

Next steps toward antiracism research to achieve neonatal health equity

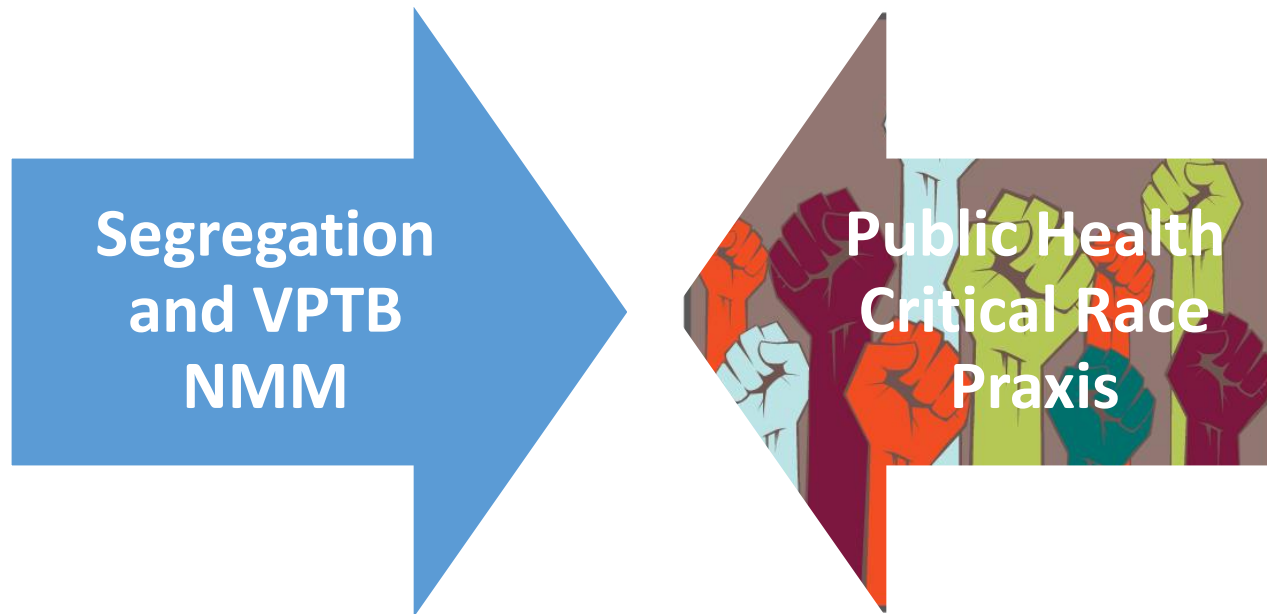
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Institute*

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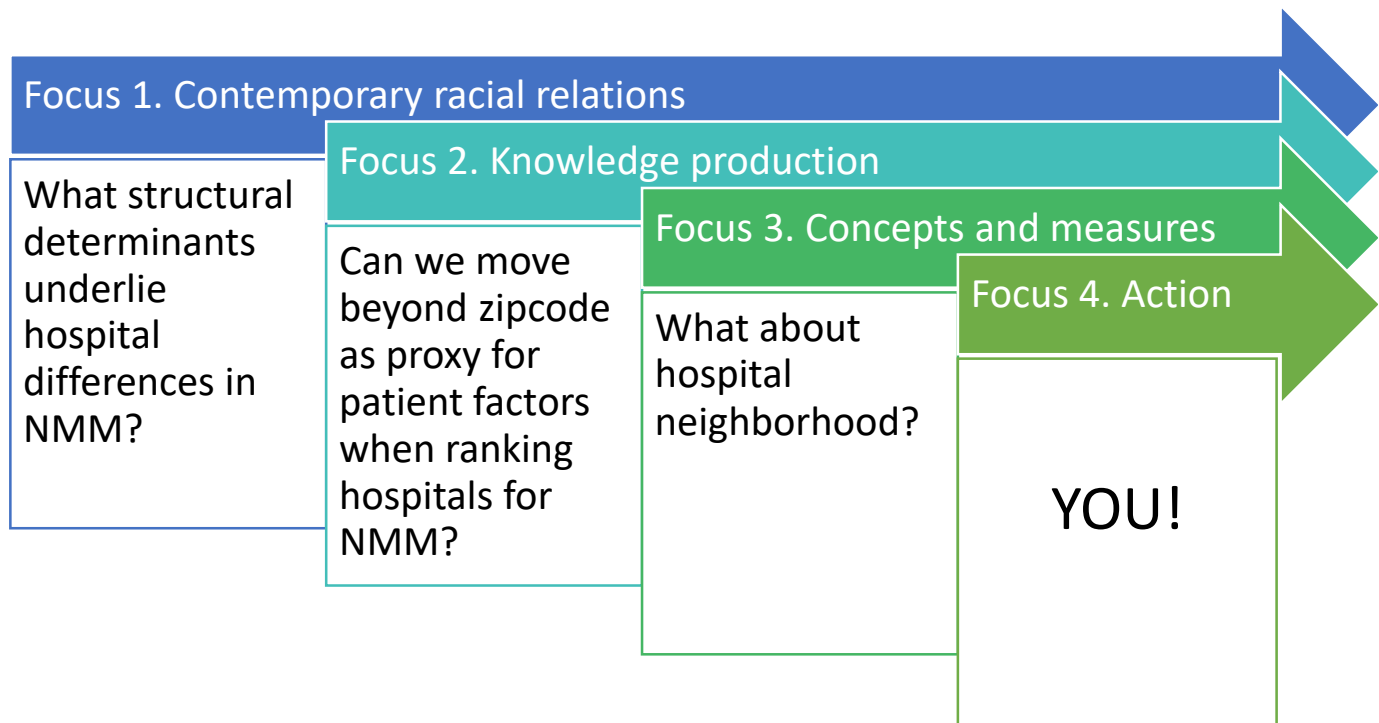


Public health critical race praxis (PHCRP)

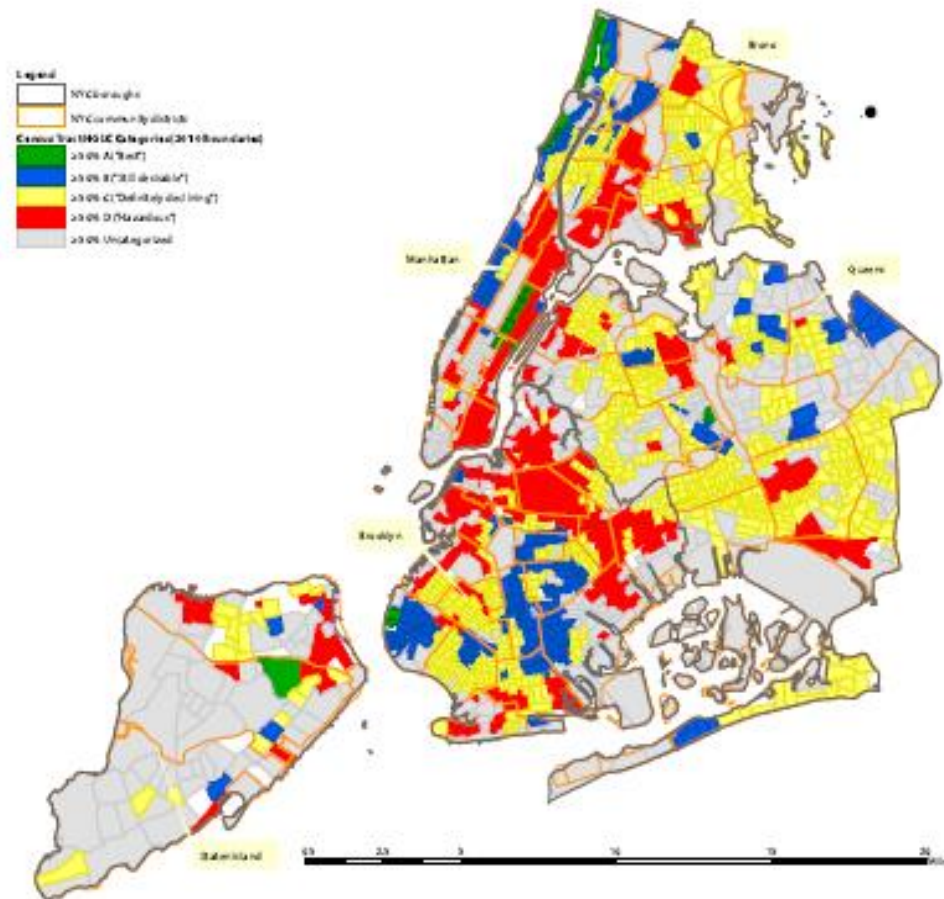
- Practical application of Critical Race Theory for population health researchers
- Aims to “move beyond merely documenting health inequities toward understanding and challenging the power hierarchies that undergird them”



Neighborhood racial-economic segregation and VPTB neonatal morbidity mortality



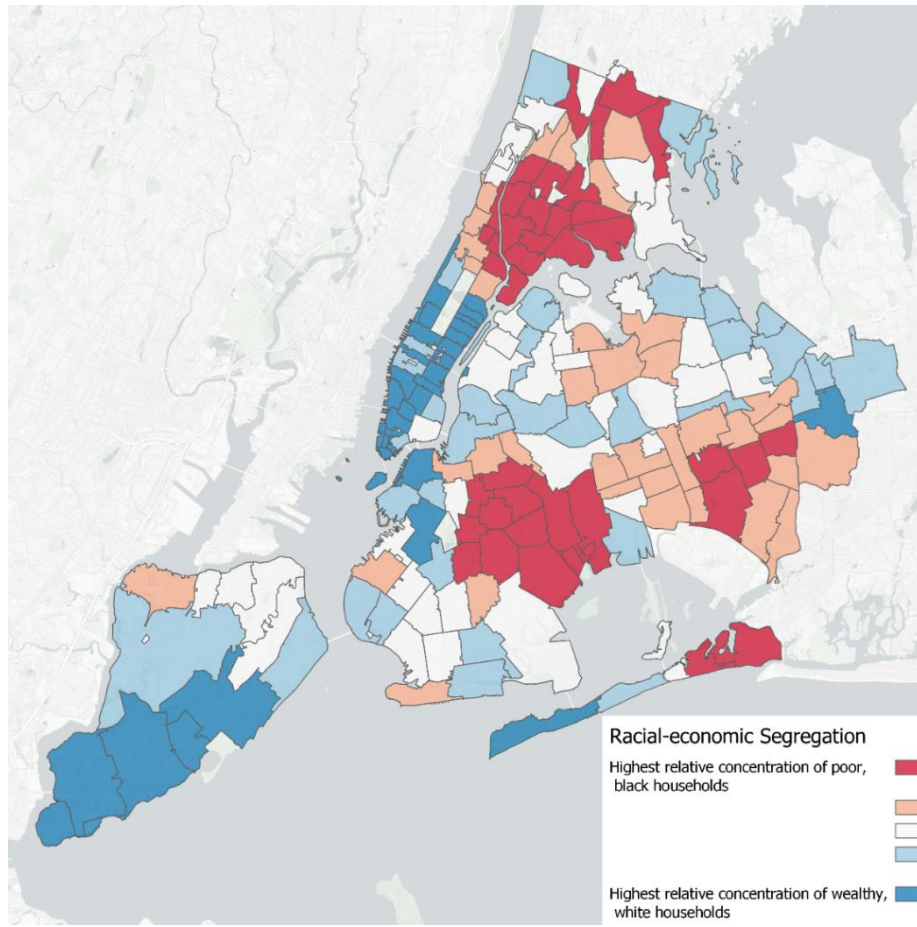
Historical redlining in NYC



Red “hazardous” neighborhoods associated with 55% increased risk preterm birth

FIGURE 2—Census Tracts (n = 2,164) by 1938 Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) Grade: New York City

Present day racial-economic segregation in NYC



Neighborhoods with highest proportion poor/Black relative to wealthy/White residents have:

- 2x risk preterm birth
- 4x risk infant mortality

Text Source: Huynh M, Spasojevic J, Li W, Maduro G, Van Wye G, Waterman PD, Krieger N. Spatial social polarization and birth outcomes: preterm birth and infant mortality - New York City, 2010-14. *Scand J Public Health*. 2018 Feb;46(1):157-166.

Map Source: <https://health.mountsinai.org/blog/structural-racism-and-coronavirus-in-nyc-what-will-be-the-toll-on-maternal-health-equity/>

Structural racism as underling cause of hospital quality

- Infants whose mothers reside in neighborhoods with high concentration poor, Black households **1.6 times** more likely to experience VPTB NMM than those in wealthy, White neighborhoods
- After accounting for patient factors, hospital of delivery explained **2/3 of the difference in risk**
- Hospital neighborhood increased risk of VPTB NMM even further

Next steps in antiracist research in neonatal health equity

- How might neighborhood context influence hospital quality?
 - Fewer resources, burn out, staffing, overwork
- How can hospitals bridge the gap between the NICU and the neighborhood?
- What type of policies – housing, health, etc – might dismantle the structural racism undergirding the observed patterns?



Thank you for your attention!