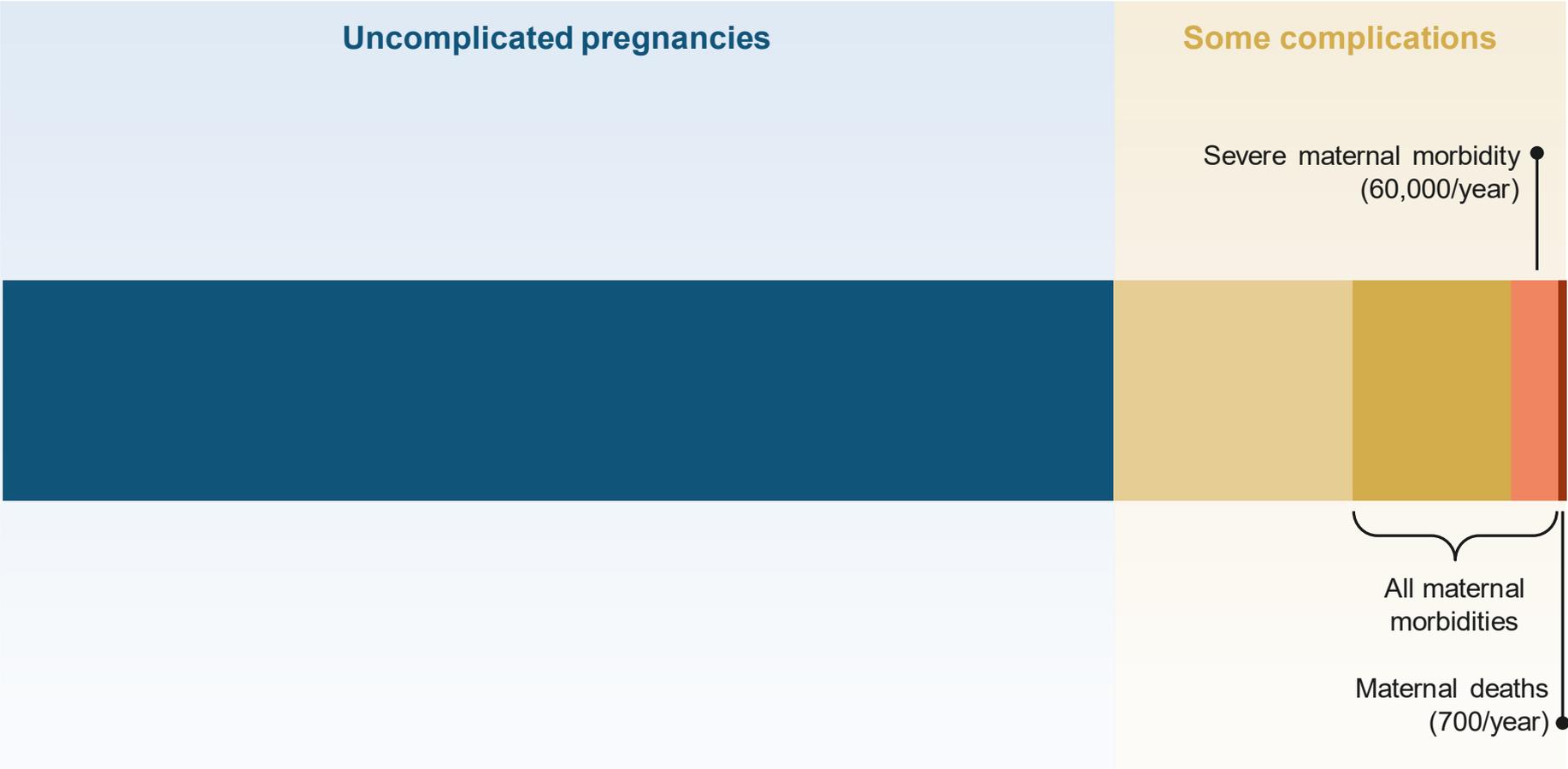


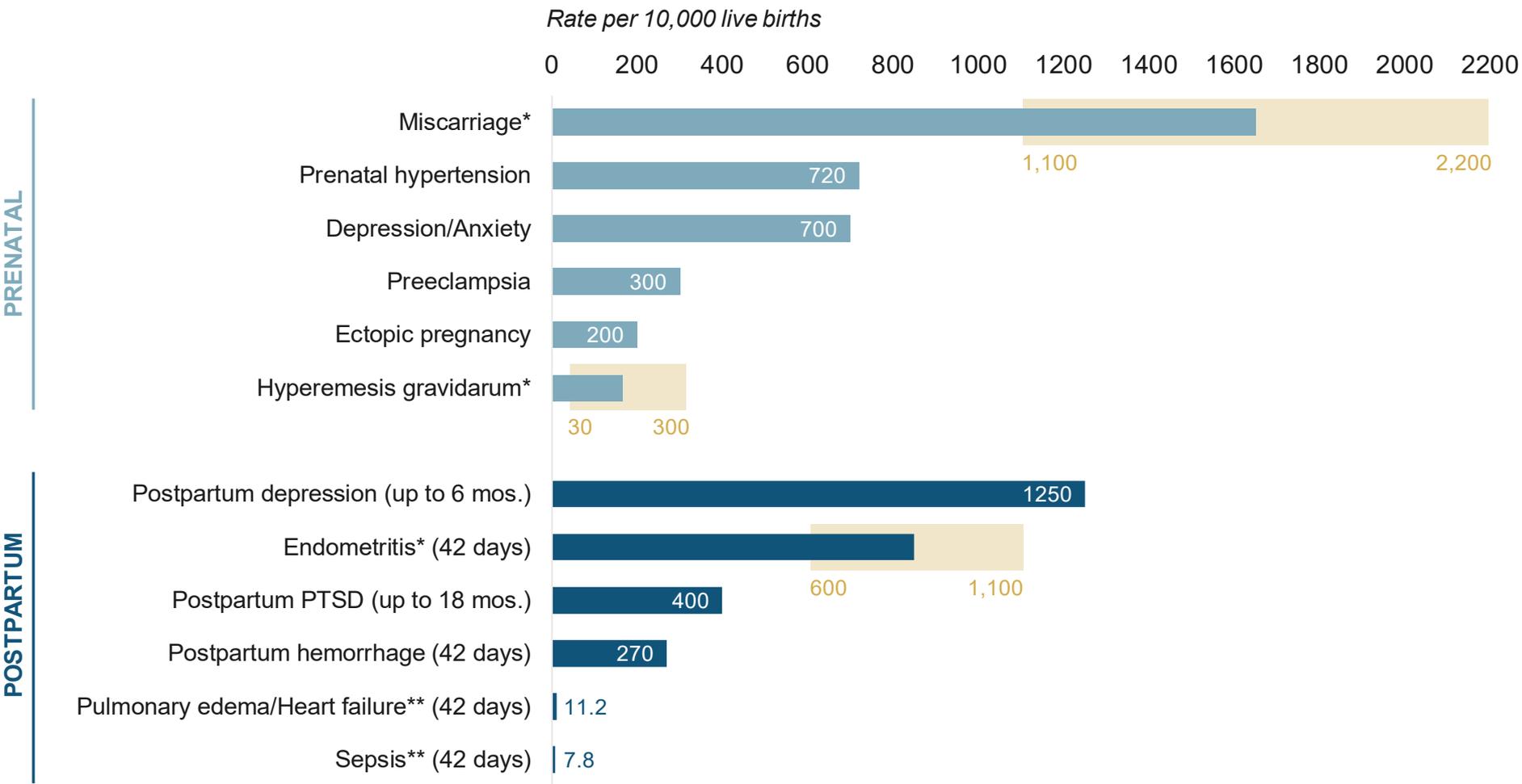
Serious maternal illnesses and complications are rare.

Rates of maternal illness and complication during pregnancy



Data: Adapted from Lale Say et al., "Maternal Morbidity Measurement Tool Pilot: Study Protocol," *Reproductive Health* 13, no. 69 (June 9, 2016).

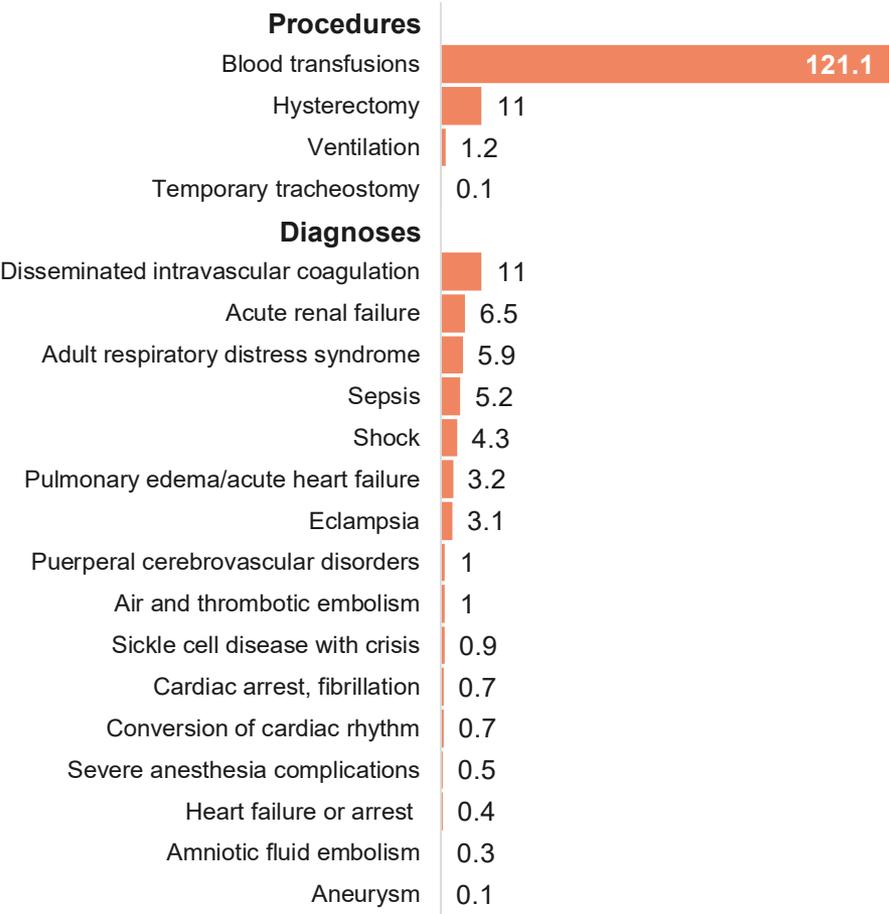
Neither prenatal nor postpartum morbidities are included in estimates of severe maternal morbidity.



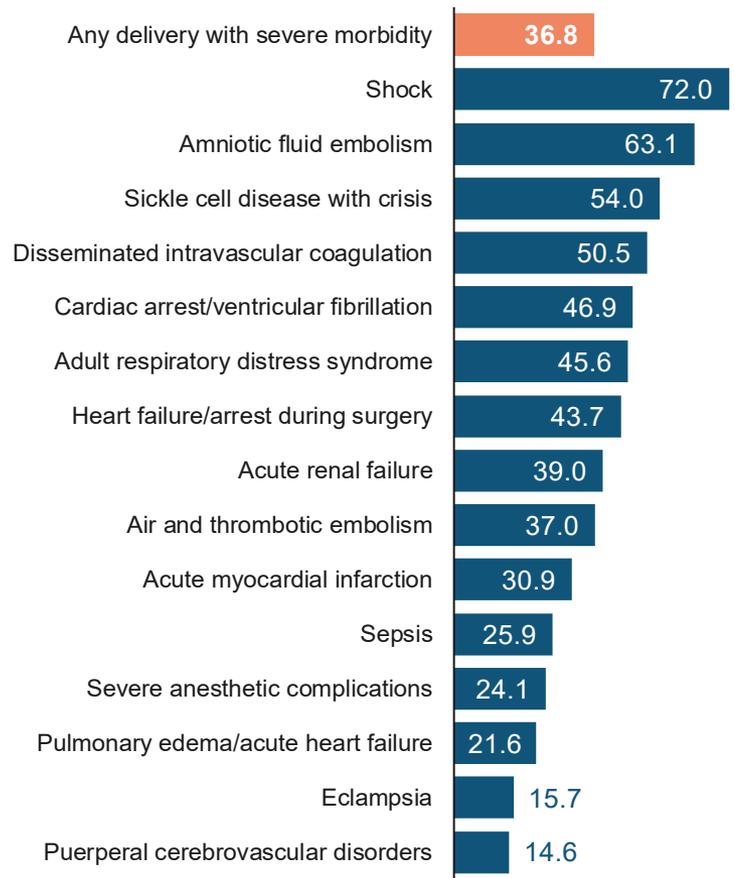
Notes: Miscarriage is defined as the spontaneous loss of a fetus before the 20th week of pregnancy. * Best-available estimates produce a range rather than a single rate. ** Among those on Medicaid.
 Data: Miscarriage: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22511535/>; Prenatal hypertension: CDC Wonder; Depression/Anxiety: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/pregnancy-week-by-week/in-depth/depression-during-pregnancy/art-20237875>; Preeclampsia: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23973398/>; Ectopic pregnancy: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32412215/>; Hyperemesis gravidarum: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28641304/>; Postpartum depression: https://www.cdc.gov/prams/prams-data/mch-indicators/states/pdf/2018/All-PRAMS-Sites-2016-2017_508.pdf; Endometriosis: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29433350/>; Postpartum PTSD: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24952134/>; Postpartum hemorrhage: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28367647/>; Pulmonary edema/Heart failure & Sepsis: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7856547/>.

Blood transfusions are the most common indication of severe maternal morbidity.

Severe maternal morbidity at birth, per 10,000 U.S. births, 2015



Percentage of deliveries involving blood transfusion among those with condition indicating severe maternal morbidity, 2015



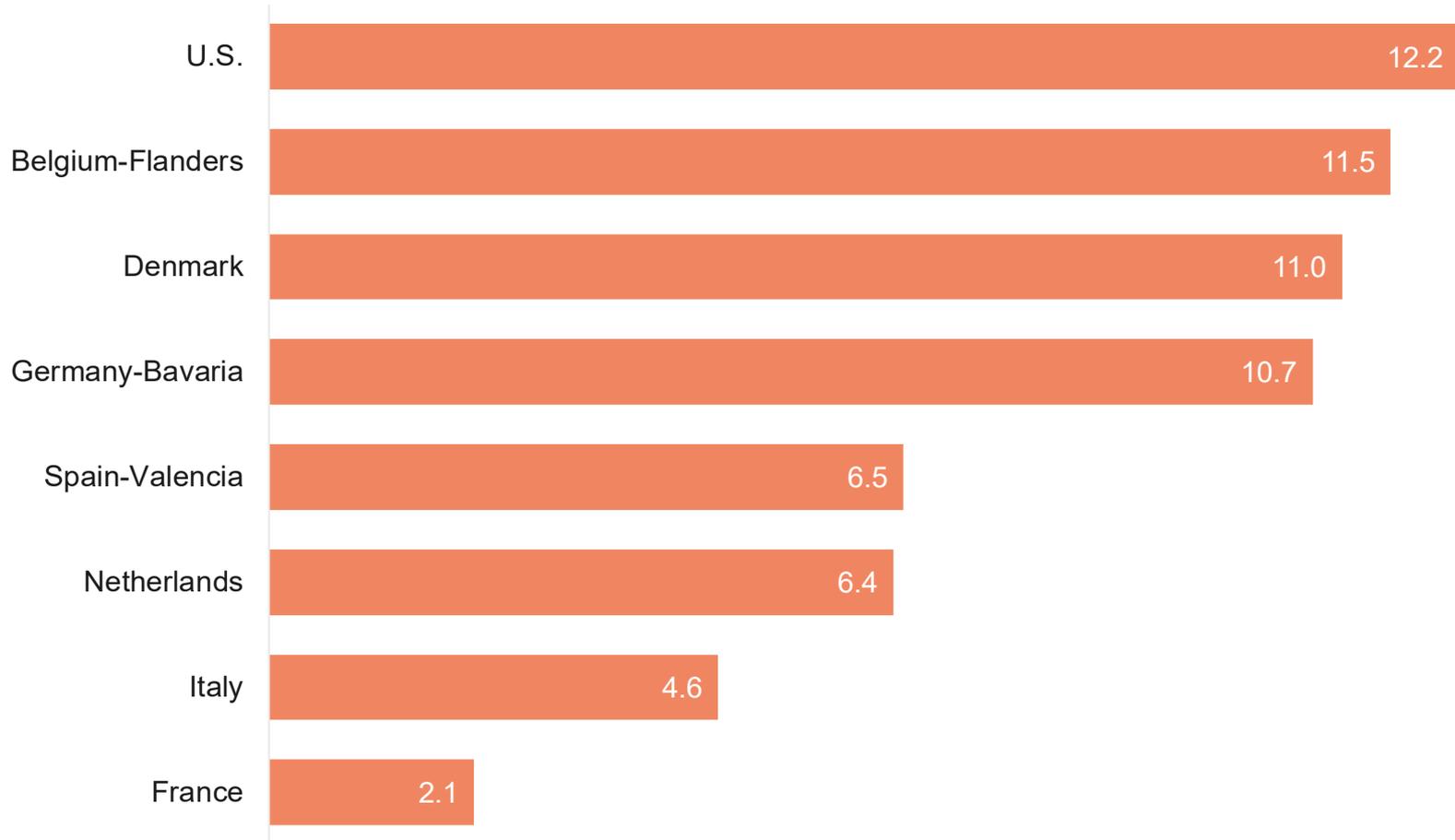
Data: Kathryn R. Fingar et al., [Trends and Disparities in Delivery Hospitalizations Involving Severe Maternal Mortality, 2006–2015](#), HCUP Statistical Brief #243 (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Sept. 2018).



Source: Eugene Declercq and Laurie Zephyrin, *Severe Maternal Morbidity in the United States: A Primer* (Commonwealth Fund, Oct. 2021).

Blood transfusions during childbirth in the U.S. occur at a much higher rate than in many parts of Europe.

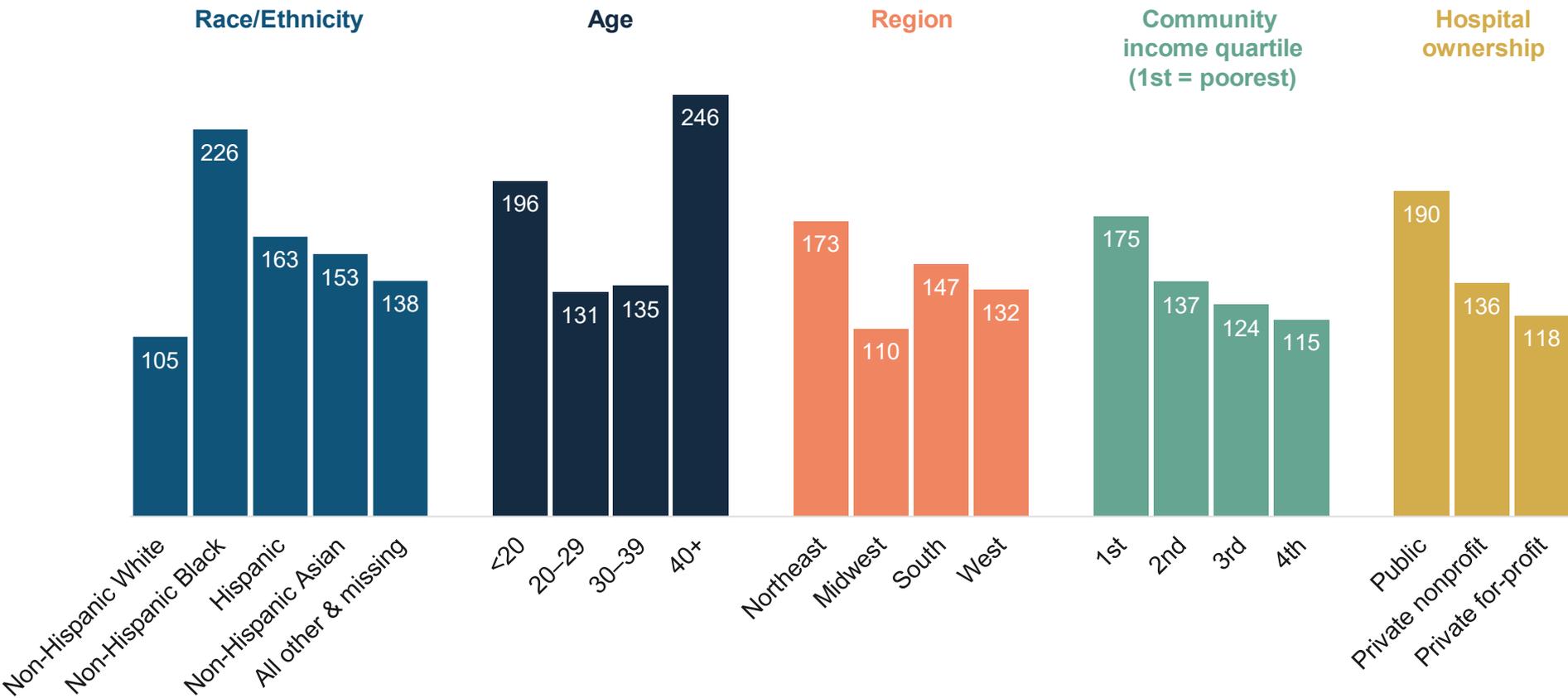
Transfusions per 1,000 births in selected high-income countries, 2010–14



Data: U.S.: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "[How Does CDC Identify Severe Maternal Morbidity?](#)" last updated Dec. 26, 2019; Other countries: Marie-Hélène Bouvier-Colle et al., "[What About the Mothers? An Analysis of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in Perinatal Health Surveillance Systems in Europe](#)," *BJOG* 119, no. 7 (June 2012): 880–90.

There are strong relationships between severe maternal morbidity and race/ethnicity, age, region, community-level income, and hospital type.

Severe maternal morbidity per 10,000 births, 2016–17



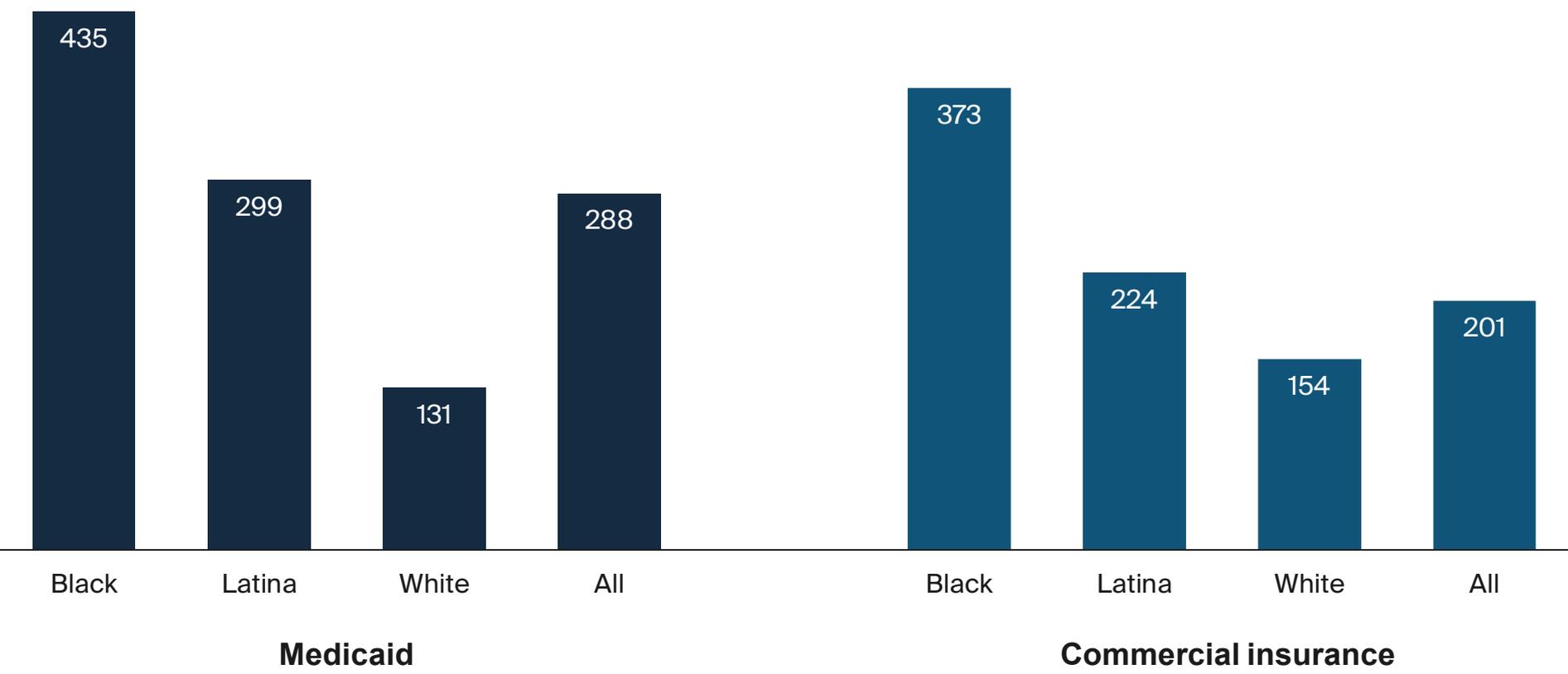
Data: Clare C. Brown et al., "[Associations Between Comorbidities and Severe Maternal Morbidity](#)," *Obstetrics and Gynecology* 136, no. 5 (Nov. 2020): 892–901.



Source: Eugene Declercq and Laurie Zephyrin, *Severe Maternal Morbidity in the United States: A Primer* (Commonwealth Fund, Oct. 2021).

Racial inequities in severe maternal morbidity exist among both Medicaid and commercial insurance enrollees.

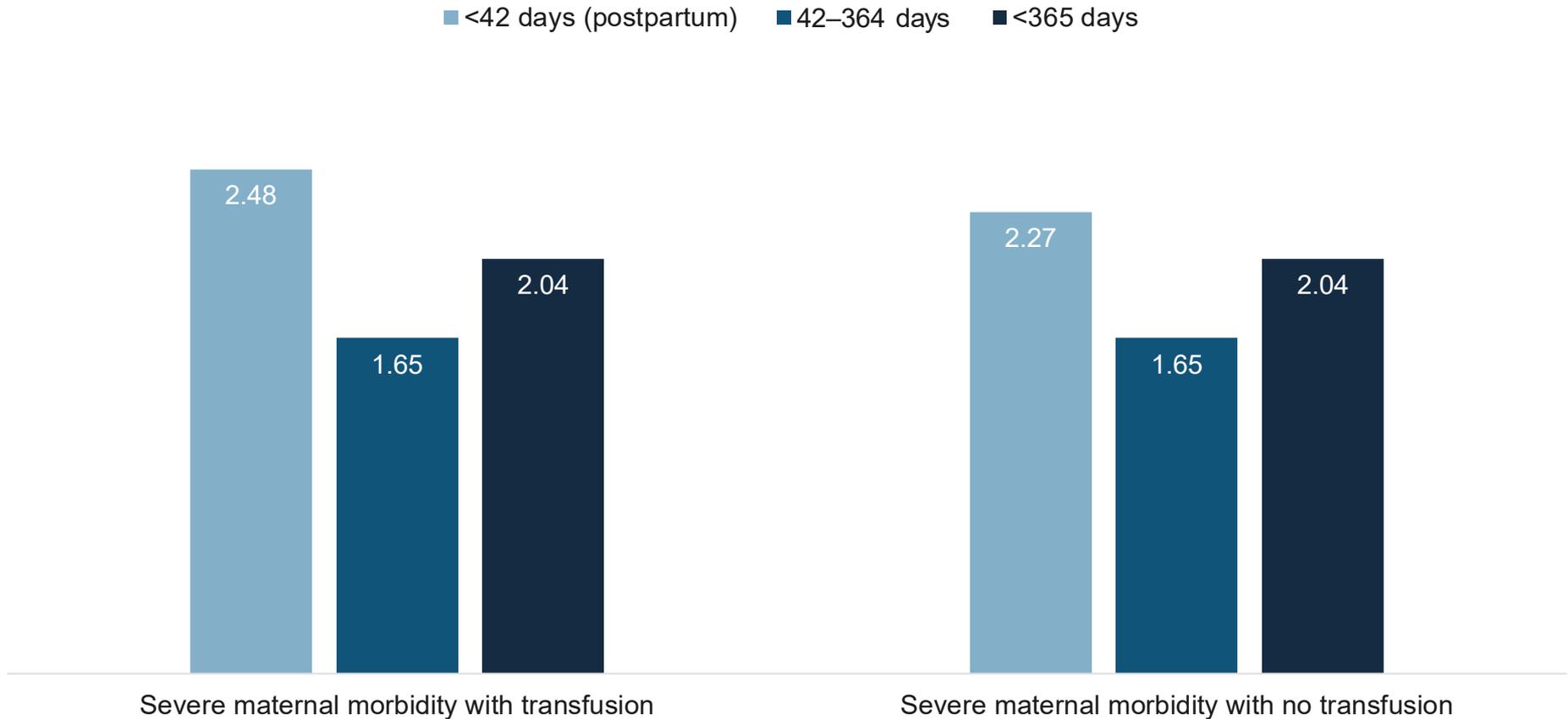
Severe maternal morbidity in New York City hospitals, per 10,000 births, by race/ethnicity and insurance type, 2010–14



Data: Elizabeth A. Howell et al., "Race and Ethnicity, Medical Insurance, and Within-Hospital Severe Maternal Morbidity Disparities," *Obstetrics and Gynecology* 135, no. 2 (Feb. 2020): 285–93.

Women who experience a severe maternal morbidity are much more likely to be readmitted to the hospital during the postpartum period than women who do not experience one.

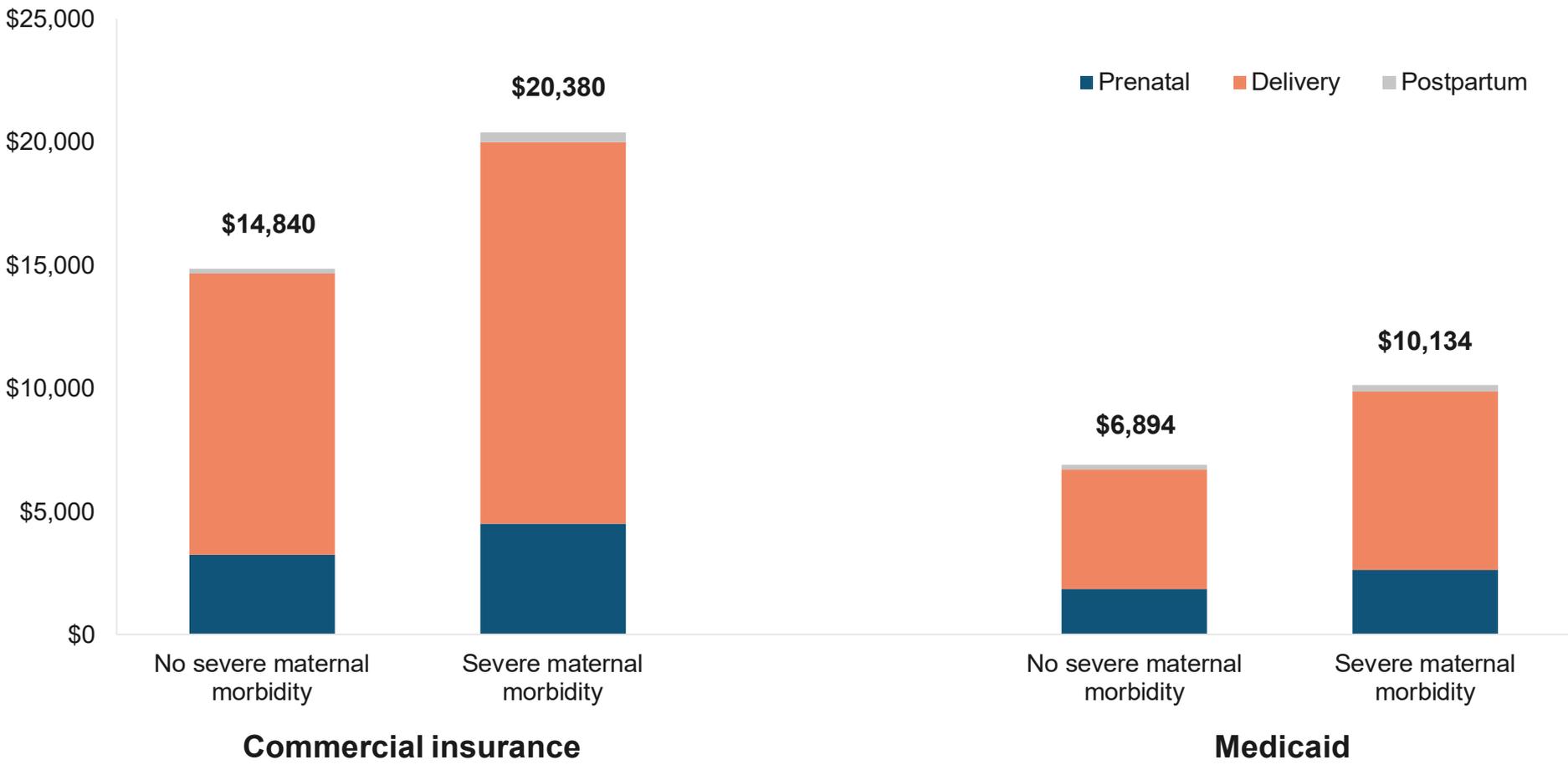
Likelihood (risk ratio) of postpartum hospitalization with and without severe maternal morbidity, Massachusetts, 2002–11



Data: Elizabeth M. Harvey et al., "[Severe Maternal Morbidity at Delivery and Risk of Hospital Encounters Postpartum](#)," *Journal of Women's Health* 27, no. 2 (Feb. 2018): 140–47.

Births that involve severe maternal morbidity are far more expensive than births that do not.

U.S. mean costs without and with severe maternal morbidity, by timing and insurance type, 2013



Data: Kimberly K. Vesco et al., "Costs of Severe Maternal Morbidity During Pregnancy in U.S. Commercially Insured and Medicaid Populations: An Observational Study," *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 24, no. 1 (Jan. 2020): 30–38.