

RACIAL, ETHNIC AND
SOCIOECONOMIC
DISPARITIES IN PERINATAL
CARE AND OUTCOMES

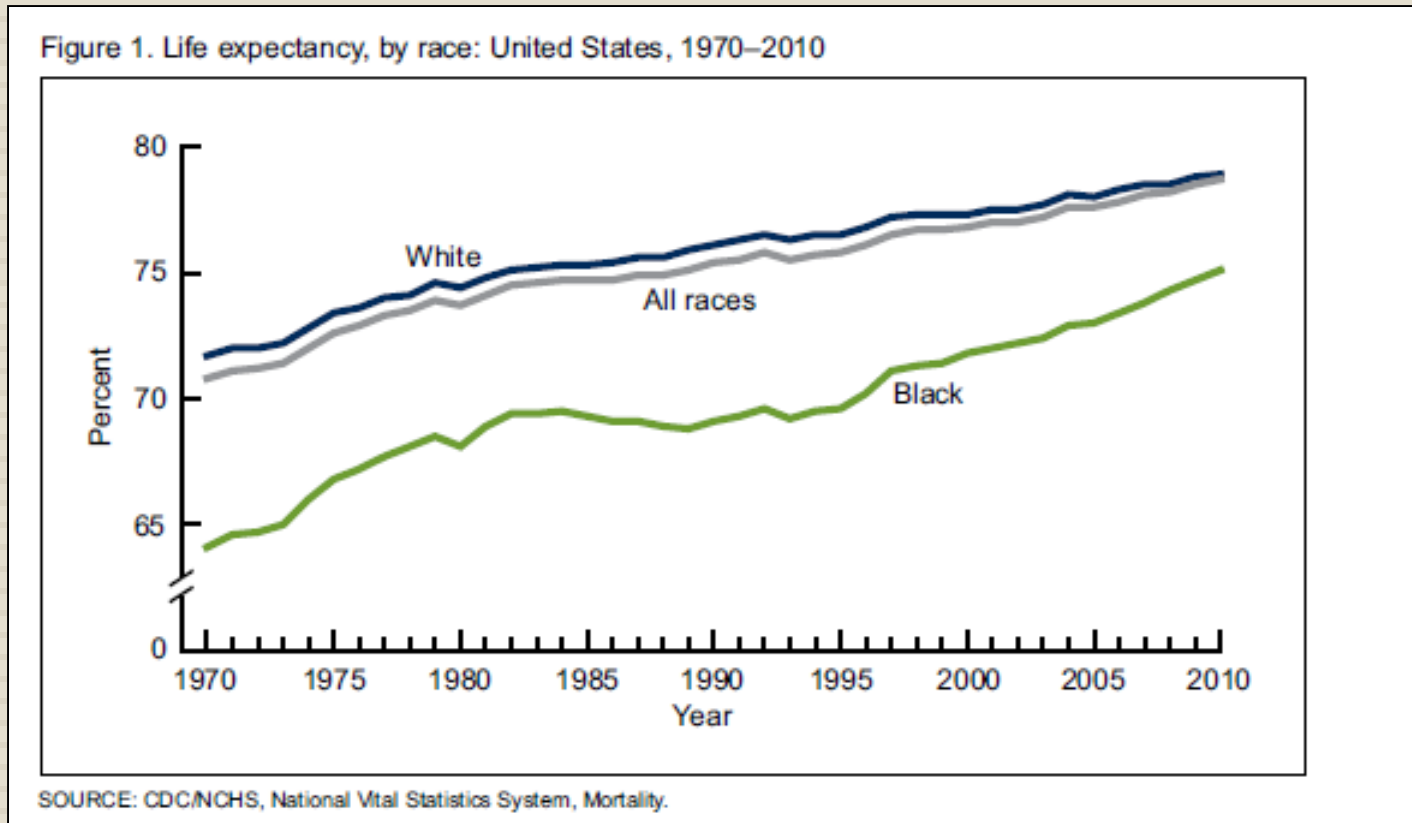
MPQC: October 21, 2015

Disparities in Health and Health Care

- Disparity (Webster's definition)
 - ▣ The condition or fact of being unequal, as in age, rank, or degree; difference

- Disparities in health vs. health care

Disparities in health: Life expectancy



Disparities in health care



National Institute of
Neurological Disorders
and Stroke

Disparities in Pain Care

Research shows that certain racial/ethnic and socioeconomic groups are more vulnerable to poor pain care and management. This infographic describes some factors that contribute to disparities in pain care.

Bias in Pain Treatment

Across the lifespan and regardless of socioeconomic status, blacks are less likely than whites to receive analgesic medication for pain¹⁻³

Primary care providers are more likely to underestimate pain intensity in blacks than in other sociodemographic groups^{2,4}

pain scale



Compared with white patients, black patients were more likely to have:⁵



- more referrals for substance abuse assessment



- fewer referrals to a pain specialist

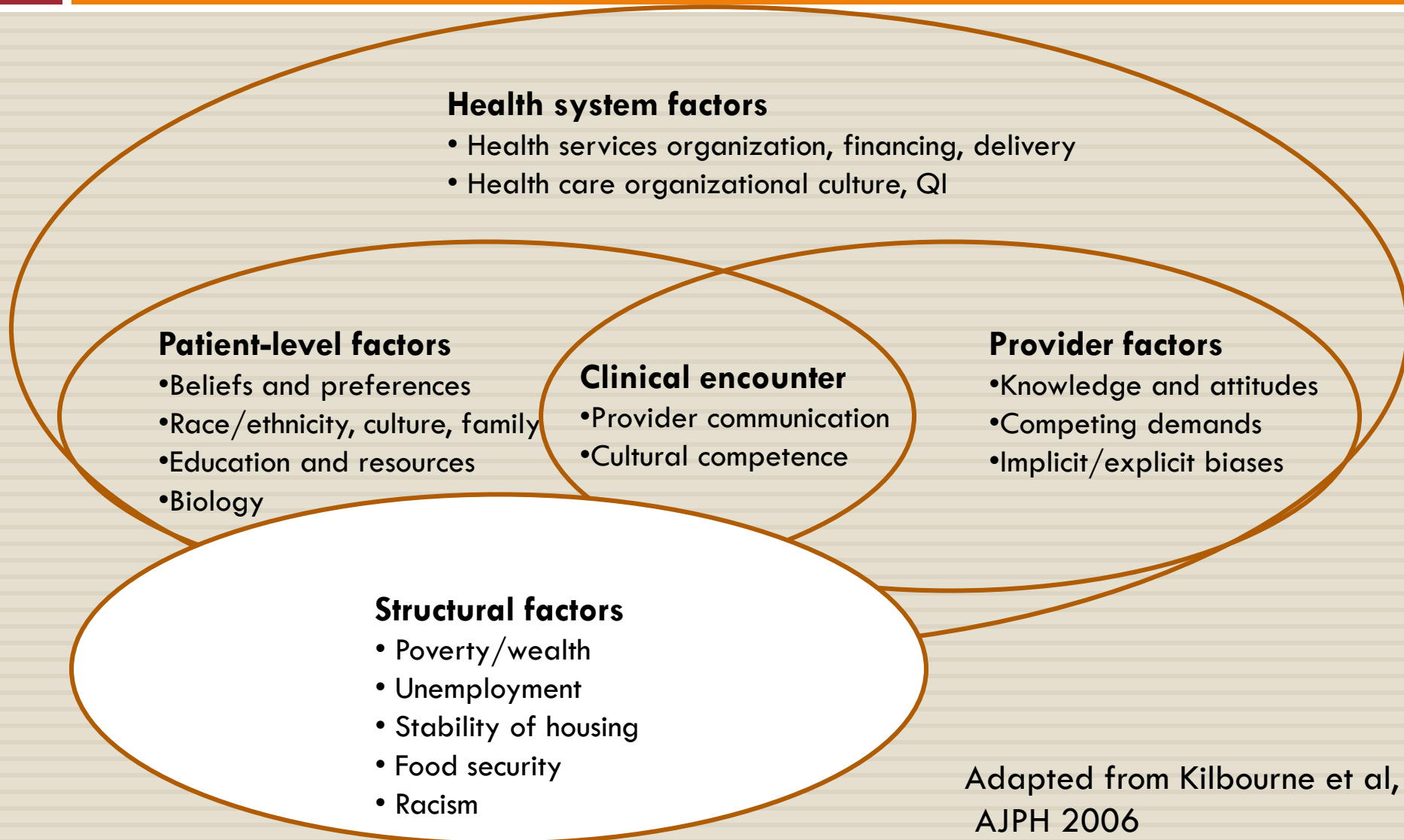


- increased drug urine tests

Disparities: Why care?

- Disparities limit quality of care pursuits, keep us from reaching population health goals
- Disparities are expensive
 - CDC estimate: if non-Hispanic Blacks had same rate of preventable hospitalizations as non-Hispanic Whites from 2004 to 2007, there would be **430,000** fewer hospitalizations & **\$3.4 billion** in savings
- Disparities are threats to social justice

Contributors to health and health care disparities



Adapted from Kilbourne et al,
AJPH 2006

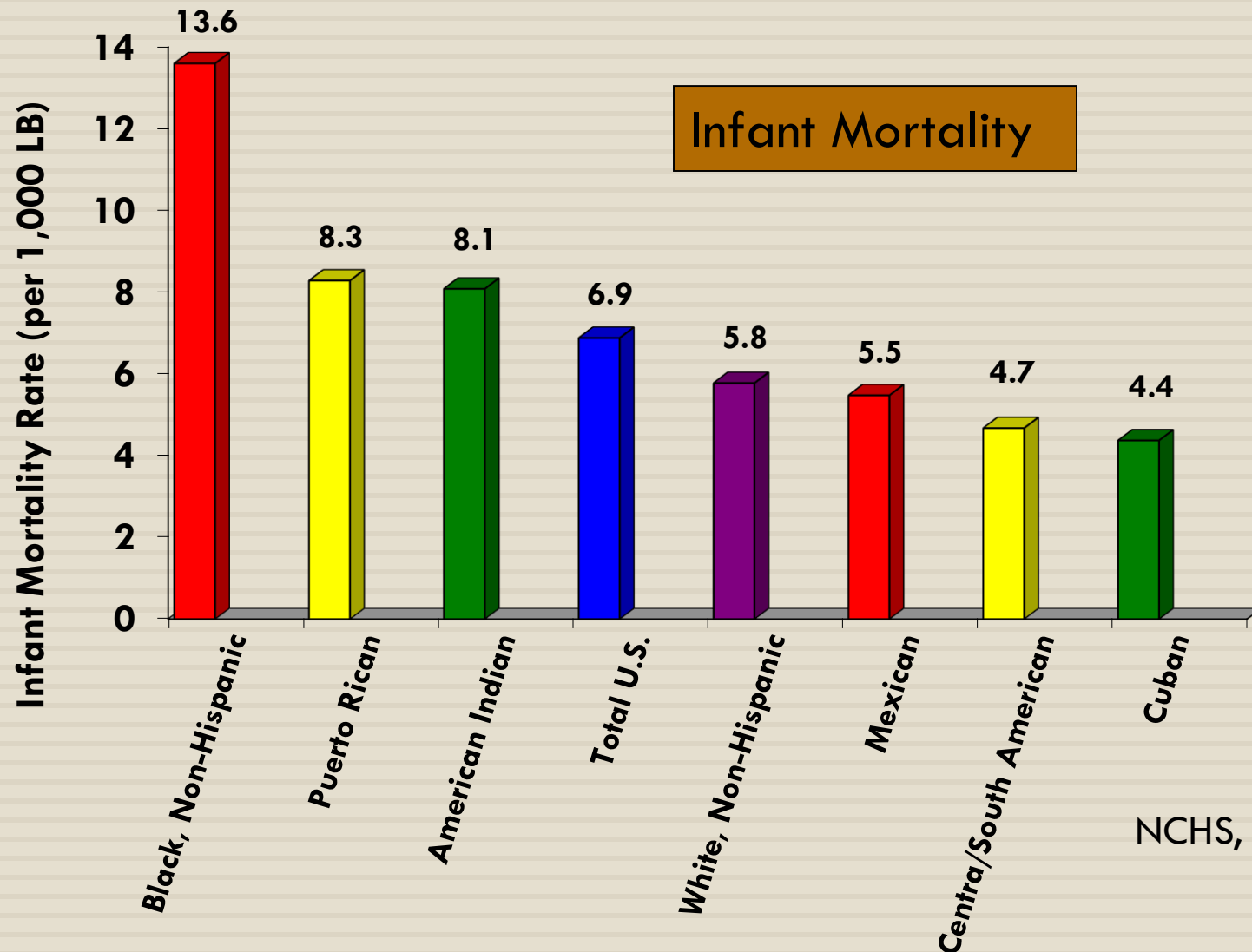
Social Determinants of Health: Nothing New

“...a *decent income*, self-respectingly earned by the father is the beginning of wisdom, the only fair division of labor between the father and the mother of young children, and the *strongest safeguard against a high infant mortality rate.*”



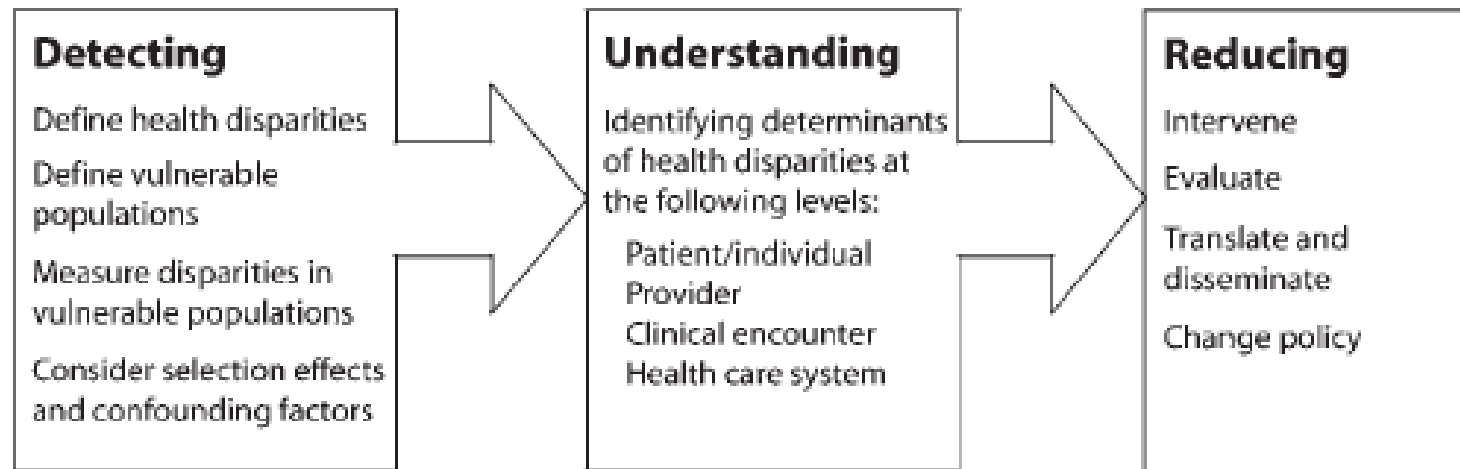
- Julia Lathrop,
Director of United States Children's Bureau
APHA Conference 1918

Disparities in infant mortality: U.S.



NCHS, 2005

Phases of disparities research and policy



Note. In our framework, the health disparities research agenda progresses in 3 sequential phases of research. Phase 1 (detecting disparities) informs phase 2 studies (understanding disparities), which in turn informs phase 3 research (interventions to reduce or eliminate disparities).

FIGURE 1—The 3 phases of the disparities research agenda.