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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health
Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Programs

Significance of Project

❖ Poor birth outcomes are a continuing public health challenge in LAC.
❖ The distributions of poor birth outcomes show significant racial/ethnic and geographic disparities.
❖ The precise reasons for these persistent disparities are mostly unknown.
❖ In 2005, MCAH Programs established the Los Angeles Mommy and Baby (LAMB) Project to provide timely data on factors associated with adverse birth outcomes In LAC.
❖ This bi-annual countywide survey provides comprehensive and groundbreaking perinatal data for public health professionals and community stakeholders in addressing disparities in poor birth outcomes in LAC.

Background & Objectives

❖ Perceived discrimination has been found to be related to health problems.
❖ Studies addressing the life-course exposure of discrimination to mothers in Los Angeles County are lacking.
❖ We aim to investigate racial disparities in the reasons women report feeling discrimination.

Survey Methods

Participants: Women who recently gave birth in Los Angeles County in 2005

Design: Population-based stratified sampling; over sampling on low birth weight and pre-term births (LBW/PT) as well as African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Native American births
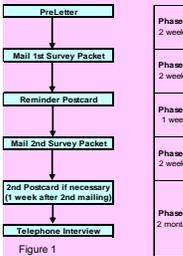
Procedure: LAMB Project followed CDC PRAMS procedures as described in figure 1. Surveys were mailed to participants with telephone follow-up. The survey was administered in English, Spanish, and Chinese with translators available for other languages. To enhance the response rate, all respondents were given a $20 gift certificate.

Instrument: The survey examined areas that are known to have an impact on birth outcomes, including:

• Preconception health
• Prenatal care
• Maternal medical conditions
• Psychosocial risk factors
• Behavioral risk factors

Analysis: Data were linked with information from birth and death certificates

LAMB Survey Timeline

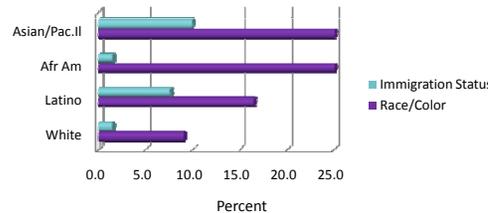|	
PreLetter	Phase 1 2 weeks
Mail 1st Survey Packet	Phase 2 2 weeks
Reminder Postcard	Phase 3 1 week
Mail 2nd Survey Packet	Phase 4 2 weeks
2nd Postcard if necessary (1 week after 2nd mailing)	Phase 5 2 months
Telephone Interview	

Figure 1

Analysis

➤ Perceived discrimination was measured using Krieger's seven-item discrimination scale.
➤ Multivariate logistic regression were performed to evaluate the racial disparities in various reasons new mothers reported discrimination while controlling for maternal characteristics.
➤ Variables included in the multivariate models included mother's race, years in the US, mother's education, mother's age and marital status.
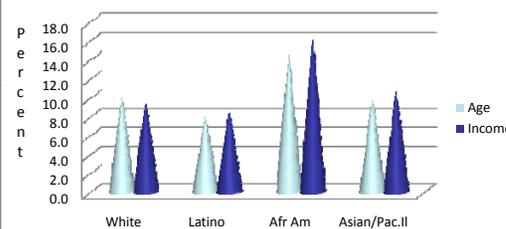
Results

Ever Experienced Discrimination	Percent(%)	95 %CI		Estimated Number
Los Angeles County	33.2	31.2	35.2	49,322
Race/Ethnicity				
White	32.6	29.6	35.7	4,682
Latino	31.2	28.4	34.0	29,378
African American	42.4	39.0	45.8	4,816
Asian/PI	40.9	37.4	44.4	6,663

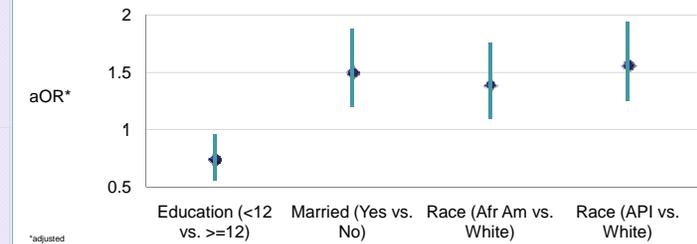### Reported Discrimination Due to Race/Color and Immigration Status

Reported Discrimination Due to Age and Income

Demographic Factors Associated with Reported Discrimination

	Prevalence (%)	95% CI		P-value
Marital Status				
Not Married	36.8	33.3	40.2	<0.001
Married	30.8	28.3	33.2	
Education Level				
<12yrs	27.2	23.4	31.1	<0.001
>=12 yrs	36.3	34.0	38.5	
Years in US				
Less than 5 yrs	32.2	26.1	38.2	<0.001
5-10 yrs	27.5	22.3	32.7	
11 yrs and over	35.4	33.1	37.8	
Family income				
<$20K	31.6	28.5	34.6	<0.001
$20K- <$50K	34.5	30.6	38.4	
>=$50K	35.4	32.2	38.6	

Odds of Reporting any Discrimination

*adjusted

Conclusions

✓ Our findings revealed both African American and Asian American mothers had high reported discrimination rates and that the reasons women report discrimination vary by race/ethnicity.
✓ Health care providers should become aware of the role of discrimination in poor birth outcomes.
✓ LAMB has allowed us to move beyond the case-based approach to a population-based one.