



Society for
Maternal • Fetal
Medicine
High-risk pregnancy experts

STRATEGIES TO PROVIDE **EQUITABLE CARE** DURING **COVID-19**

Health Justice, *Defined*

When **every person** has the opportunity to attain their **full health potential**. When **no one** is **disadvantaged** from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.

Equality



Equity



Justice



Why Racism is Important in COVID-19

Racism

Social Determinants of Health

including access to healthcare, food, housing, and education

Co-Morbid Conditions

COVID-19 Incidence & Outcomes

IMPACTS

Inequities in COVID-19

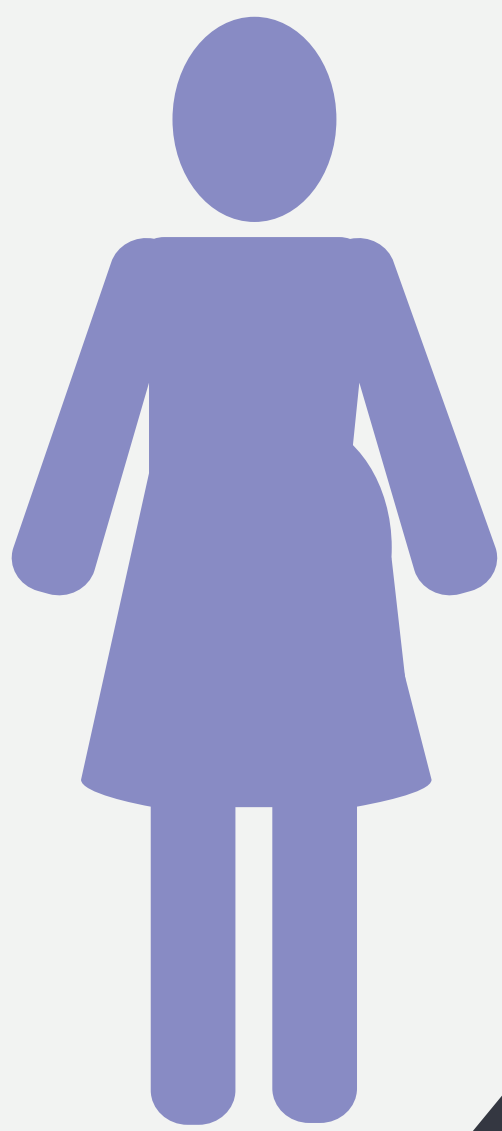
Increased rates of hospitalization and death in **Black, Hispanic and Native American** communities

Higher prevalence of COVID-19 disease among those of **low socioeconomic status**

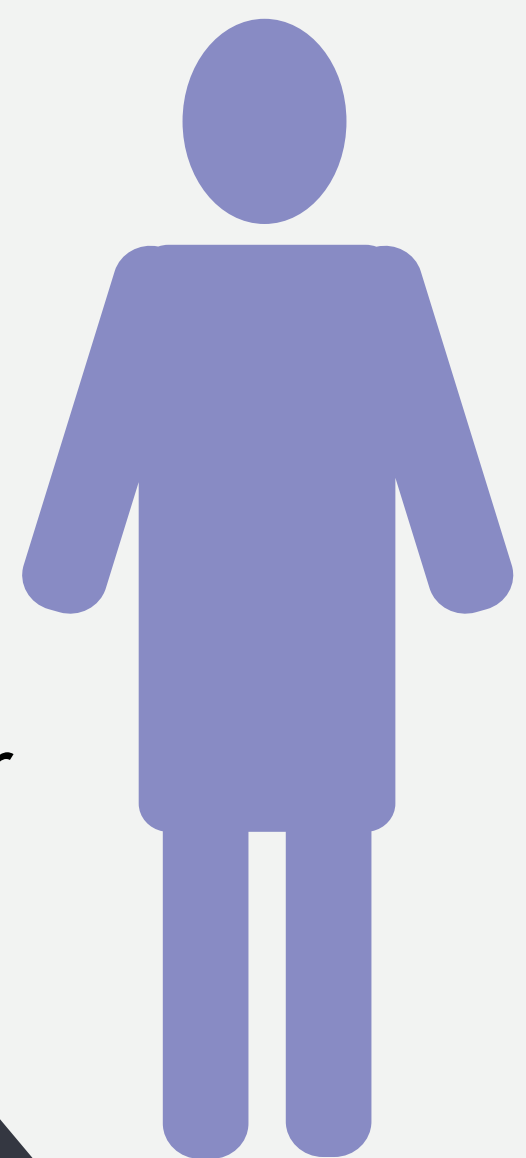
Higher risk of infection in **prisons, group homes, homeless shelters** and residential treatment facilities

Notable increase in xenophobia and bias towards **Asian Americans**

COVID-Specific Threats to Health Justice



Living and working circumstances make **social distancing** challenging for some (e.g. undocumented people, the LGBTQ community, survivors of Intimate Partner Violence [IPV]).



Undocumented people and people without insurance have limited access to public safety nets.

Inequitable access to COVID-19 **testing and vaccination.**



Challenges Accessing Telehealth

To accommodate social distancing, many health care services are being **offered via computer or telephone**. Yet, some people may have **difficulty accessing services this way** (e.g. people with disabilities or people without broadband internet access).

Stress, time constraints, fatigue and fear

increase the **risk of biased behavior** among health care providers and among the general public.

STRATEGIES

Confront Bias with Proven Upstander Techniques

Direct

Directly address biased behavior. Advise the person that their behavior is biased or ask them to clarify their meaning/intent.

Distract

Disrupt a biased interaction by mentioning or doing something unrelated. Consider using when there is a concern for violence.

Delegate

Ask another person to help you address the biased behavior

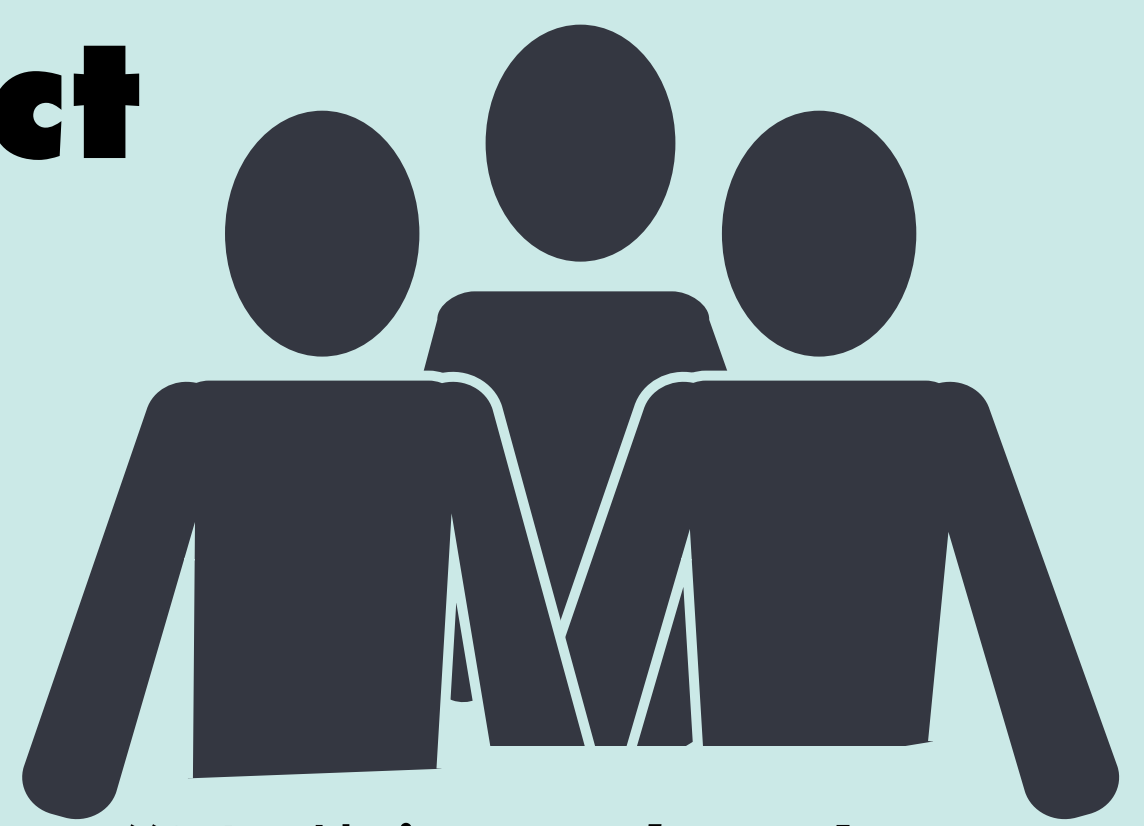
Delay

Wait until a safer/more appropriate time then address biased behavior



Increase Access to Community-Based Testing and Vaccination

Design and Conduct Studies with Community Input and Participation from Inception



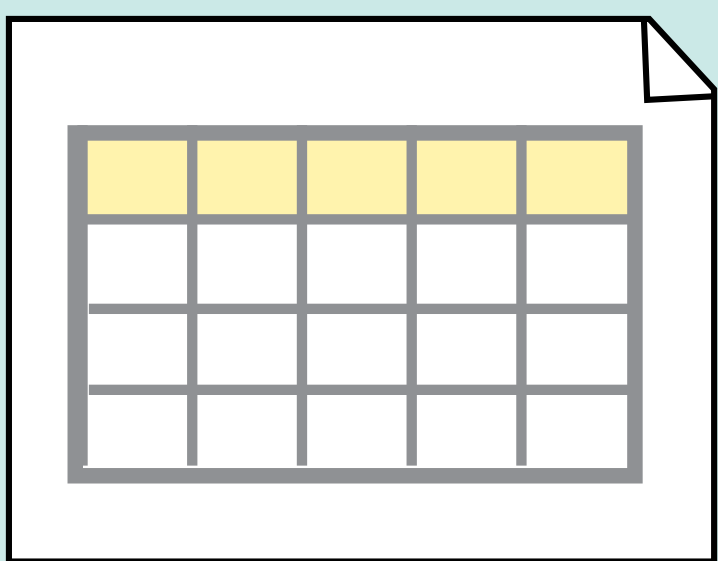
“Nothing *about* us
without us”



Advocate: Ask policymakers to ensure that **all pregnant people have access to care**, that **health care workers have the resources they need to stay safe**, and that **pregnant people are included in COVID-19 research**.

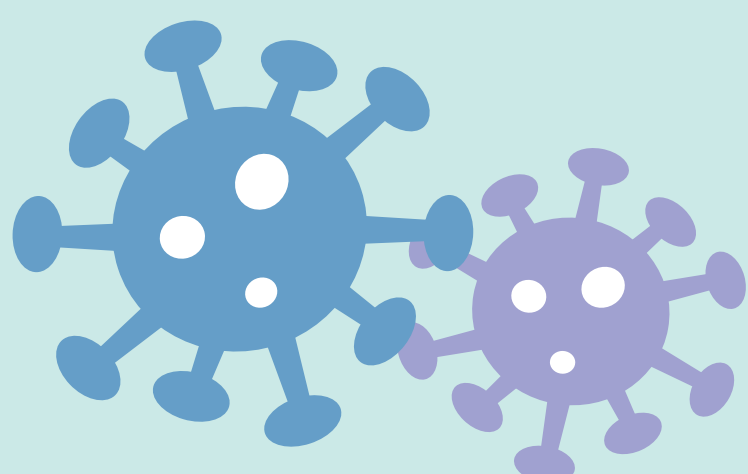
Provide Equitable Care

- ☐ Recognize bias—in all its forms—is at the root of inequities
- ☐ Screen for social determinants of health
- ☐ Ask about:
 - vaccination status
 - ability to safely social distance
 - availability of cleaning supplies
 - access to internet/data for virtual visits
 - Screen more frequently for IPV and safety
- ☐ Identify key community resources:
 -  Food banks or pantries
 -  Free COVID-19 vaccination sites
 -  Housing assistance
 -  Infection mitigation supplies (e.g. masks, sanitizer)
 -  Intimate partner violence services
- ☐ Provide information in the language that your patient speaks, reads, or understands.
- ☐ Increase capacity for care for vulnerable populations (i.e. increase provider, nursing, social service resources)



Remain Vigilant in Collecting Clinical, Quality & Safety Metrics

Data should be stratified by age, race, ethnicity, gender/gender identity, payor, employment status, and preferred language.



Collect **COVID-specific outcomes** such as **testing access** and **hospitalization rates**.



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For more information,
visit **SMFM.org/COVID19**