

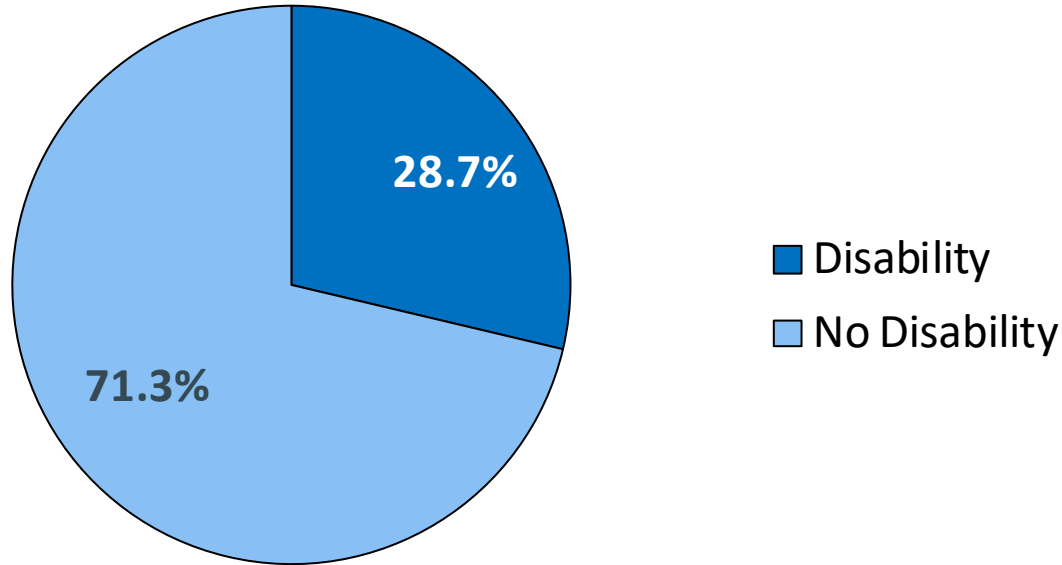


Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities

Presented by: Willi Horner-Johnson, PhD

Promising Strategies to Address Health Disparities Across the Reproductive Health Cycle
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; July 24, 2024

Disability Prevalence in U.S.



Source: 2022 BRFSS data, Disability and Health Data System (dhds.cdc.gov)

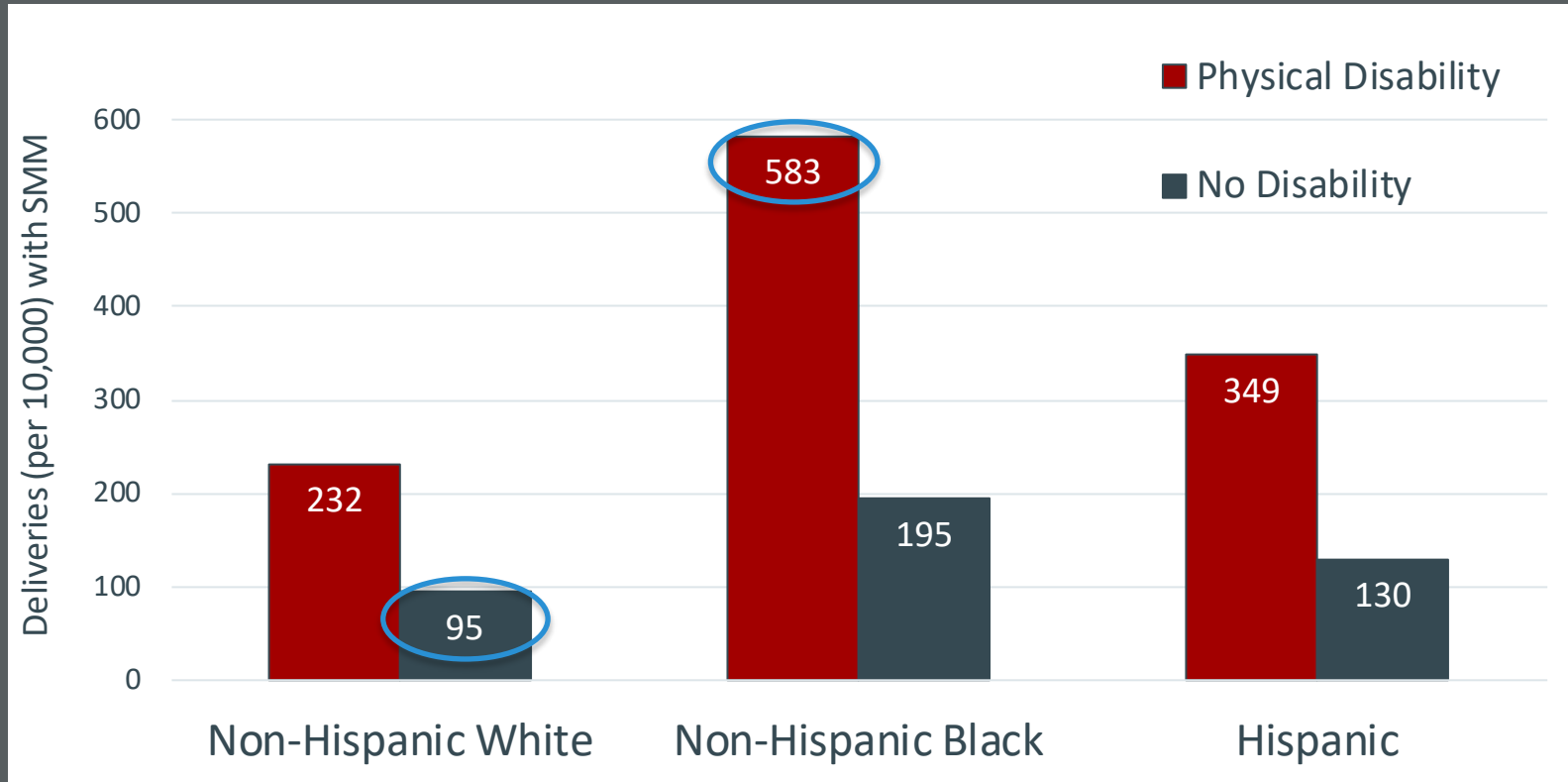
Historical Context

- Eugenics – belief that people with disabilities “weaken the gene pool” and should not reproduce
- Buck v. Bell (1927) – authorized involuntary sterilization of Carrie Buck
- Misperceptions and ableist views still linger
- Views of disabled people as either oversexed or nonsexual

Reproductive Health Risks

- Coercion and sexual violence¹⁻²
- Sexually transmitted infections³
- Unintended pregnancies⁴⁻⁵
- Disparities in preconception health⁶⁻⁸
- Pregnancy complications⁹⁻¹⁰
- Prenatal and postpartum depression¹¹⁻¹²
- Severe maternal morbidity (SMM)^{10, 13}

Severe Maternal Morbidity



Source: Horner-Johnson et al., in review

Disparities in Care

- Less likely to receive
 - HPV vaccination (among females ages 15-25)¹⁴
 - Cervical cancer screening (78% vs. 84%)¹⁵
 - Breast cancer screening (71% vs. 79%)¹⁵
- More likely to be sterilized at younger ages¹⁶⁻¹⁷
- Barriers to other contraceptive methods¹⁸⁻¹⁹

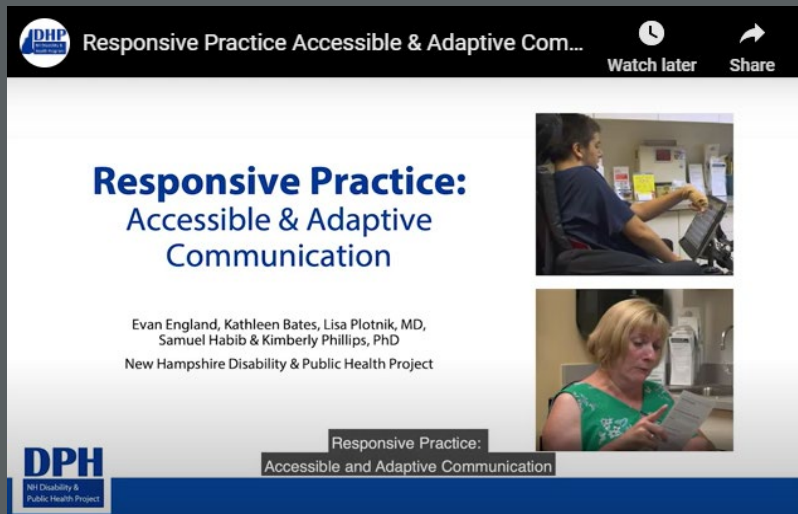
Perinatal Health Care

- Less likely to receive prenatal care in first trimester²⁰⁻²²
- Quality of prenatal care may differ²³⁻²⁵
- Higher proportion of deliveries by cesarean²⁶⁻²⁸

Promising Strategies

Training for Health Professionals

- Alliance for Disability in Health Care Education: core competencies
- Continuing education



Health Care Tools and Resources

- Abuse Assessment Screen – Disability²⁹
- Postpartum mental health resources
- Strategies to facilitate providing reasonable accommodations³⁰



National Center for
**Disability &
Pregnancy Research**

Resources for People with Disabilities

- Preconception education
- Accessible Pregnancy Action Plan
- Pregnancy decision aids
- SRH toolkit in development



National Center for
**Disability &
Pregnancy Research**

Resource Links

- [Core Competencies on Disability for Health Care Education](#)
- Responsive Practice training modules
 - [Providing Health Care and Screenings](#)
 - [Accessible and Adaptive Communication](#)
- [Abuse Assessment Screen - Disability](#)
- [National Center for Disability and Pregnancy Research](#)
- [Taking Charge of My Health Care toolkit](#)

Thank you!



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