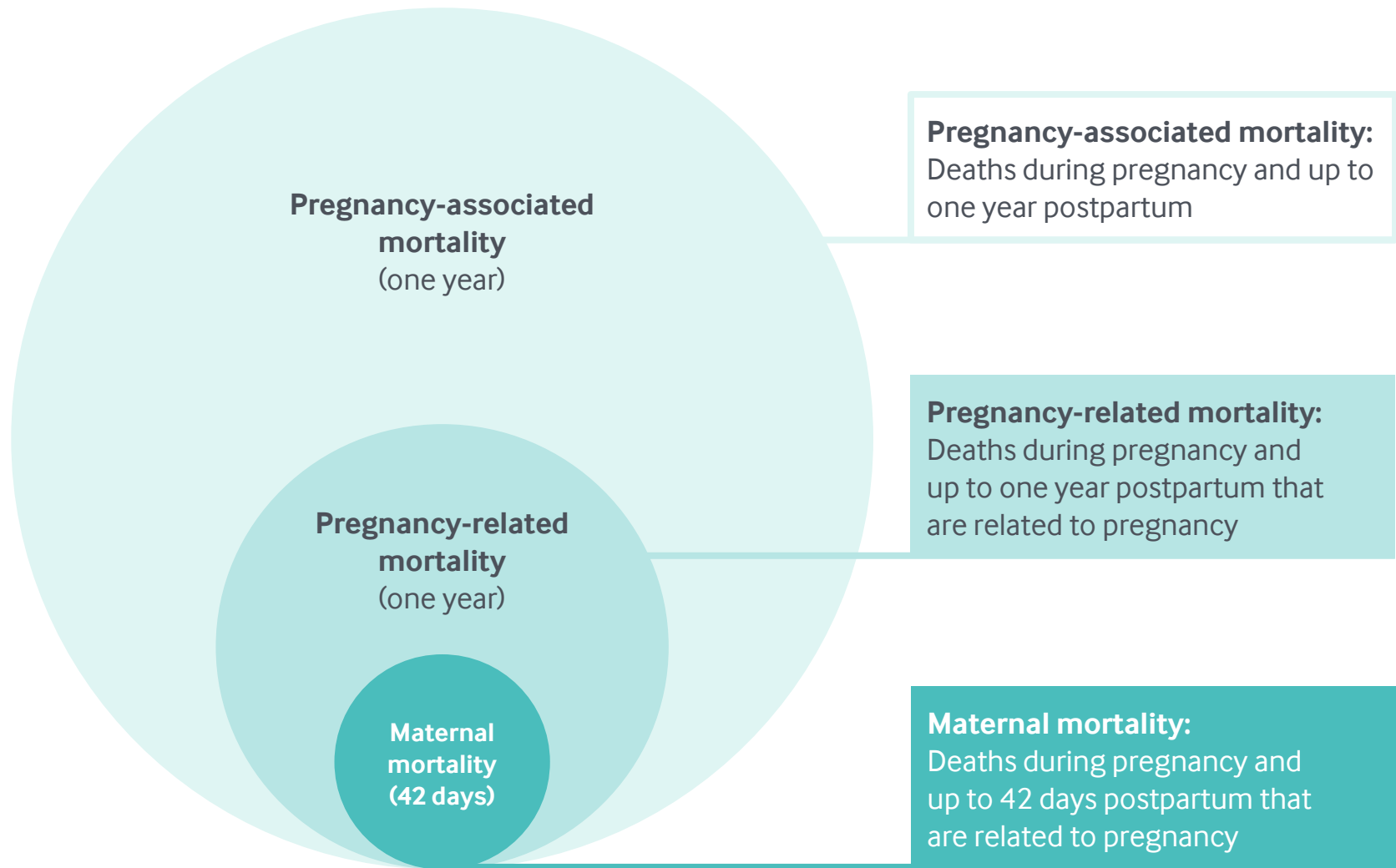
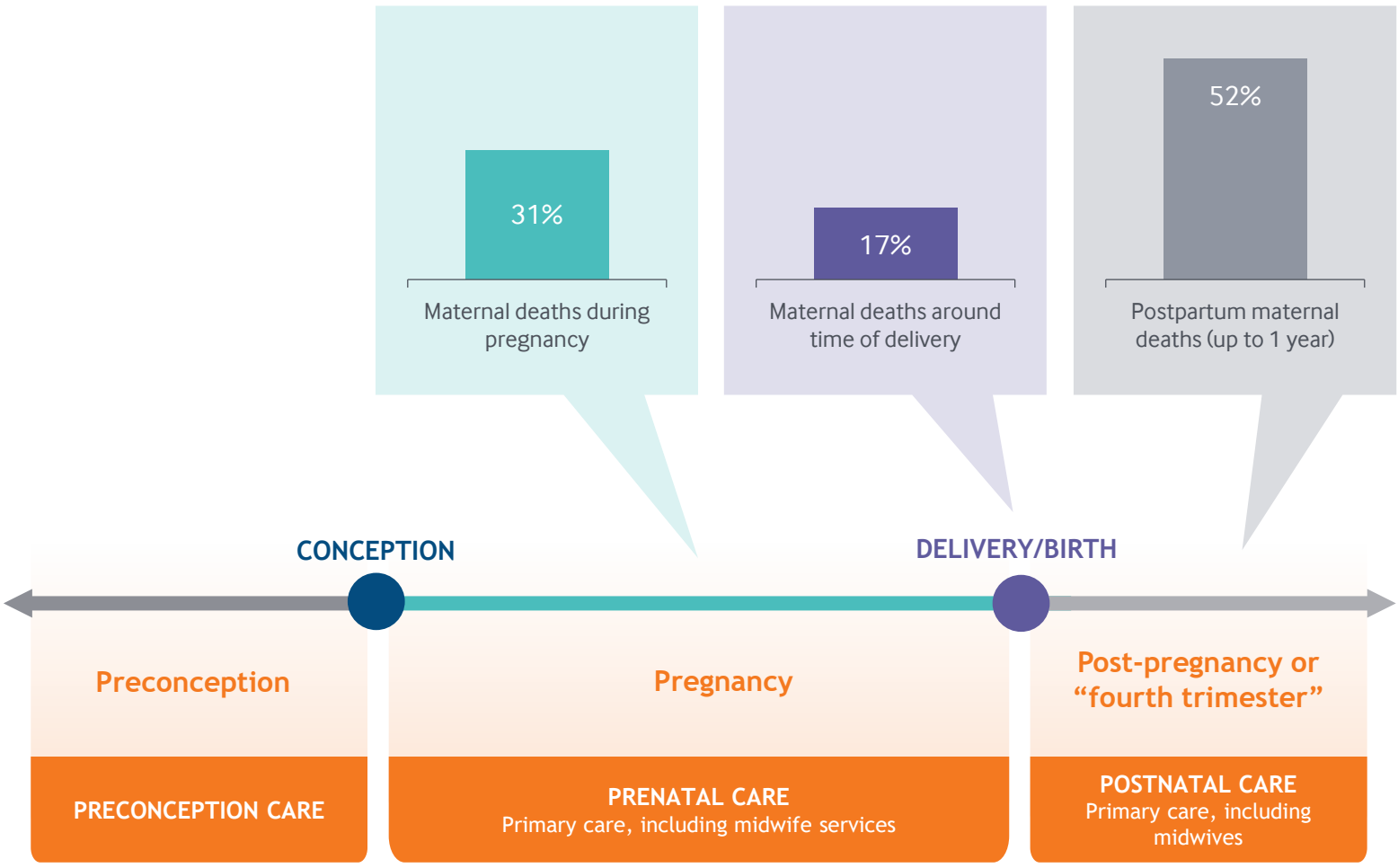


What do we mean by maternal mortality?

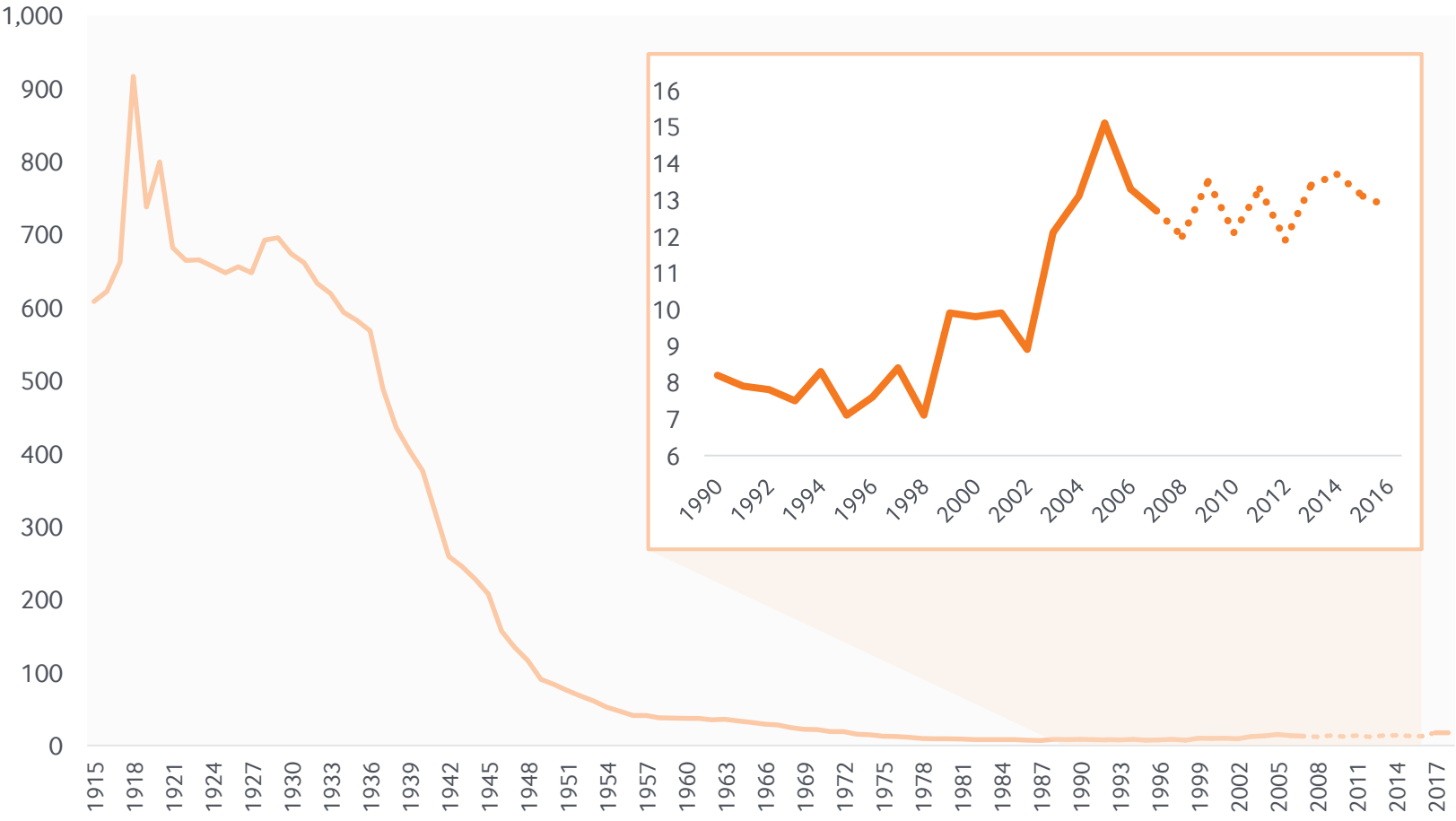


Half of pregnancy-related deaths occur after the day of birth.



Maternal mortality had been gradually declining before recently rising.

Deaths per 100,000 births



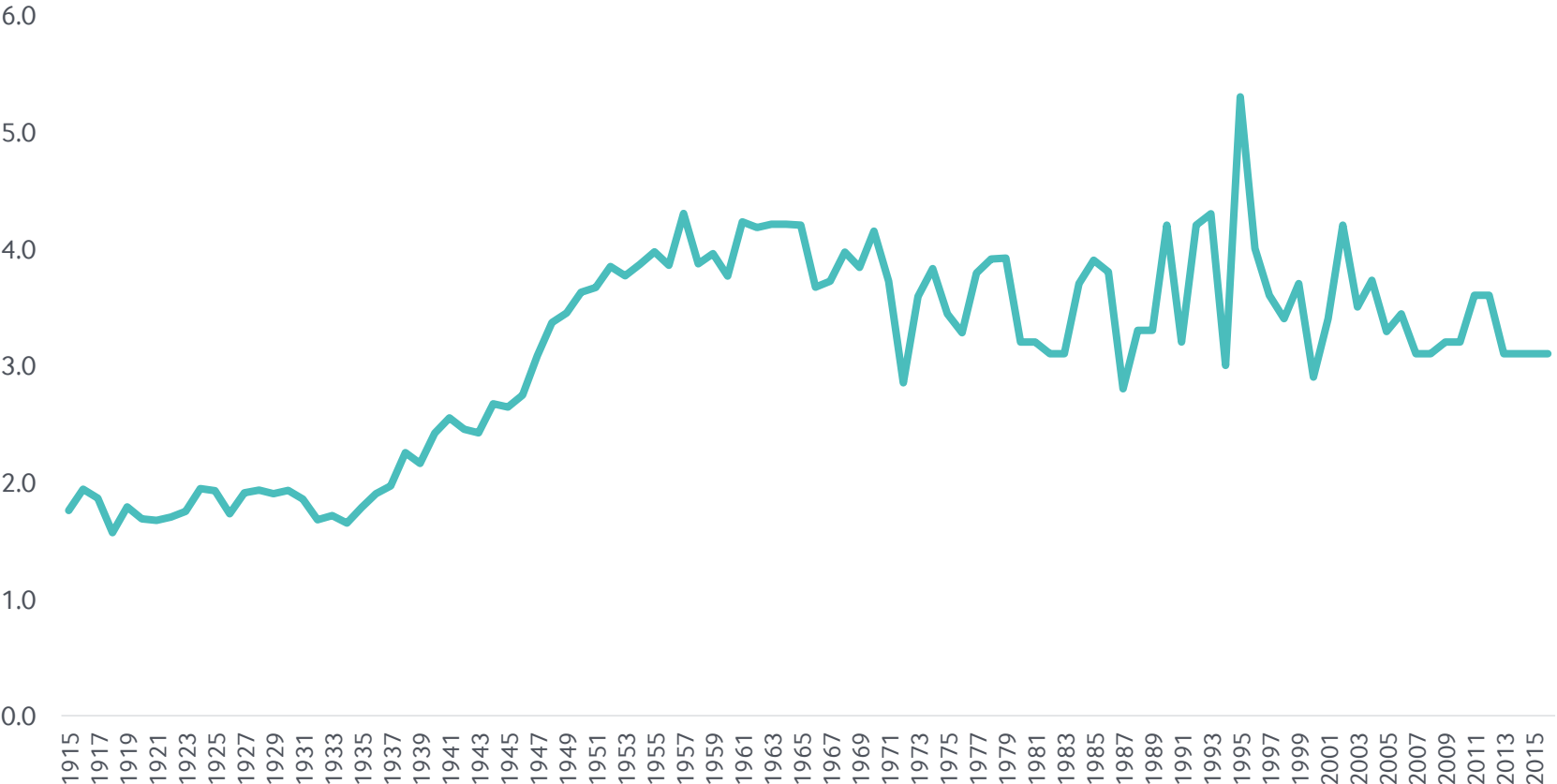
Note: Shifts in measurement (e.g., not all states were part of registration system prior to 1933; infant race was based on race of the child until 1980 and on race of the mother post-1980) account for some of the variation over time. Years 2007–2016 based on two-year estimates of the pregnancy-related mortality rate: Emily E. Petersen et al., "Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 68, no. 35 (Sept. 6, 2019): 762–65. Data for 2017 unavailable; data for 2018 based on official NVSS rate.

Data: NCHS, Maternal Mortality and Related Concepts, Vital & Health Statistics, Series 33, #3. & annual data reports. 1915–1960 data from NCHS, Vital Statistics Rates in the United States, 1940–1960.



Black mothers have been more likely to die than white mothers for 100 years.

Ratio of Black to white maternal mortality



Notes: Shifts in measurement account for some of the variation over time. For example, not all states were part of registration system prior to 1933, and infant race was based on race of the child until 1980 and then race of the mother after 1980.

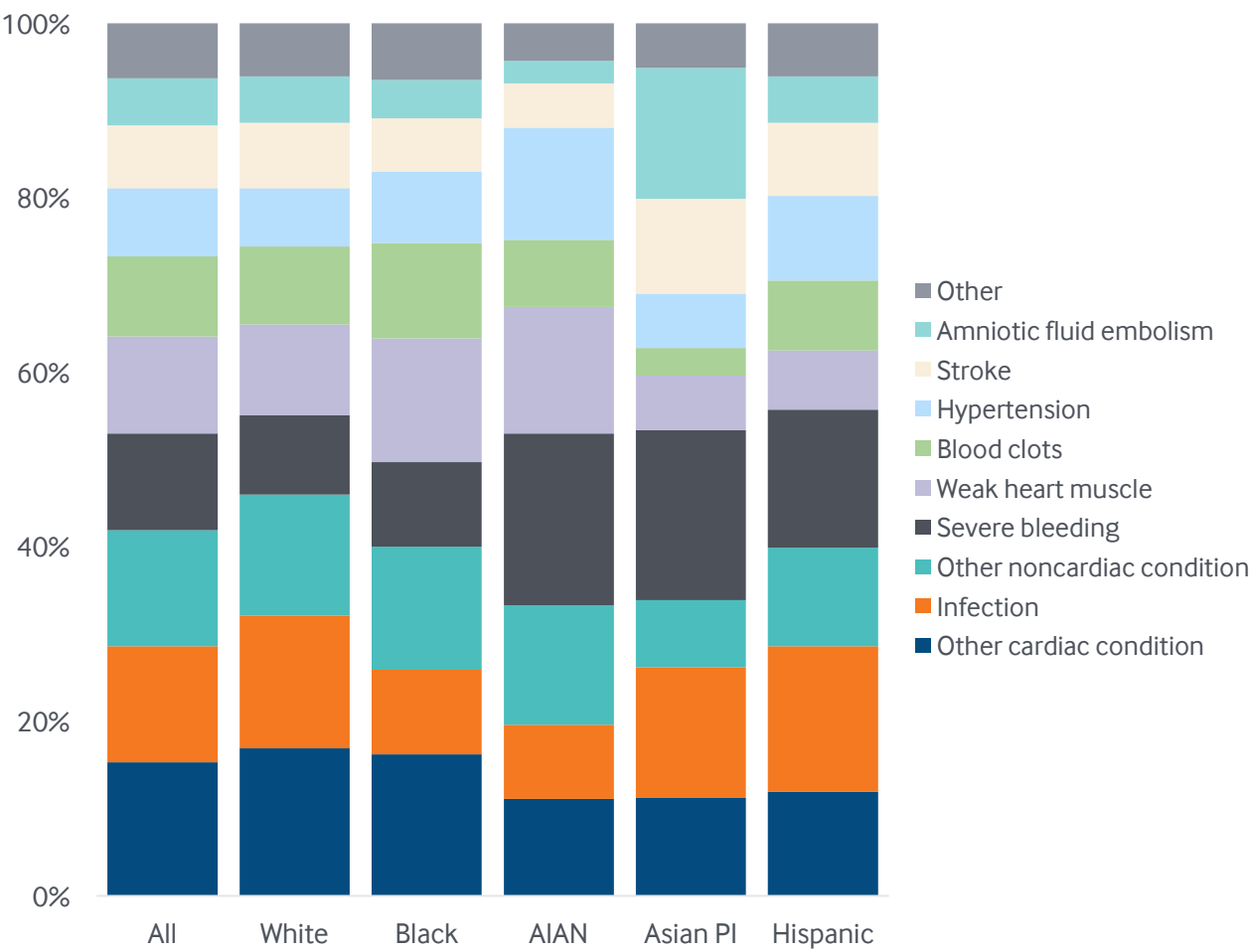
Data: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), "Maternal Mortality and Related Concepts," *Vital and Health Statistics*, series 33, no. 3 (Feb. 2007); and NCHS annual data reports. Data for 1915–1960 from NCHS, *Vital Statistics Rates in the United States 1940–1960*. Data for 2007–2016 based on two-year estimates of the pregnancy-related mortality rate, from Emily E. Petersen et al., "[Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016](#)," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 68, no. 35 (Sept. 6, 2019): 762–65.



Source: Eugene Declercq and Laurie Zephyrin, *Maternal Mortality in the United States: A Primer* (Commonwealth Fund, Dec. 2020). <https://doi.org/10.26099/ta1q-mw24>

Different race and ethnicities, different causes of pregnancy-related deaths, U.S., 2007–16

Cause-specific pregnancy-related mortality in the U.S. by race/ethnicity, 2007–2016 (%)

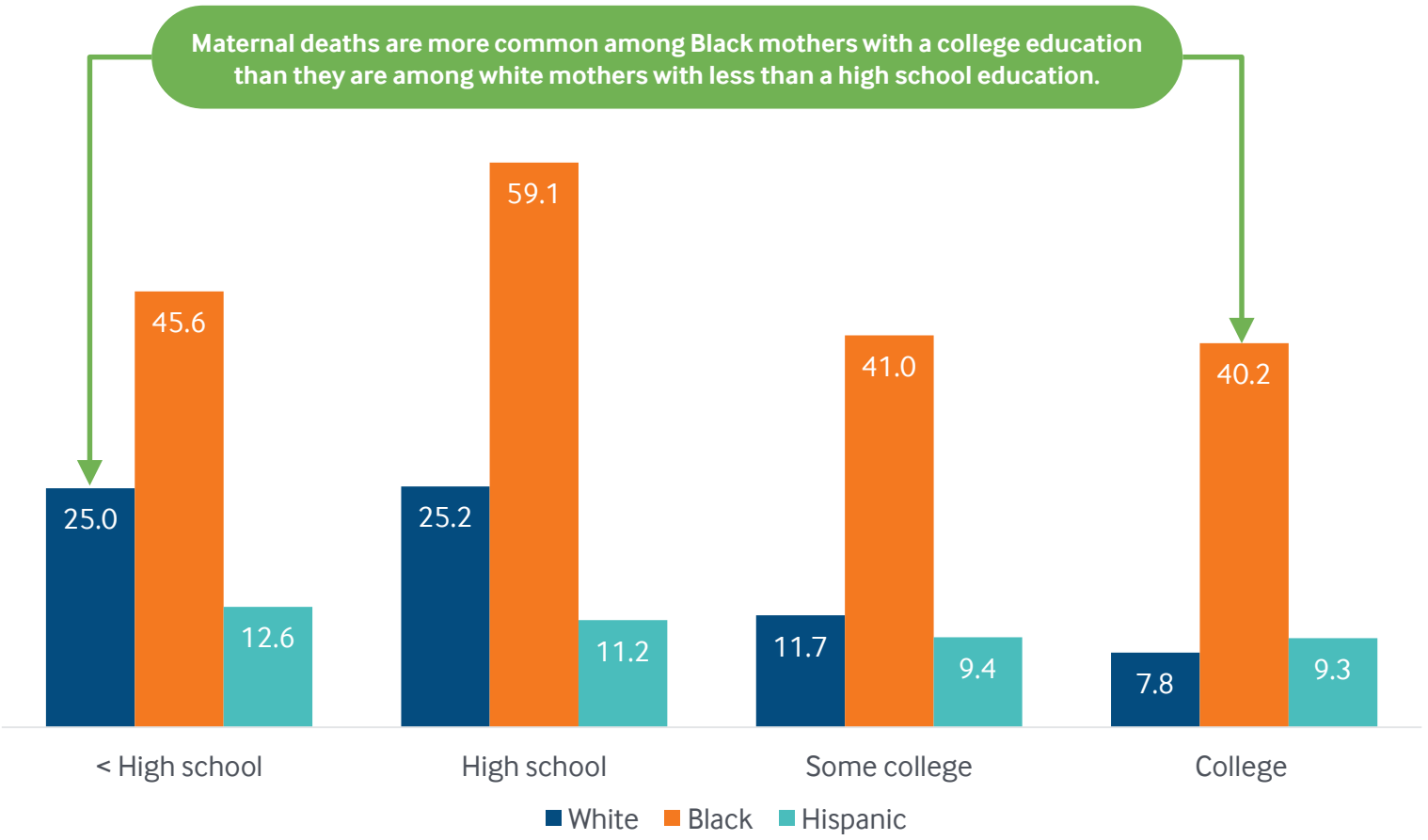


Note: AIAN = American Indian and Alaska Native. Asian PI = Asian Pacific Islander.

Data: Emily E. Petersen et al., "Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 68, no. 35 (Sept. 6, 2019): 762–65.

Even higher education does not protect Black mothers from pregnancy-related death (U.S., 2007–16).

Pregnancy-related mortality ratios per 100,000 births in the U.S., 2007–2016



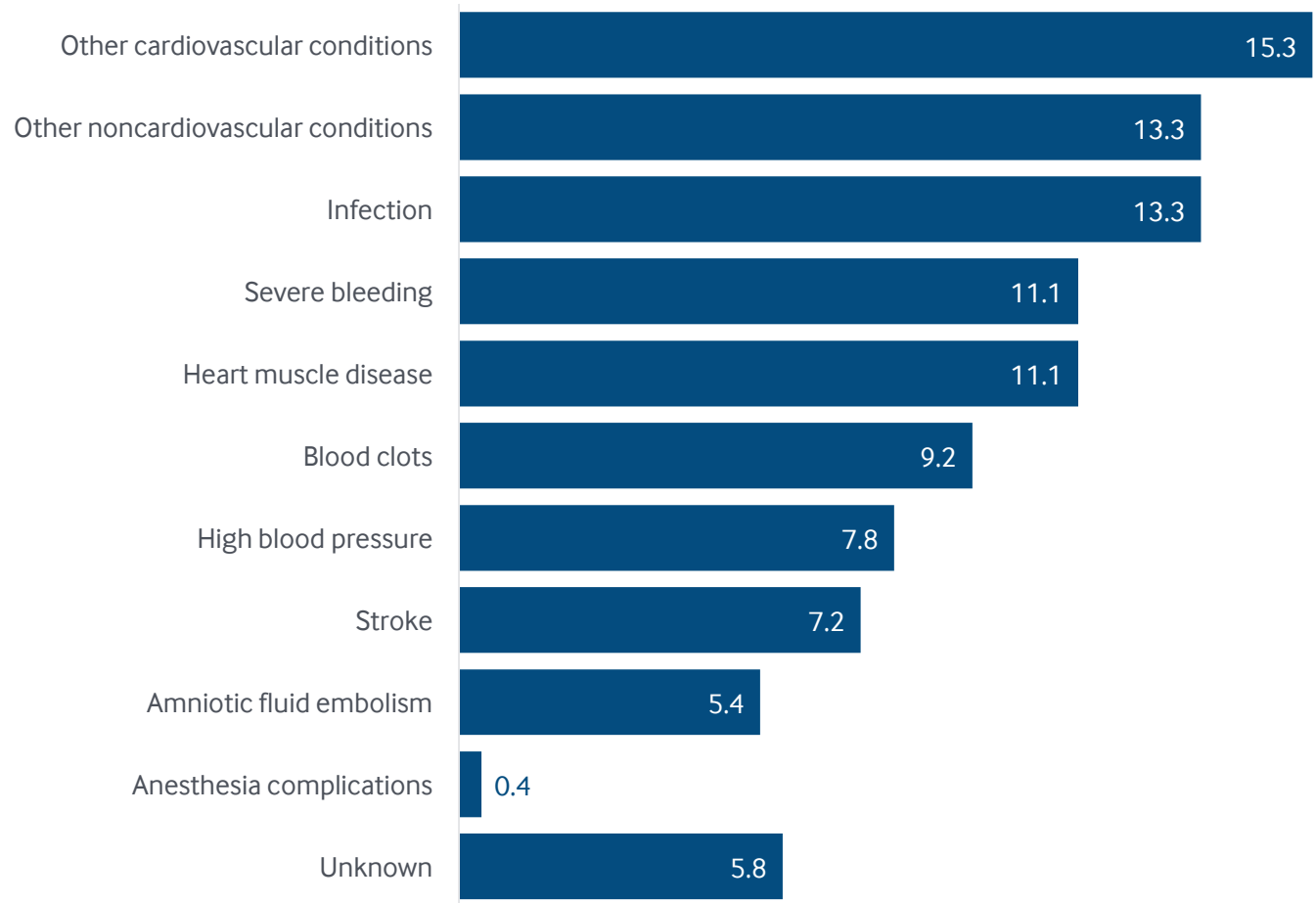
Data: Emily E. Petersen et al., "Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 68, no. 35 (Sept. 6, 2019): 762–65.



Source: Eugene Declercq and Laurie Zephyrin, *Maternal Mortality in the United States: A Primer* (Commonwealth Fund, Dec. 2020). <https://doi.org/10.26099/ta1q-mw24>

Pregnancy-related deaths are clinical and public health challenges.

Leading clinical causes of pregnancy-related mortality up to one year post-birth, U.S., 2007–2016 (%)



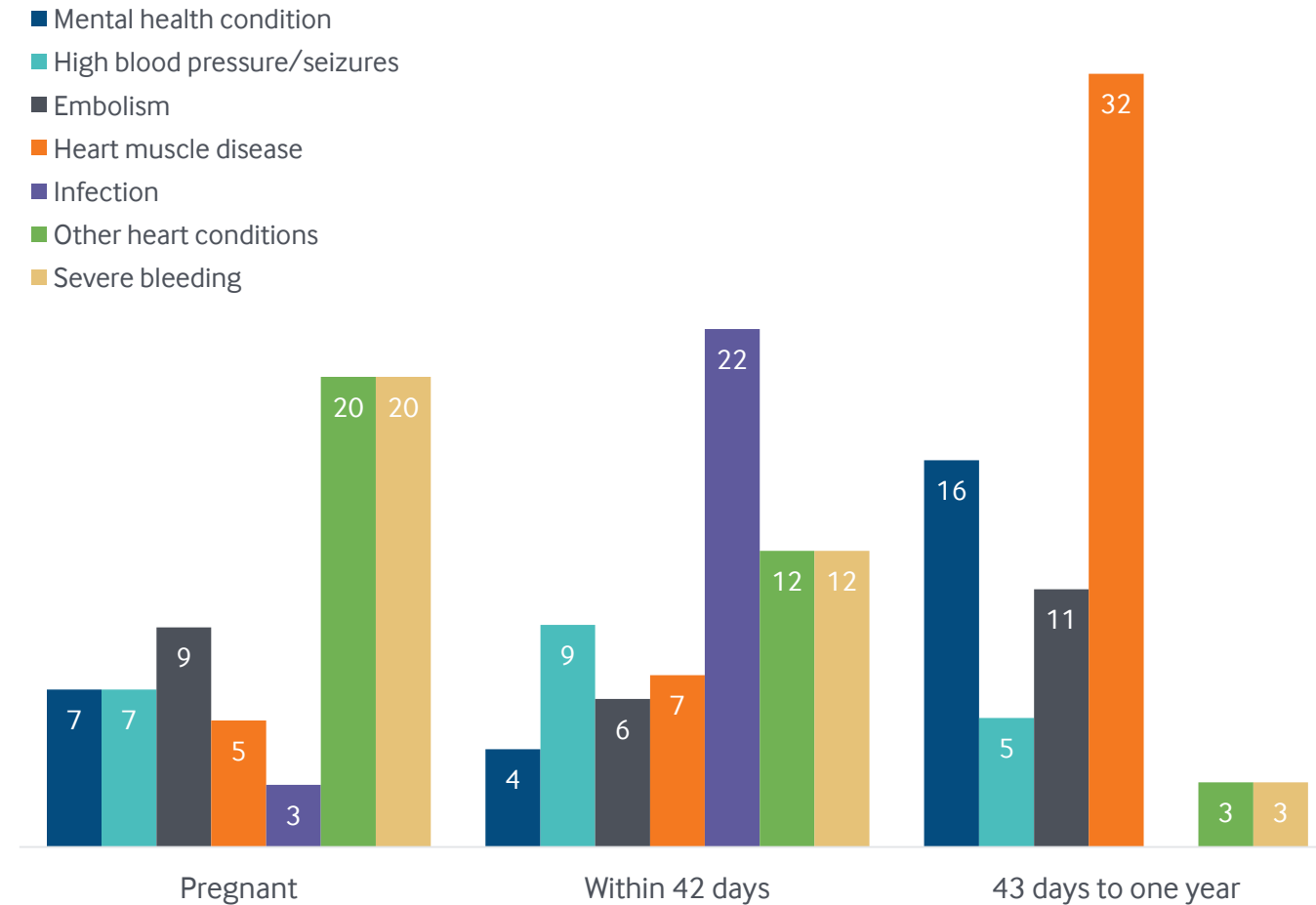
Data: E. Petersen et al., "Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 68, no. 35 (Sept. 6, 2019): 762–65.



Source: Eugene Declercq and Laurie Zephyrin, *Maternal Mortality in the United States: A Primer* (Commonwealth Fund, Dec. 2020). <https://doi.org/10.26099/ta1q-mw24>

The underlying causes of pregnancy-related maternal deaths vary according to when mothers die.

Causes of pregnancy-related mortality during pregnancy and the postpartum period, U.S., 2007–2016 (%)



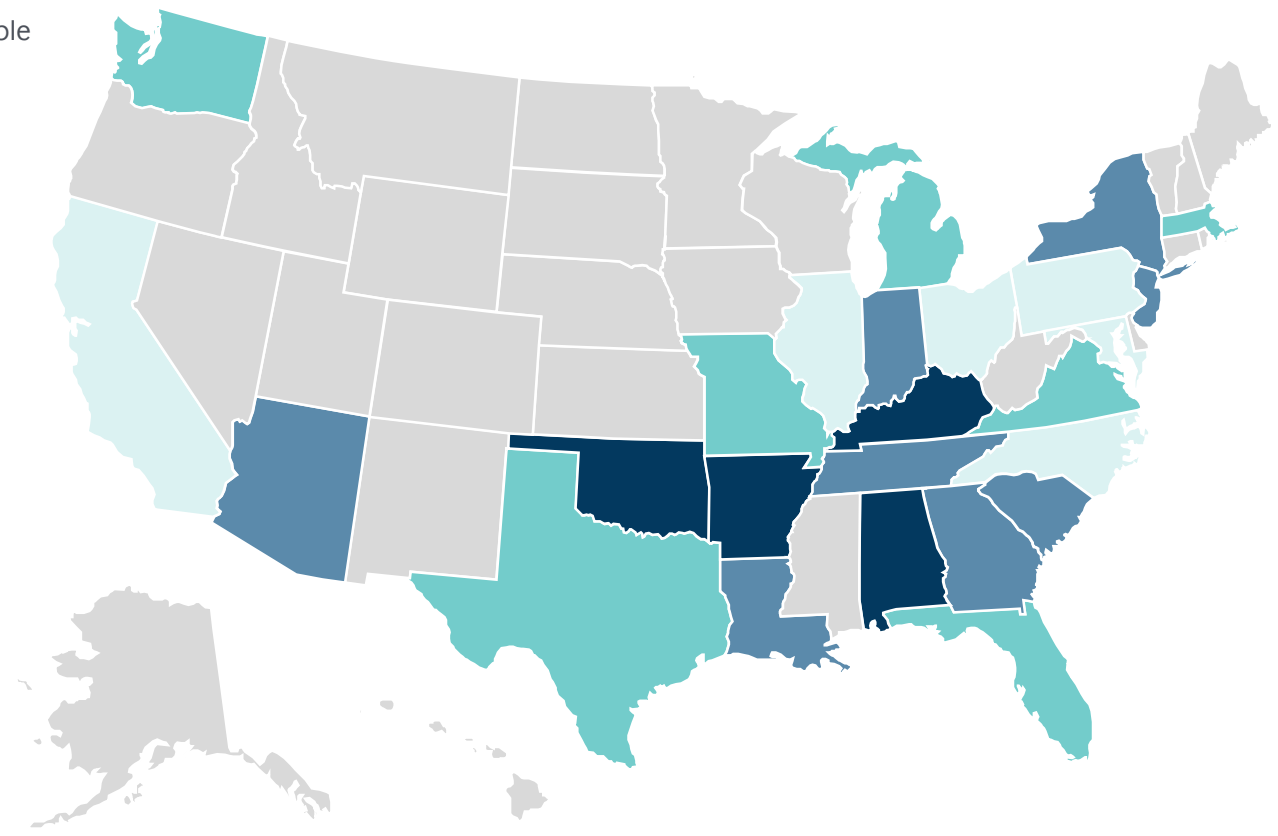
Data: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Report from Nine Maternal Mortality Review Committees](#) (CDC, 2018).

A woman's chance of dying in childbirth is twice as high in some states than in others (maternal mortality by state, U.S., 2018).

Variation in state maternal mortality rates, 2018

Maternal mortality ratio
(per 100,000 births)

- Not available
- <15
- 15.0–19.9
- 20.0–29.9
- 30.0+



Data: National Center for Health Statistics, [Maternal Mortality by State, 2018](#).



Source: Eugene Declercq and Laurie Zephyrin, *Maternal Mortality in the United States: A Primer* (Commonwealth Fund, Dec. 2020). <https://doi.org/10.26099/ta1q-mw24>