

Background

- Black birthing women are three to four times more likely to experience pregnancy-related morbidity or mortality than their white counterparts.¹
- Black babies are 50% more likely than white babies to be born pre-term and twice as likely to have low birth weight or die in their first year of life.²
- Despite growing knowledge of these disturbing trends, little has changed in these rates over time.^{3,4}

Methods

- Community Voices documentary created to educate healthcare workers about these disparities
- Screened to nurses, providers, public health employees, and other healthcare affiliated organizations.
- Questionnaires completed before and after film screening and discussion.
- Two tailed T-tests analysis done on questionnaire variation for seven questions to determine if film was successful in educating participants about disparities in infant and maternal mortality in the Denver area.

Disclosures

I have no disclosures related to this project.

Results & Discussion

Survey Questions & Results

1. Internal Identifier # (birth month number + home address number) Ex: February 1449 = 021449		
Total Matched Surveys – Medical Student	13	72%
Total Matched Surveys – Professional	39	54%
Total Initial Surveys	140	-
Total Final Surveys	81	-
Total Matched Surveys	81	58%
mortality rates compared to their white counterparts?		
<i>Initial</i>	Somewhat Aware	
<i>Final</i>	Very Aware	
	** Medical Students Only	
3. How comfortable are you discussing factors affecting maternal and infant health?		
<i>Initial</i>	Somewhat Comfortable	
<i>Final</i>	Somewhat Comfortable	

4. How likely do you think it is that education level affects infant mortality rates in the African American population?

<i>Initial</i>	Neutral
<i>Final</i>	Mostly Unlikely
	**Professionals Only

5. How likely do you think it is that socioeconomic status affects infant mortality rates in the African American population?

<i>Initial</i>	Neutral
<i>Final</i>	Mostly Unlikely

6. What is your agreement with the following statement: African American infant mortality rates are NOT significantly different than their white counterparts in the Denver area.

<i>Initial</i>	Strongly Disagree
<i>Final</i>	Strongly Disagree

7. What is your agreement with the following statement: There are no feasible solutions to help with the African American infant mortality rates in the United States.

<i>Initial</i>	Strongly Disagree
<i>Final</i>	Strongly Disagree

Overall, the documentary was successful in increasing awareness among participants about African American infant mortality rates, how they compare to white infants, and the lack of effect of socioeconomic factors to explain these differences. It was also effective in teaching participants that this problem exists in our own community. Limitations include the significant drop-out prior to completion of the post-survey that could have introduced selection bias and changing of the questionnaire mid-study due to poor question clarity.

Next Steps

- Continued work can be done to assess the longevity of participants' belief changes.
- Increasing distribution to midwives and doulas would be valuable, as alternative obstetric providers have been shown to decrease disparities⁵
- Future efforts should be focused on anti-racism training and bias training, instead of just education
- There may also be opportunity to incorporate upstander training to help participants feel more empowered to discuss these problems.

Implications

- Documentaries and discussion-based models for CME can be effective.
- Documentary films may be a particularly strong form of education on topics involving lived experience where participants can hear the impacts first-hand.

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