

Trends and disparities in US maternal death

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Is maternal mortality in the US high and increasing?

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

Why Maternal Mortality Rates Are Getting Worse across the U.S.

by Lucy Tu

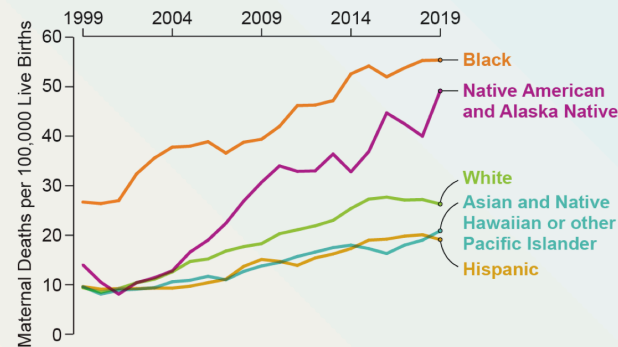
The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

Study says U.S. maternal death rate crisis is really a case of bad data

By [Sabrina Malhi](#) and [Dan Keating](#)
March 13, 2024 at 7:28 p.m. EDT

Median U.S. Maternal Mortality Ratios by Race or Ethnicity



Amanda Montañez; Source: "Trends in State-Level Maternal Mortality by Racial and Ethnic Group in the United States," by Laura G. Fleszar et al., in *JAMA*, Vol. 330, No. 1; July 3, 2023

Original Research

ajog.org

OBSTETRICS

Maternal mortality in the United States: are the high and rising rates due to changes in obstetrical factors, maternal medical conditions, or maternal mortality surveillance?

[Check for updates](#)

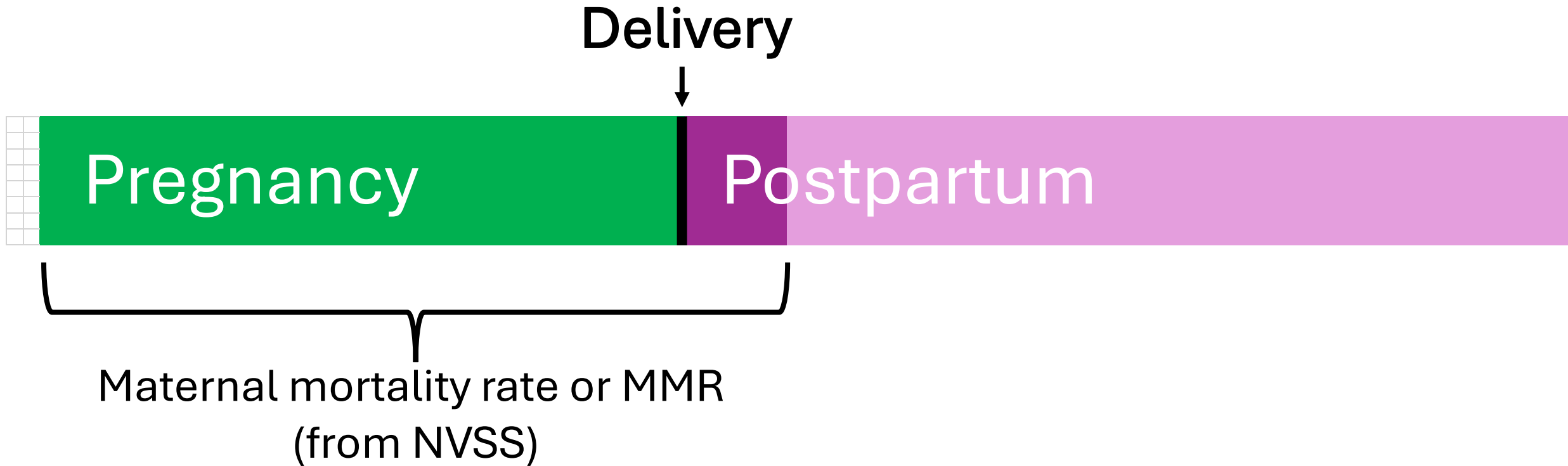
K. S. Joseph, MD, PhD; Sarka Lisonkova, MD, PhD; Amélie Boutin, MSc, PhD; Giulia M. Muraca, MPH, PhD; Neda Razaz, MPH, PhD; Sid John, MSc; Yasser Sabr, MHSc, MD; Wee-Shian Chan, MSc, MD; Azar Mehrabadi, MSc, PhD; Justin S. Brandt, MD; Enrique F. Schisterman, PhD; Cande V. Ananth, PhD, MPH

Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System (PMSS)

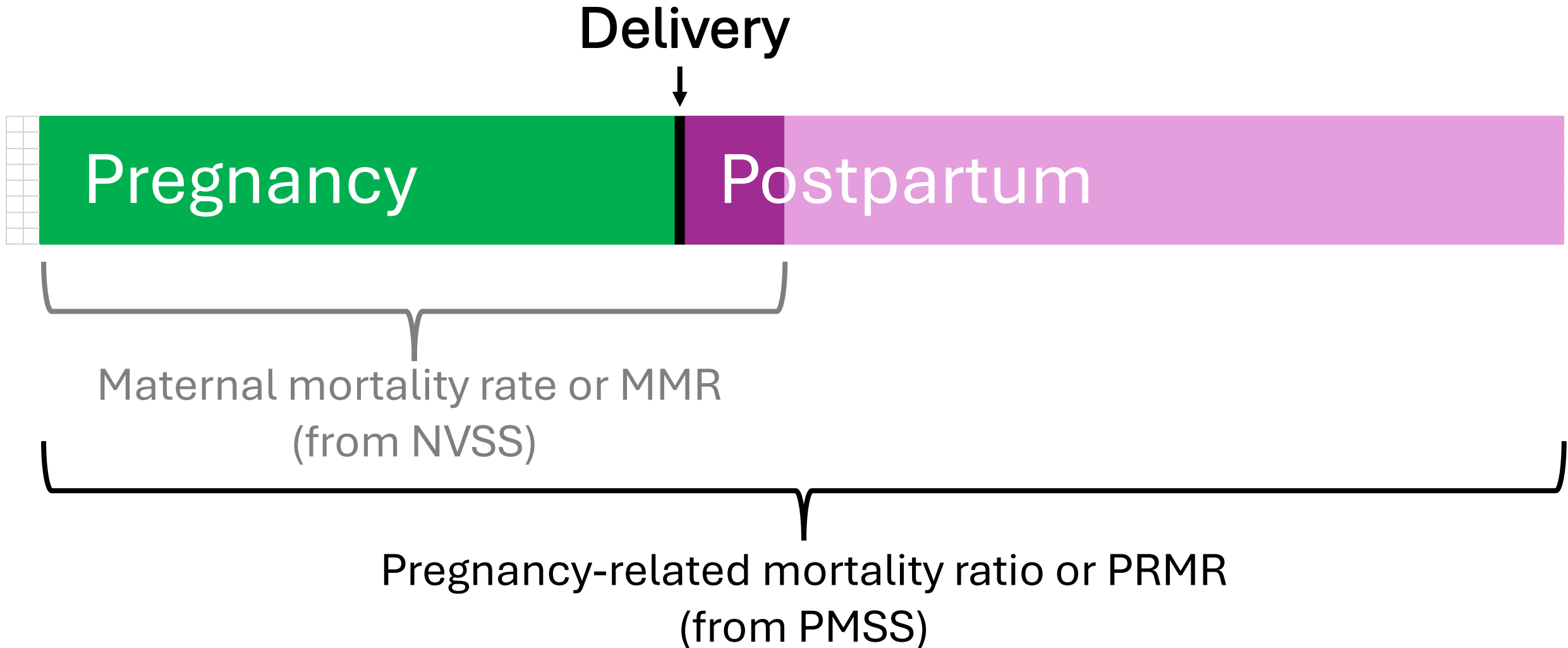
- Medical epidemiologists review records and determine pregnancy-relatedness among deaths during pregnancy and up to 1 year after
- Two sources of data
 - Death records
 - Any linked birth records or fetal death records



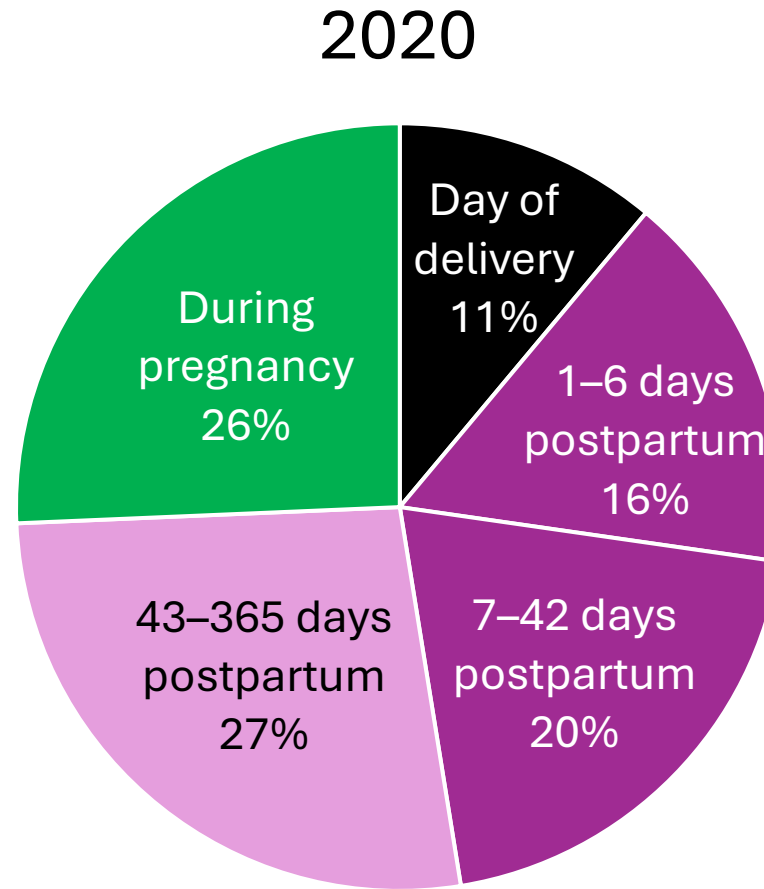
Two sources of national maternal death data



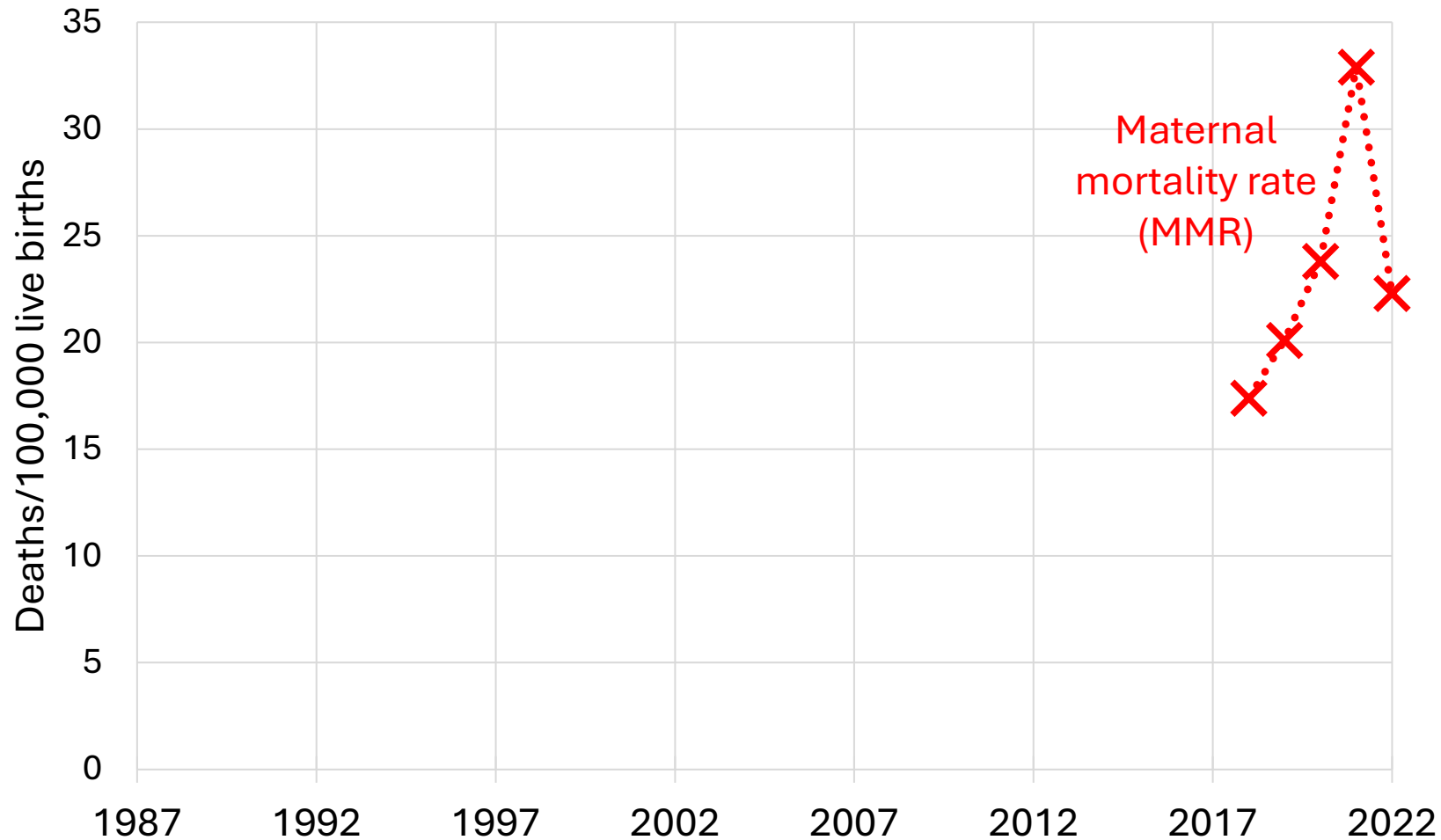
Two sources of national maternal death data



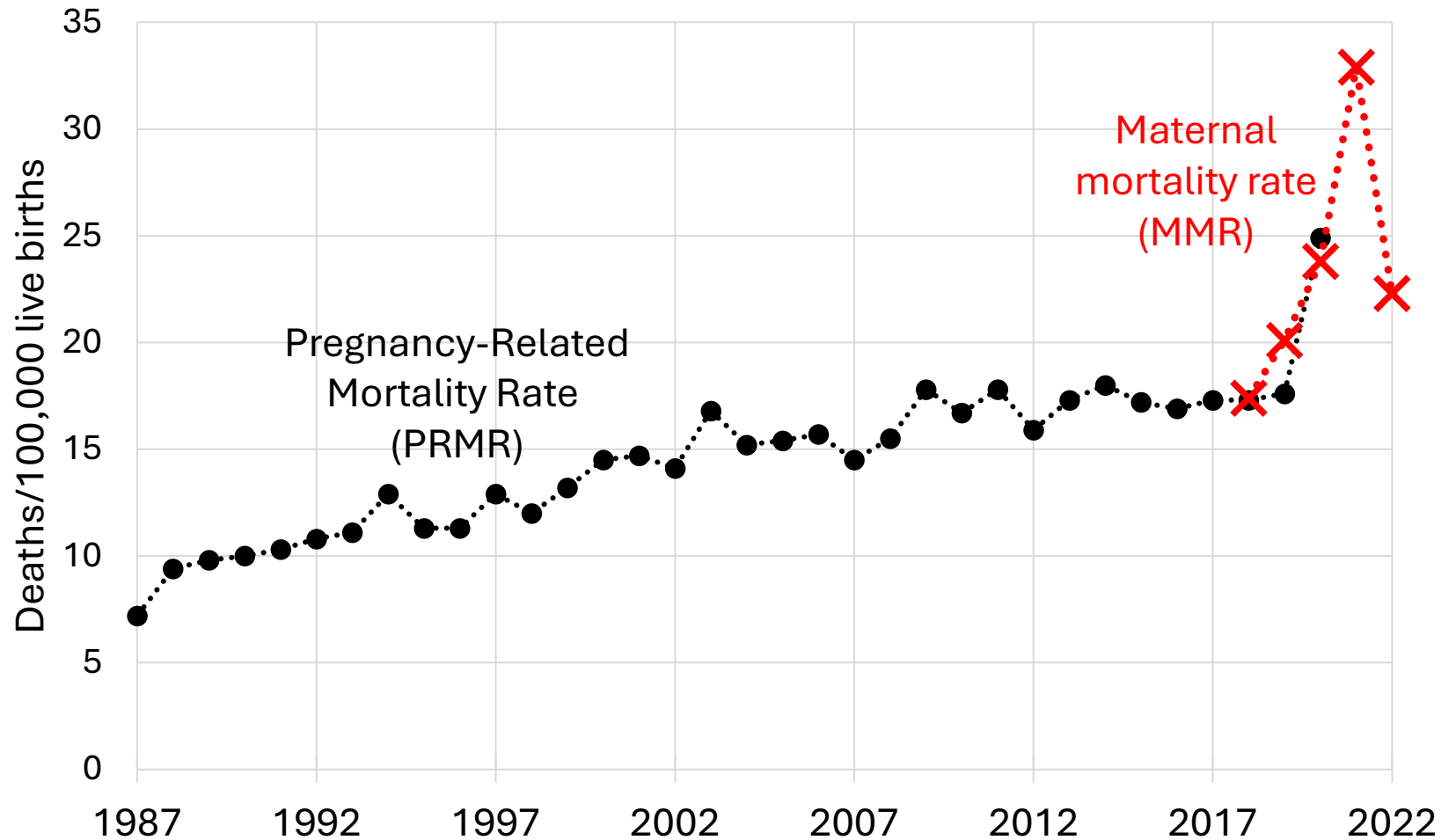
Most pregnancy-related deaths occur after delivery



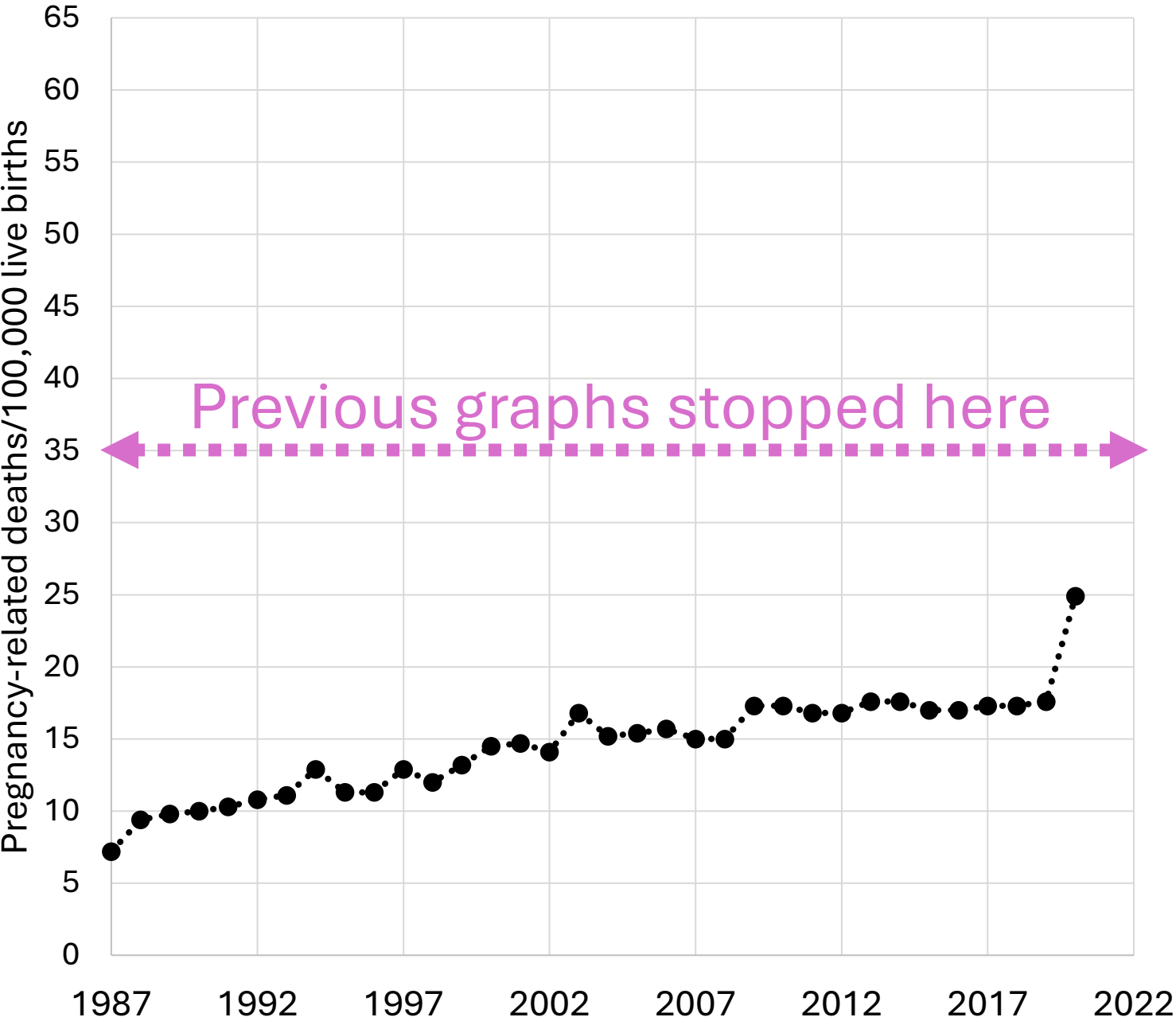
Pregnancy and birth have been getting deadlier by either measure



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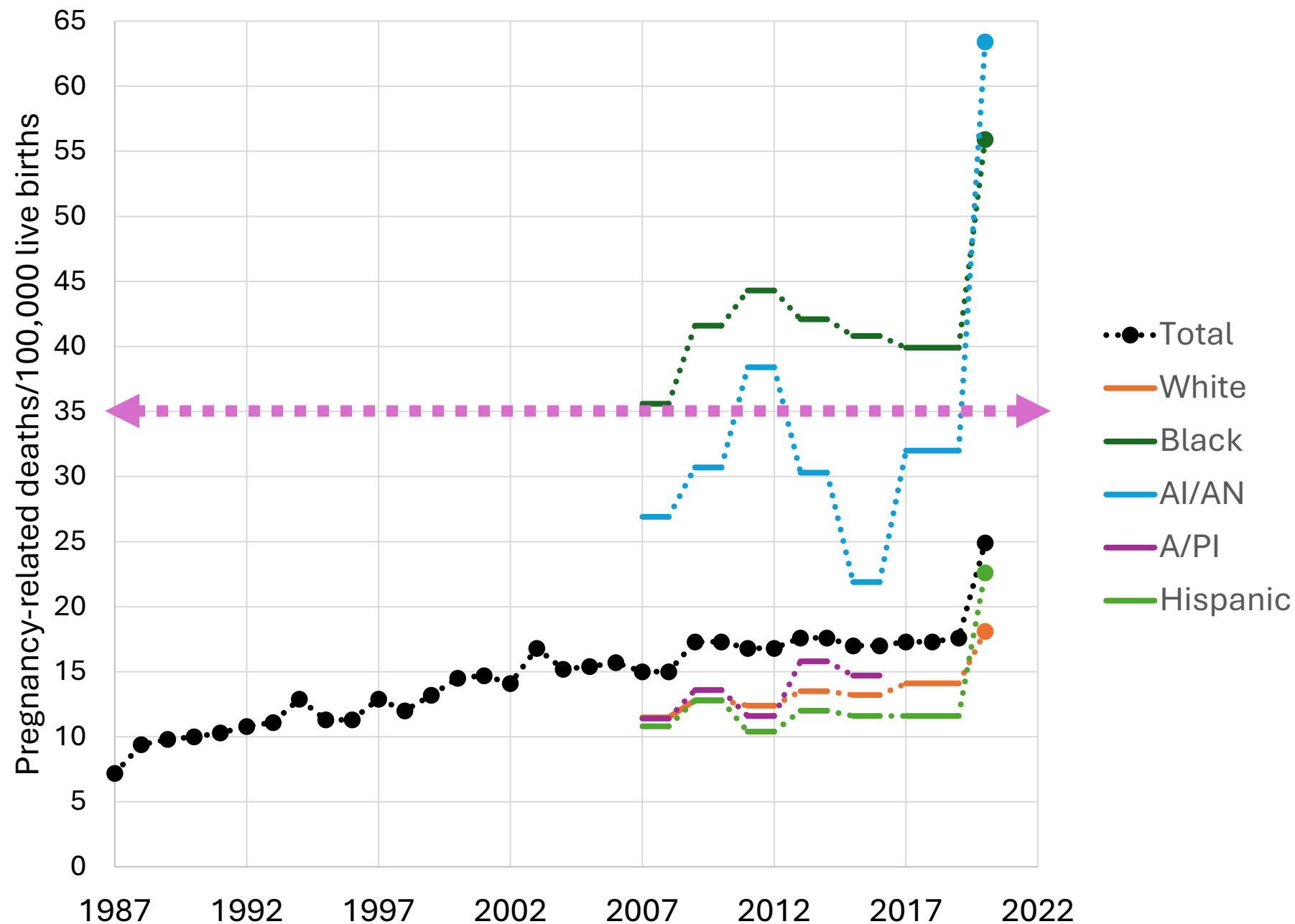


Severe
racial
disparities
in
maternal
death

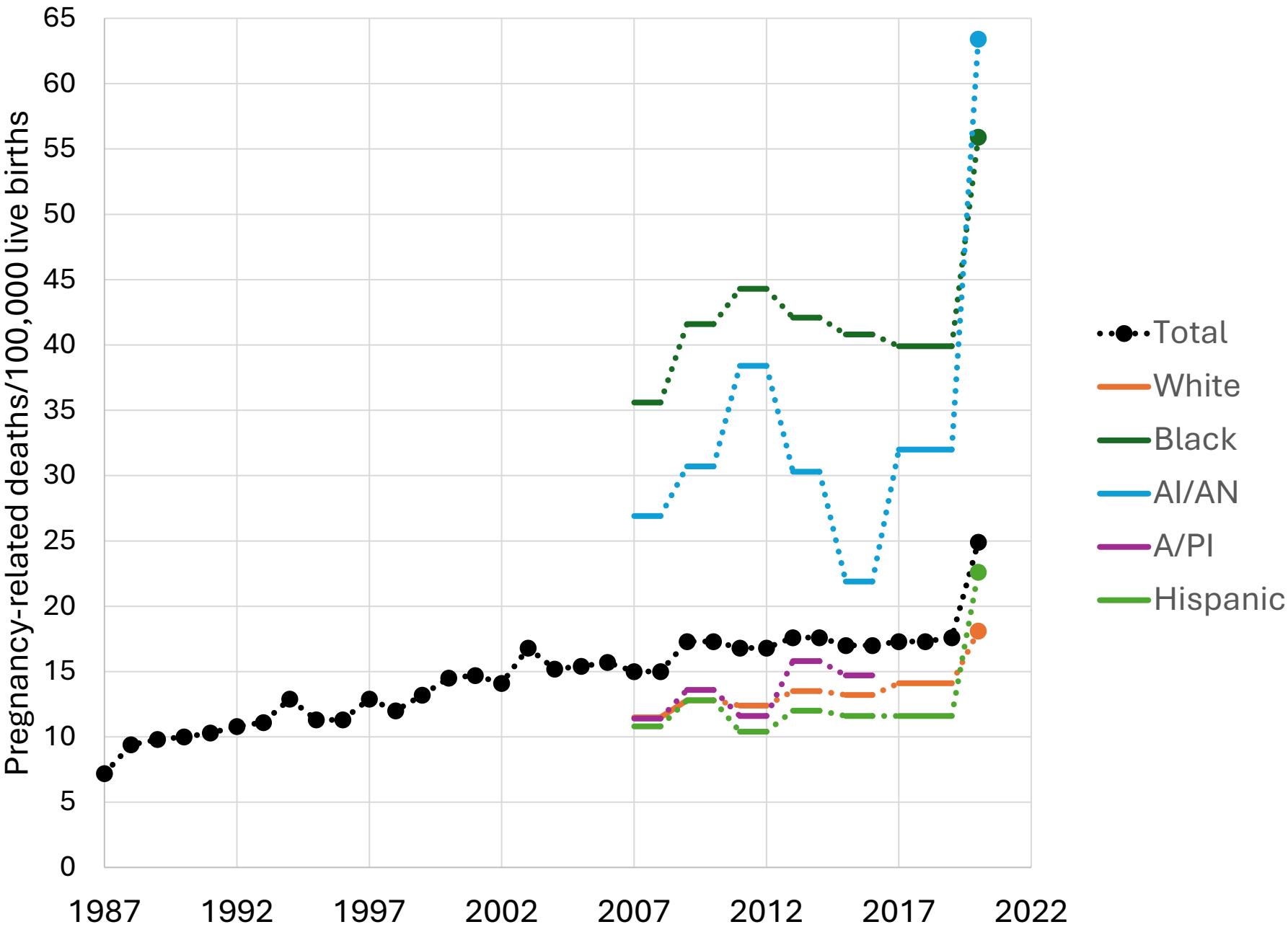


CDC Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System: <https://www.cdc.gov/maternal-mortality/php/pregnancy-mortality-surveillance/index.html> and Petersen EE, Davis NL, Goodman D, et al. Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2019;68:762–765. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6835a3>.

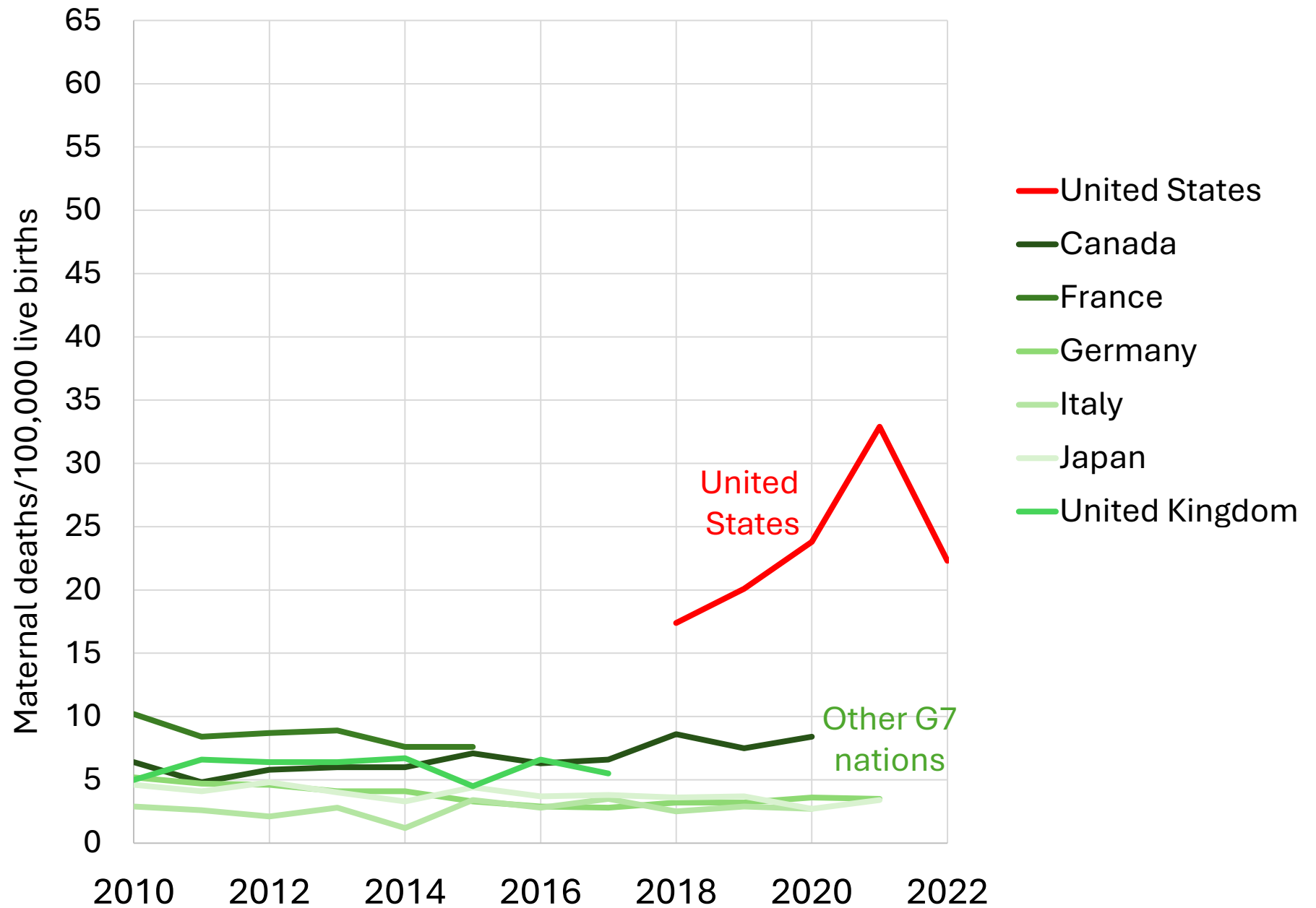
Severe racial disparities in maternal death



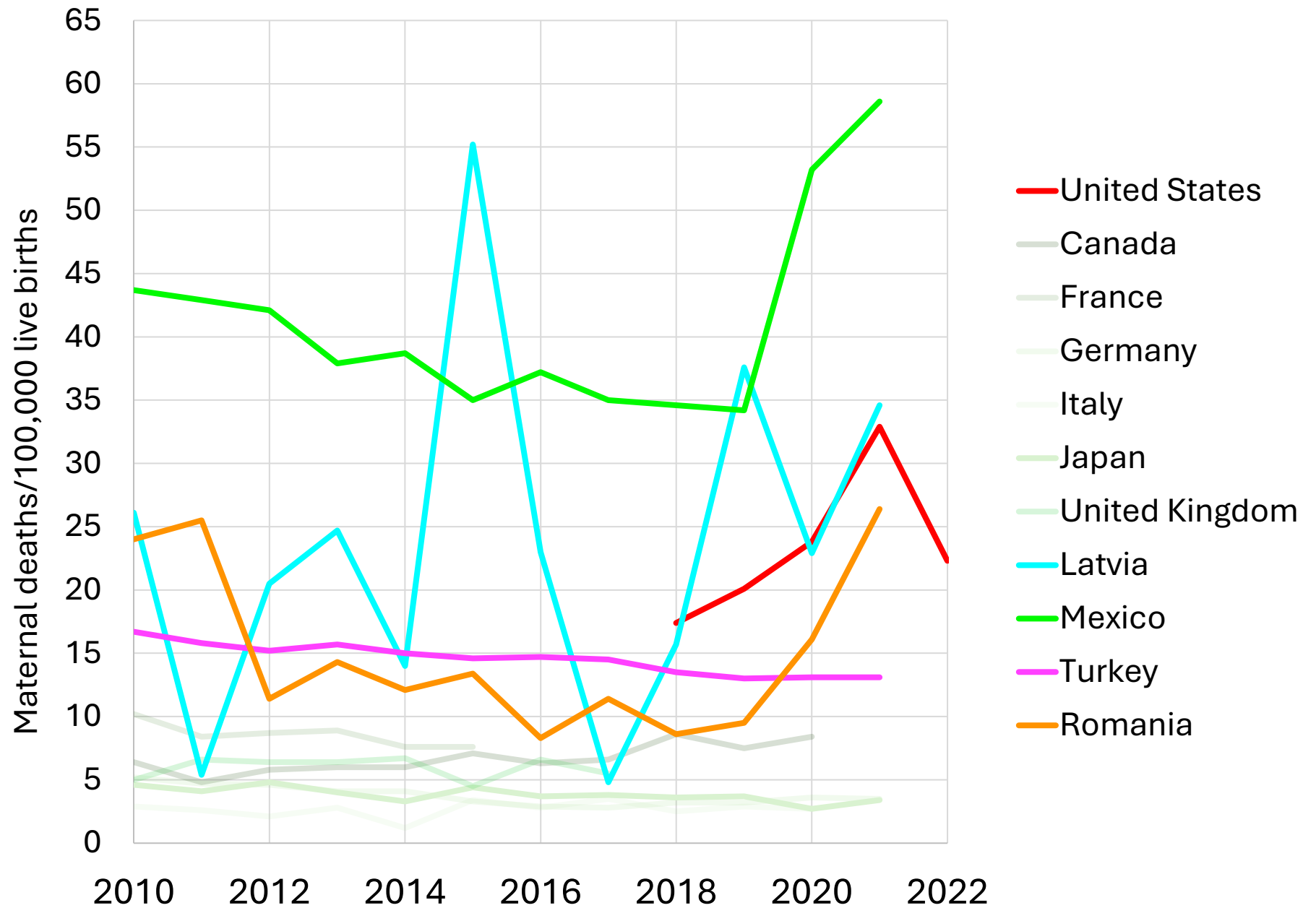
Severe racial disparities in maternal death



US maternal mortality is much higher than peer nations

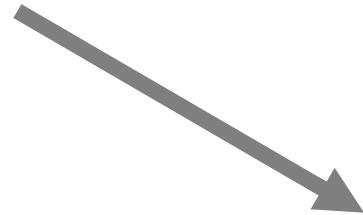


US maternal mortality is much higher than peer nations



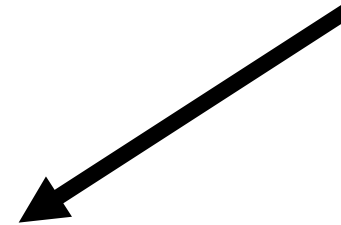
Reducing maternal mortality and morbidity

Maternal mortality
and morbidity rates

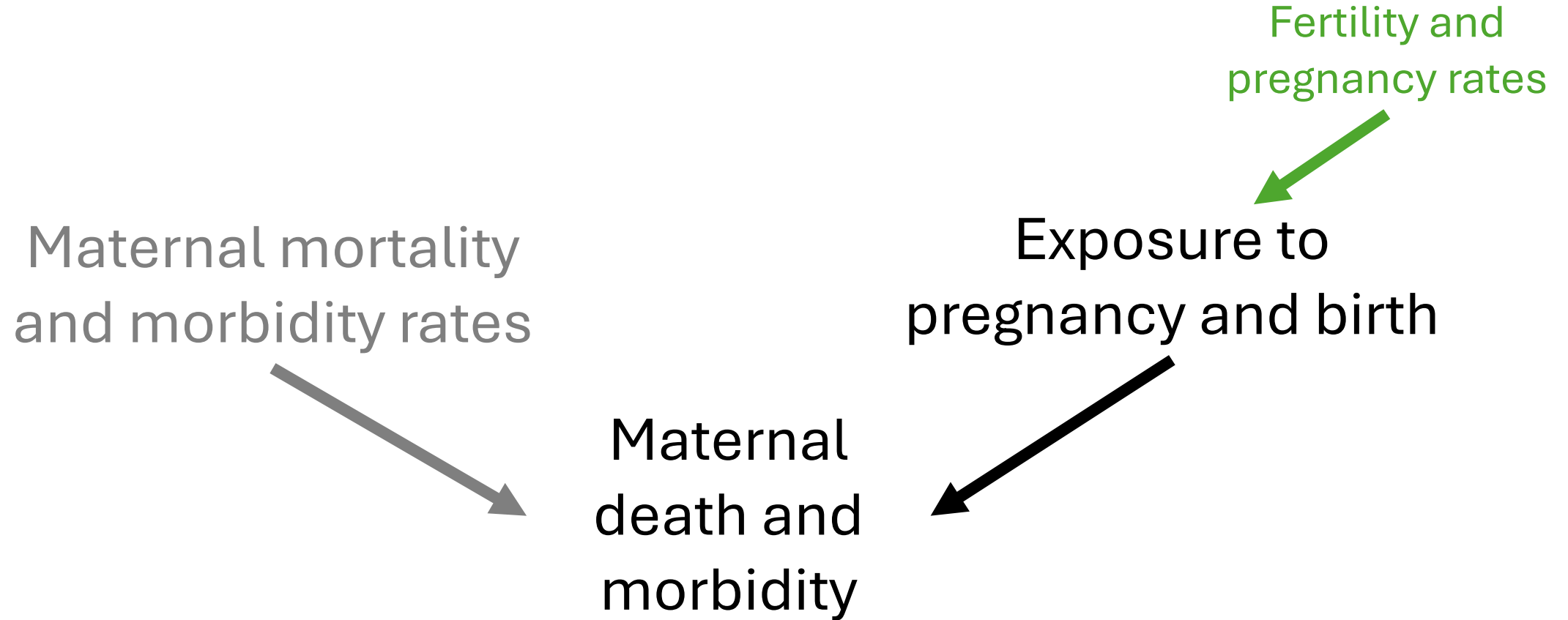


Maternal
death and
morbidity

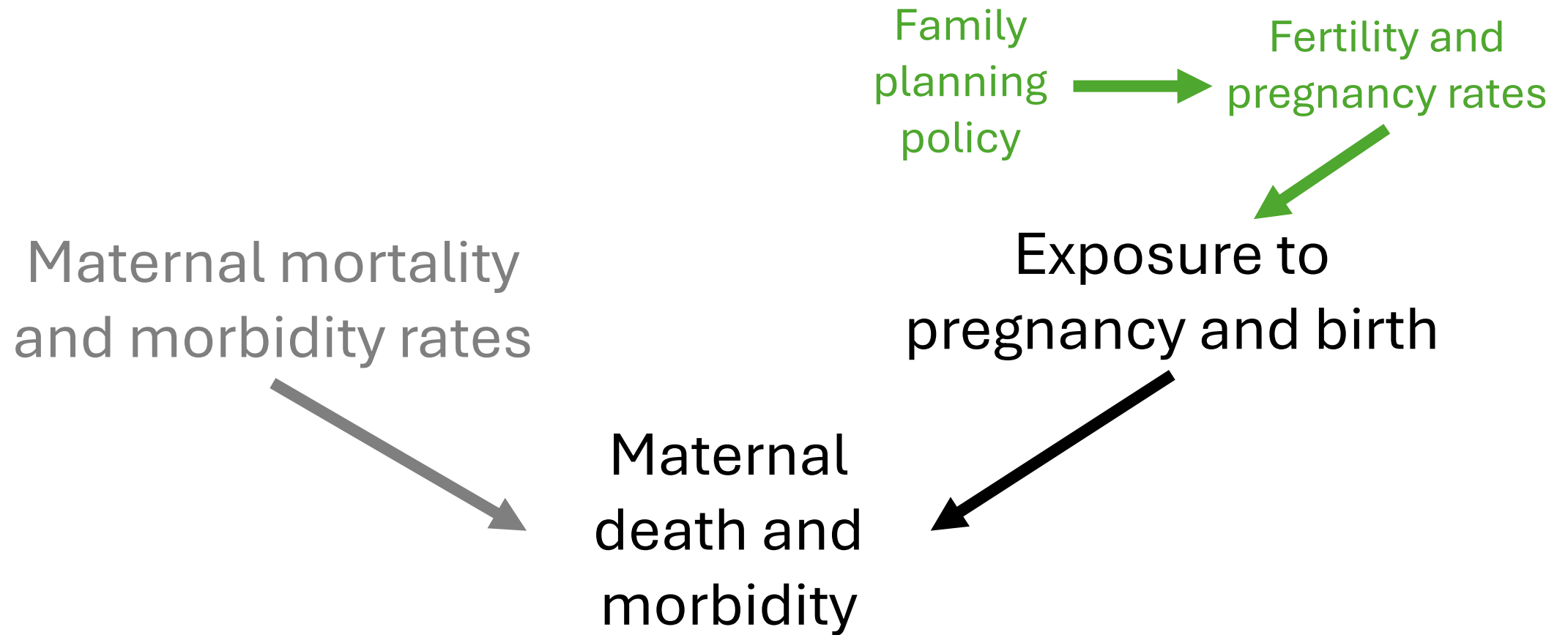
Exposure to
pregnancy and birth



Reducing maternal mortality and morbidity



Reducing maternal mortality and morbidity



Thank you

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