mental health care, care coordination, midwifery and doula services, particularly for minoritized populations; new data sources and reporting requirements for data on health inequities; efforts to diversify the maternal health workforce

Results – Driver #1

Problems in communication, stereotyping, and other interpersonal interactions

2 laws (13%)

Requirements/Actions

SB 464 (2019) – Dignity in Pregnancy & Childbirth Act

(Focused on improving outcomes for Black women/birthing people.)

“Evidence-based” implicit bias training every 2 years for perinatal care providers in hospitals and birth centers. Training must address specific topics (e.g., bias reduction, communication, reproductive justice).

AB 845 (2019) - Continuing education: physicians and surgeons: maternal mental health

Medical board consider including a course on maternal mental health care in MDs’ continuing education, including bias- and cultural competency-informed approaches

Results – Driver #2

Differential and/or suboptimal treatment for racial minorities within healthcare settings

1 law (7%)

SB 464 (2019) – Dignity in Pregnancy & Childbirth Act
(Focused on improving outcomes for Black women/birthing people.)

Requirements/Actions

Hospitals to provide information to every patient about their right to be free of discrimination + where they can file a report if they experience discrimination in their health care.

Results – Driver #3

Lack of resources and/or policies that could support the health and healthcare of racial minorities

14 laws or regulations (93%)	Requirements/Actions
SB 464 (2019) Dignity in Pregnancy & Childbirth Act <i>(Focused on improving outcomes for Black women/birthing people.)</i>	Better tracking and publishing inequities re: pregnancy-related deaths
AB 577 (2019) Health care coverage: Maternal mental health	Supports continuity of maternal mental health care
AB 1237 (2020) Nurse-midwives: Scope of practice	Expands scope of practice to expand use of midwives, improve health/reduce inequities

Continued...

Results – Driver #3

Lack of resources and/or policies that could support the health and healthcare of racial minorities

(Continued)	Requirements/Actions
SB 65: Momnibus (2021 laws) CA Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Committee (CA-PAMR) Midwifery Workforce Training Act Medi-Cal Doula Benefit	Better tracking, published; recommendations to improve outcomes & equity Enriches CNM workforce for underserved pops. Doula benefit for Medi-Cal recipients
AB 1204 (2021) Hospital Equity Reporting § 127345 Health and Safety Code	Hospitals will publish annual reports of health equity data + equity plan
SB 1207 (2022) Health care coverage: maternal and pandemic-related mental health conditions	Health care service plans must develop a maternal mental health program; program enhancements encouraged

Results – Driver #3

Lack of resources and/or policies that could support the health and healthcare of racial minorities

(Continued)	Requirements/Actions
AB 904 (2023) Health care coverage: Doulas	Extends equity-focused doula program into private coverage plans/insurers
SB 667 (2023) Healing arts: Pregnancy and childbirth	Expands the scope of practice of certified nurse-midwives e.g., to care for a wider range of patients (prior cs)

Results – Driver #3

Lack of resources and/or policies that could support the health and healthcare of racial minorities

(Continued)	Requirements/Actions
CalAIM regulations (2021) Medi-Cal Postpartum Expansion Community Health Workers Preventive Services Enhanced Care Management and Community Support Equity and Practice Transformation Payments Program	For Medi-Cal recipients More postpartum resources/supports New community-based supports incl. for perinatal health conditions Enhanced services for complex needs, incl focus on birth equity Support Medi-Cal primary care practices, esp. w/OB/GYN services, to prepare to participate in alternative payment models. Equity focus.

Discussion

- All CA maternal health policy 2019-2023 directly targeted one or more key driver

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- All CA maternal health policy 2019-2023 directly targeted one or more key driver
- Most targeted structural resources or policies (expanding access, enhancing workforces that could better serve minoritized communities, creating new data sources; Driver 3)
- Few targeted problems of interpersonal healthcare interactions (Driver 1) or differential/inadequate treatment (Driver 2)

Discussion

- Focusing on the mechanisms by which racism affects maternal health allowed us to discern new things about the adequacy and potential of existing policy

Discussion

- Limited policy intervention on differential/inadequate treatment in healthcare settings (Driver 2)
 - What are the implications?

Discussion - Strengths & limitations

- Novel mechanism-focused analysis
- California is an historic leader in maternal health
- Five-year scope
- Need to know more about policy quality & other influences on these drivers

Next steps

- Deepen interpretation of implications
- Broaden scope of analysis
- Appraisal of policy quality

Carvalho K, Kheyfets A, Maleki P, et al. *Frontiers in Public Health*. 2021.
Carty DC, Mpofu JJ, Kress AC, et al. *Journal of Women's Health*. 2022;



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Thank you

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