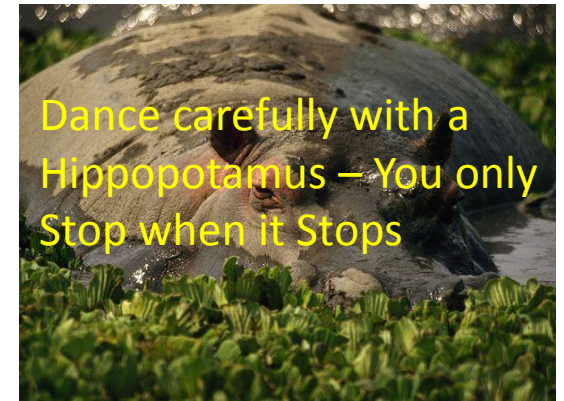


Reflections

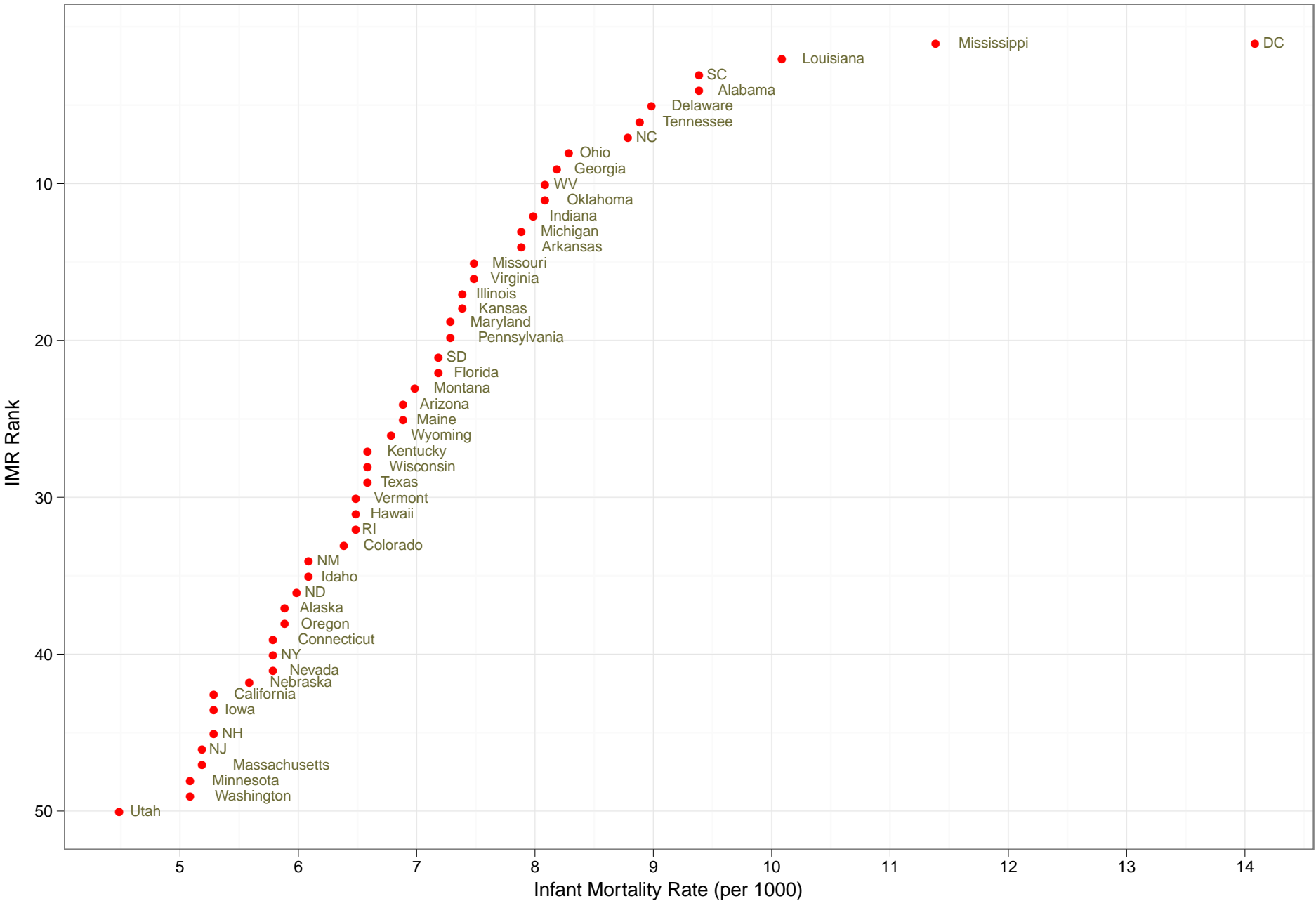
Allen A. Herman, MD, PhD



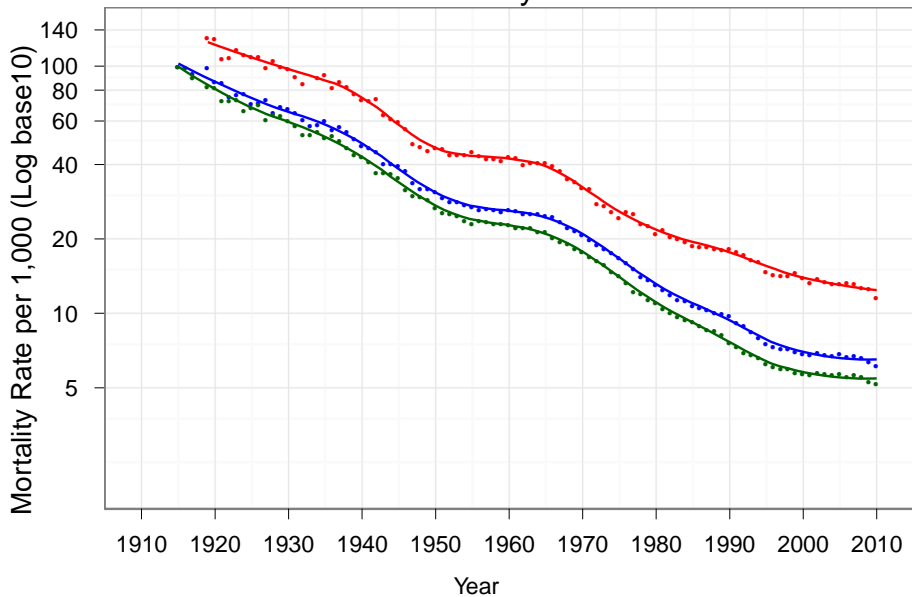
**Fatherhood is an emergent property
of family and community**

Definition of Paternal Involvement in Pregnancy Outcomes

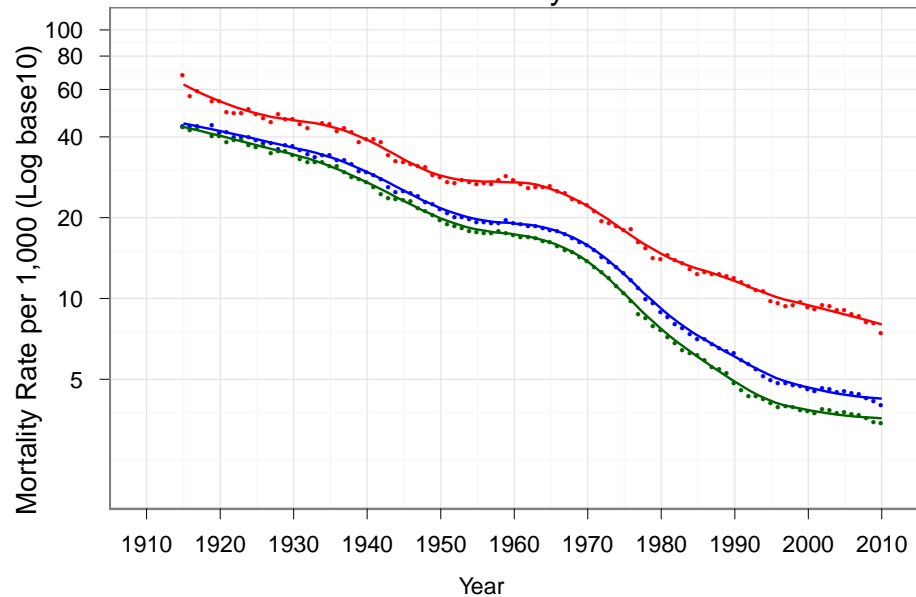
Activities or practices by the male partner and the couple anticipating birth that ideally lead to an optimal pregnancy outcome. Those activities take place during the the preconception and perinatal periods



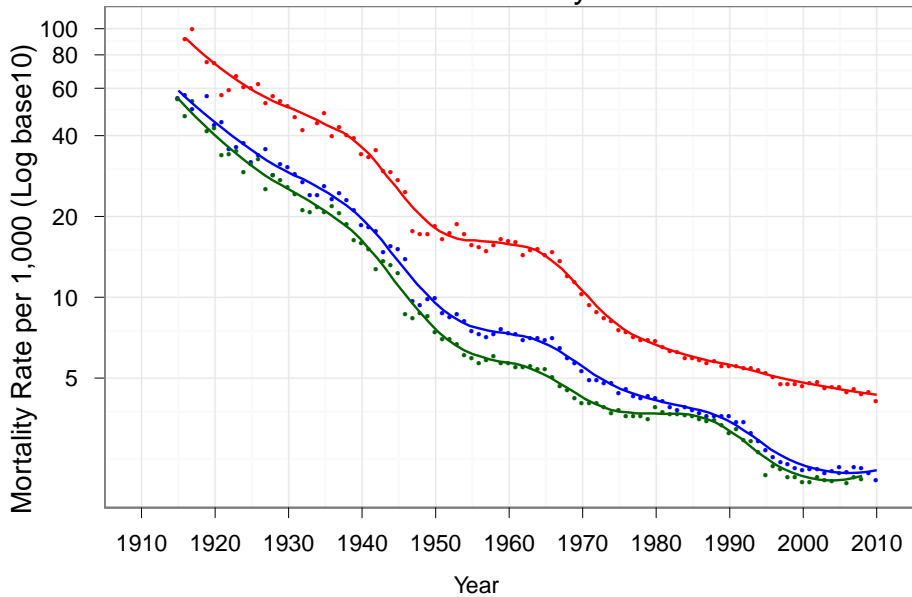
Infant Mortality Rates



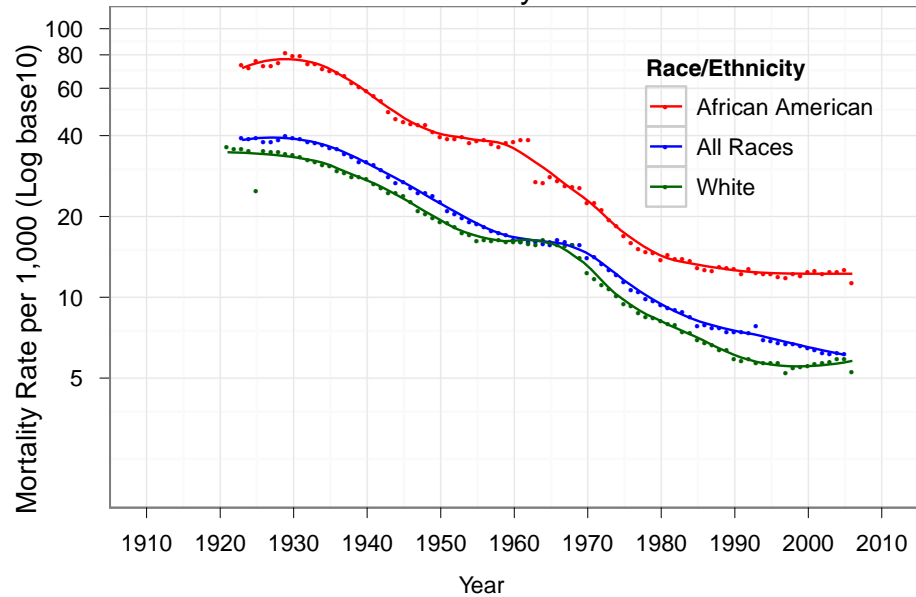
Neonatal Mortality Rates

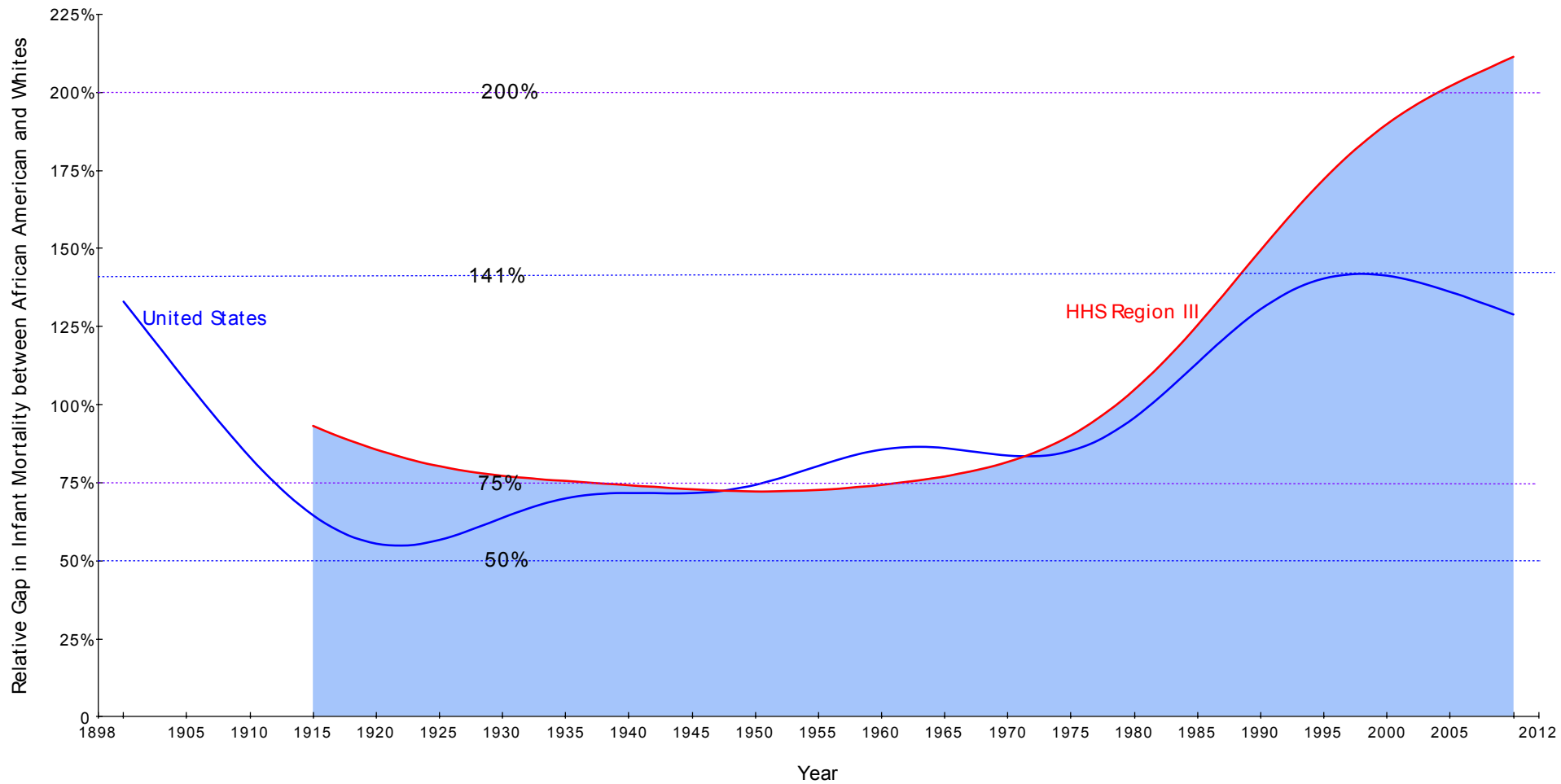


Postneonatal Mortality Rates

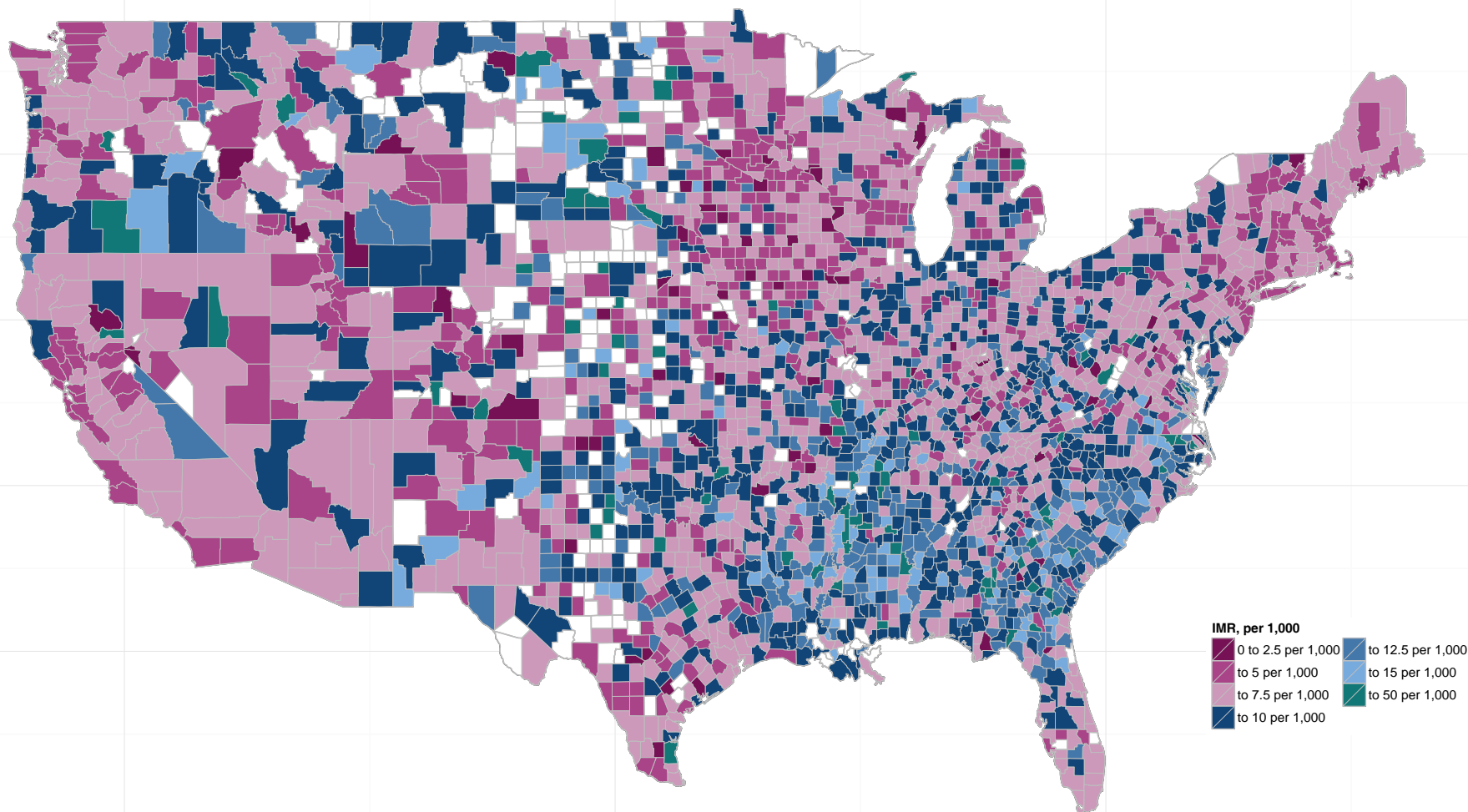


Fetal Mortality Rates





US Infant Mortality Rates, per 1,000

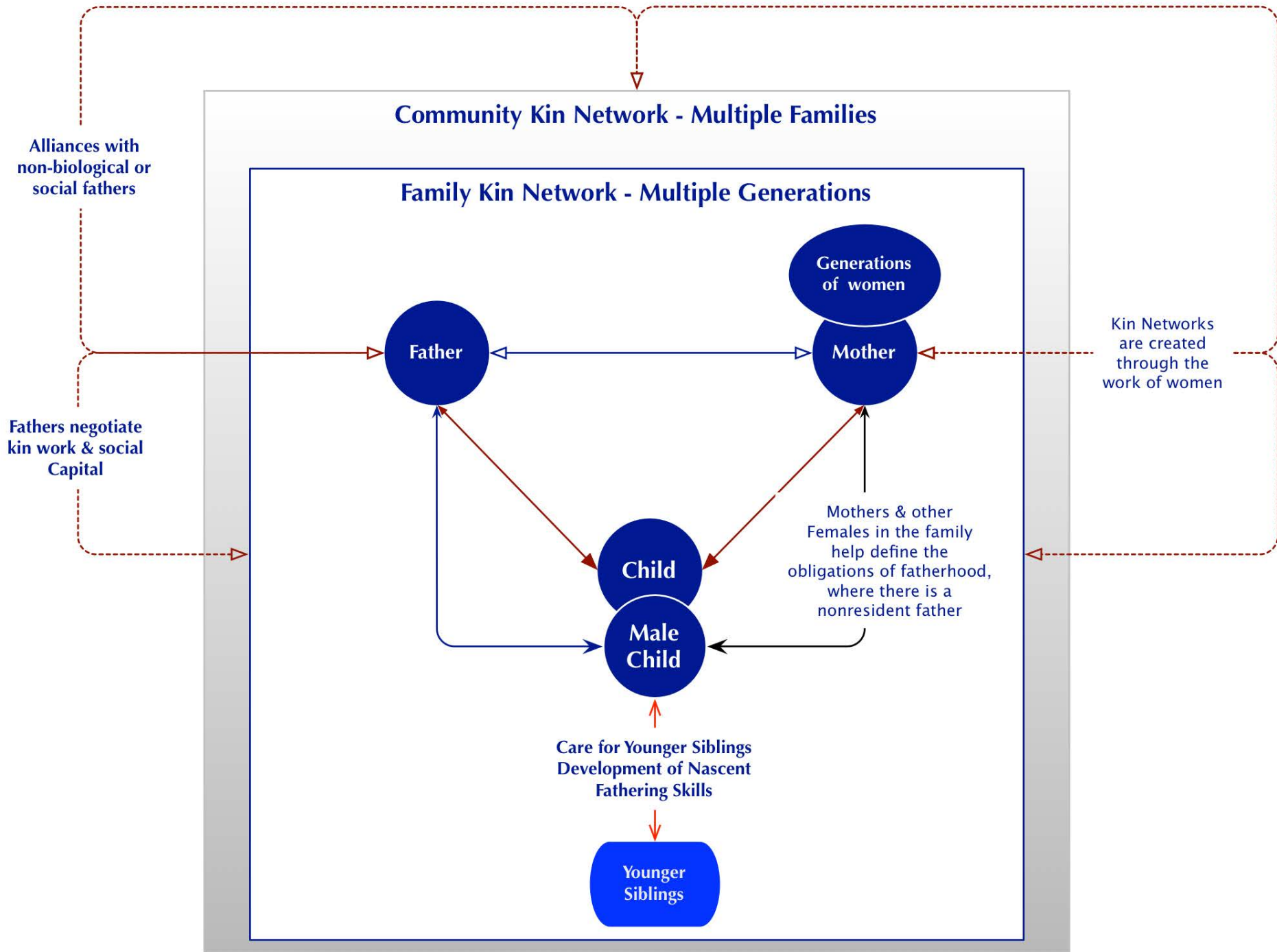


Risk Factors for Men's Health

- **Contextual social determinants** that define the place where African American men live. Black men are more likely to live in urban settings with high levels of poverty; they are more likely to be incarcerated; and they are more likely to live in unstable family environments.
- **Individual social determinants**: African American men are more likely to be poorly educated, unemployed or be in low social status jobs, and have low incomes. They are also less likely to be homeowners and have any wealth.
- African American men have high rates of **adverse health behaviors** such as drug and alcohol abuse, poor diets and inadequate nutrition, and a lack of exercise.
- Black men are less likely to use **health promotion and disease prevention** and services and tend to use primary health services inadequately and hospital-based healthcare inappropriately.

The Consequences of Social Risk

- A number of the social risk factors are chronic and inter-generational.
- The emergence of social risk in late adolescence and early adulthood is associated with a 'disappearance' of African American men from communities, and from health and social services.
- This 'disappearance' is also accompanied by the emergence of female-headed household where men play a transient and sometimes disruptive role in family formation.



Father friendly healthcare

Family formation healthcare exists along a continuum from family planning, through care before conception, prenatal care, postnatal care, and early childcare.

- **Health promotion:** Human Sexuality and Family Formation, smoking, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and nutrition and exercise.
- **Prevention:** vaccination, family planning, the role of men in pre-conception and prenatal care, the prevention of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and chronic renal and cardiovascular disease.
- **Appropriate use of health services:** The importance of having a primary care provider and regular wellness evaluations.

Research

- Expand current efforts in, and support for, research on PIPO, especially in communities with marked disparities in health and healthcare
- Funding should be made available to develop a network of trans-disciplinary research centers of excellence in PIPO
- Funding should be made available for researchers to identify effective clinical and population-based strategies for enhancing PIPO

Paternal Involvement in Pregnancy Outcomes

American Journal of Men's Health

CALL FOR PAPERS

Factors Influencing Paternal Involvement in Pregnancy Outcomes: The P in MCH

GUEST EDITOR: Jermane Bond, Ph.D.

Despite the fact that men are important to maternal and child health (MCH), men have not played a significant role in family planning, pregnancy, and childbirth nor have they had a place in reproductive health initiatives. A large body of research exists on a father's influence on child health and development, but little is known regarding the role of the expectant father in pregnancy outcomes. Much of what we know and understand about fathers during pregnancy has stemmed from research on the mother. Investigators have documented that expectant fathers can be a strong source of support or stress during labor and delivery, but more research and literature is needed to better understand exactly what role the expectant father plays in pregnancy outcomes.

Building on the best and promising recommendations set forth by the **Commission on Paternal Involvement in Pregnancy Outcomes**, the aim of this special issue is to advance an evidence-based body of literature on paternal involvement in pregnancy and family health by concentrating on eliminating barriers in research, policy and clinical practice to focus more on the involvement of the expectant father. This special issue will address three focus areas (research, policy and clinical practice) in paternal involvement in pregnancy and consist of approximately 8 manuscripts.

Deadline for Paper Submission: November 15, 2013.
<http://jmh.sagepub.com>