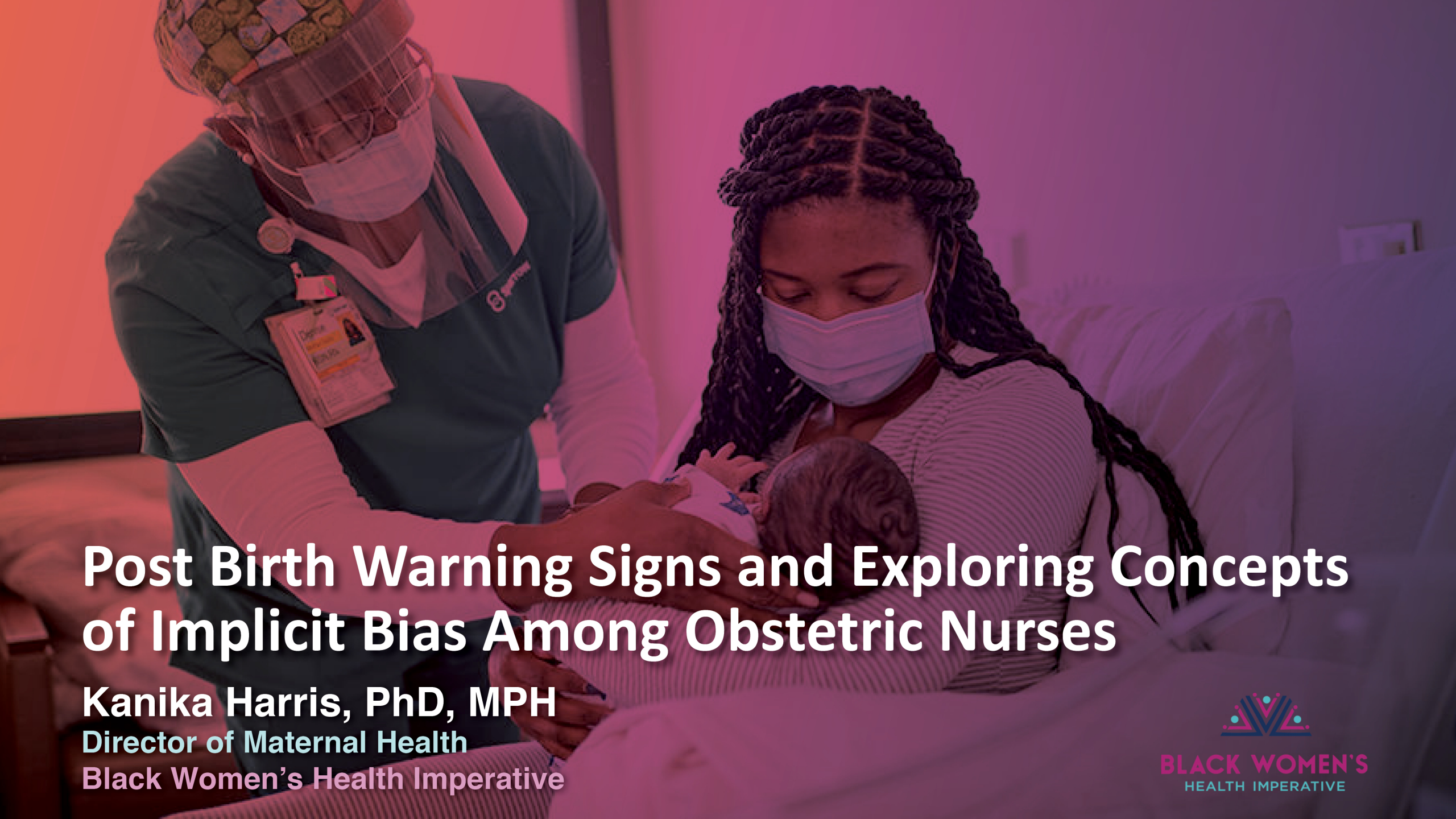




Post Birth Warning Signs and Exploring Concepts of Implicit Bias Among Obstetric Nurses

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Black Women's Health Imperative



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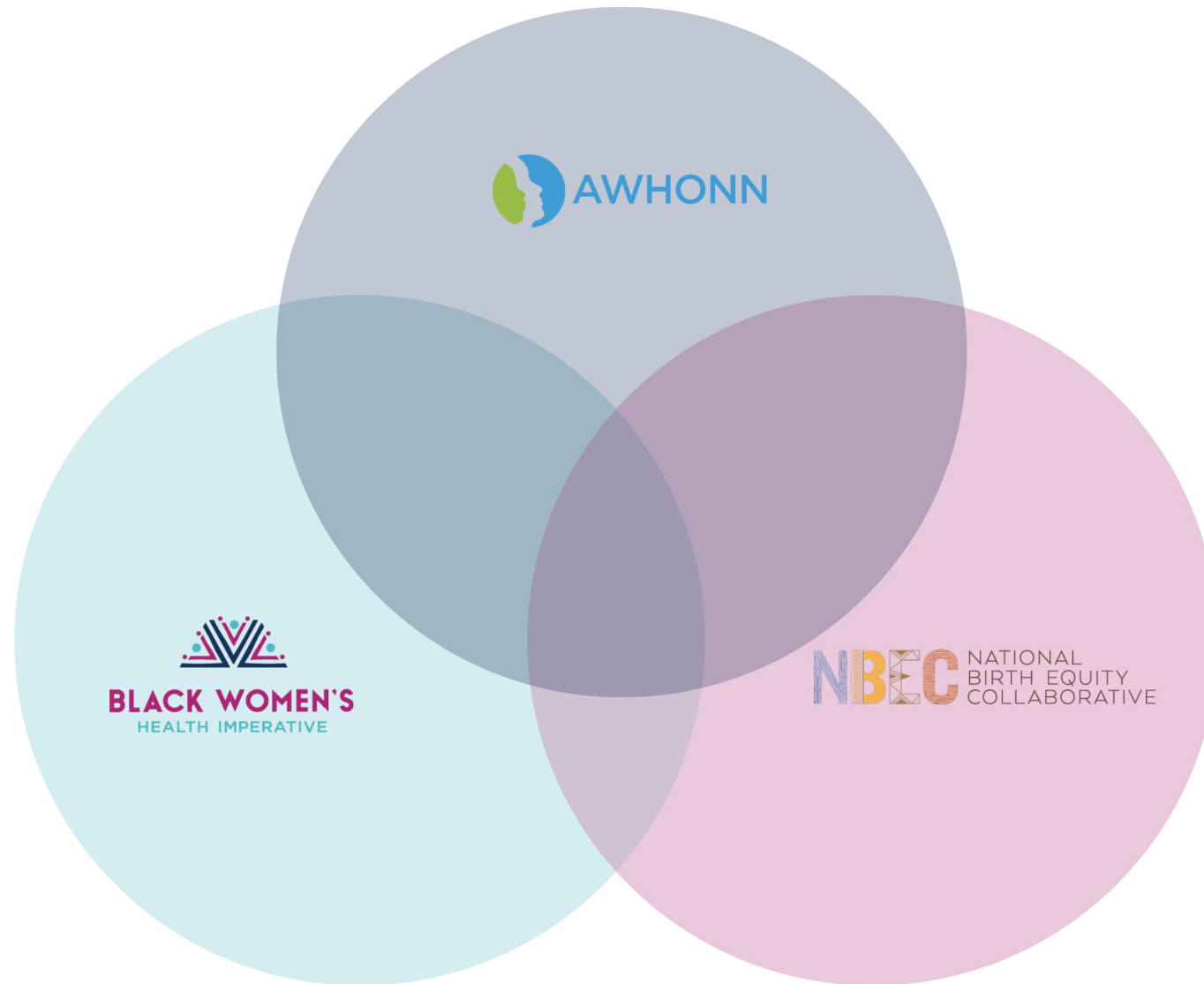
Overview of Presentation

- **Black birthing people and the postpartum period**
- **Black Women's Health Imperative's Collaboration with Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)**
- **Introduction to AWHONN's Post Birth Warning Signs**
- **BWHI's commissioned qualitative research study by AWHONN**
- **Recommendations from our Research Findings**

Black Mothers & Birthing People: The Postpartum Period

- **Over 60% of deaths occur during the postpartum period and most occur within 42 days after birth**
- **The CDC also reports over 60% of pregnancy related deaths are preventable**
- **Significant gaps, missteps, and oversights contribute to these deaths for all mothers**
- **For Black birthing people racism, discrimination, and distrust from medical providers significantly contributes to deaths during the postpartum period**
- **Studies illustrate that experiences of racism dating back to childhood, including traumatic birth experiences can contribute to postpartum depression and PTSD during the postpartum period**





Statement from Merck for Mothers

The project and research described in this presentation were supported by a grant to AWHONN from Merck, through Merck for Mothers, the company's global initiative to help create a world where no woman has to die while giving life. This video is the sole responsibility of its authors. Merck for Mothers is known as MSD for Mothers outside the United States and Canada.



AWHONN's POST-BIRTH Warning Signs Program

awhonn.org/postbirth



AWHONN POST-BIRTH Warning Signs (PBWS) Program Goals

- **Raise awareness** and educate healthcare providers about key postpartum complications and warning signs
- **Empower women** to know the signs and get care quickly using a standardized parent education process
- Ensure all healthcare providers are involved in the **education of women, birthing persons, and families**
- Ensure all healthcare providers **provide respectful care and act promptly on signs and symptoms of complications**

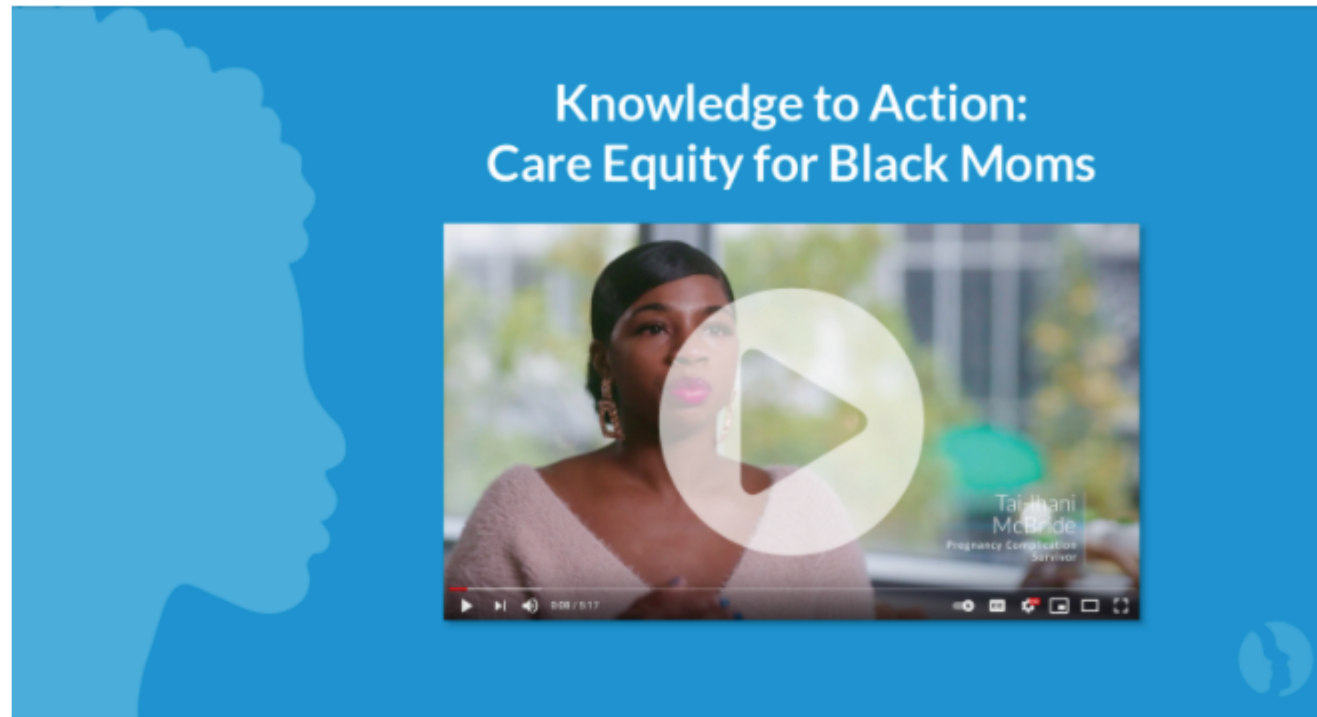


Postpartum Complications Addressed in the PBWS Resources

- Cardiac disease
- Pulmonary embolism (PE)
- Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (including preeclampsia/eclampsia)
- Obstetric hemorrhage
- Venous thromboembolism (VTE)
- Infection
- Postpartum Depression



AWHONN's *Knowledge to Action* Video



<https://www.awhonn.org/birthequity/>



Understanding the Role of Implicit Bias amongst Nurses: Qualitative Study Examining L&D and Postpartum Nurses

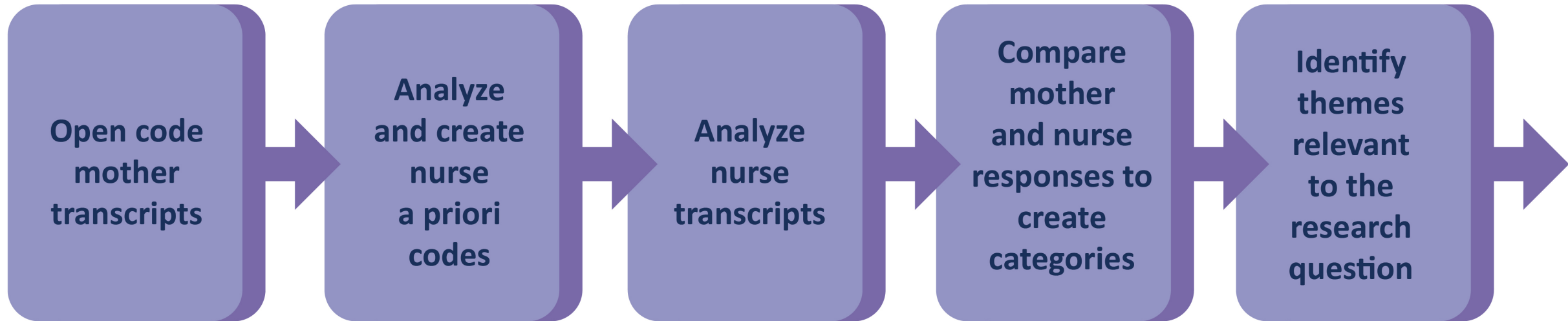
Understanding the Role of Implicit Bias amongst Nurses: Qualitative Study Examining L&D and Postpartum Nurses

- **Used Standpoint and critical race theory as a framework to understand the collective experiences of mothers, Black nurses, and white nurses**
- **Dual perspective of 12 Black mothers and 12 labor and delivery nurses to investigate the unique needs of Black mothers and implicit bias among nurses in the greater Atlanta and Washington Metropolitan area (DMV).**
- **Analytical methodology called “versus coding” was used to compare varied perspectives of mothers and nurses from the same phenomenon—childbirth.**
- **Race and age matched 90 mins in-depth interviews**



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Analysis: Versus Coding



Descriptives for Mothers

- Average age of mother 32
- 42% medicaid
- 46% had doula present at birth
- 75% were married
- 50% had advanced degrees and 16% high school graduates
- 38% c-section delivery
- 30% salary of 50k or less with 2 dependents



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Descriptives for Nurses

- 6 self identified white nurses and 6 self identified black nurses
- Age range 28 to 67, average age 40
- 82% had RN
- 9 years on average of practice
- 59% only worked in L&D, 25% floated, and 16% only worked in postpartum



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Findings from BWHI's Study



Categories from Mothers and Nurse Interviews

- Pain Management and General Treatment
- Racialized Experiences
- Health Information Communication



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Findings from BWHI's Study

“I said, ‘No, please stop, no, stop.’ I said ‘no’ over and over again. I was assaulted against my will. I will give birth at a Metro stop before I ever step foot back in that hospital.”

Quote from Mother, 21 years old

Findings from BWHI's Study

“The situation that time—I mean, definitely [was] racial and [I] definitely judged someone based on, they don’t have as much money as you do. They’re not as educated as you are. Thinking maybe they’re not as smart as you are. Definitely those judgements.”

Quote from Nurse, age 37

Recommendations from Research

1. Survey tools to better capture and assess experiences of mothers and quality of care of nurses
2. Trainings to increase health communications among staff including in-depth knowledge of racism and structural violence
3. Tools to better capture the perinatal and postpartum mental distress of Black birthing people



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THANK YOU!



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