

# Integrated Methodology for Assessing Contributing Factors to Black Infant Mortality at the Community Level

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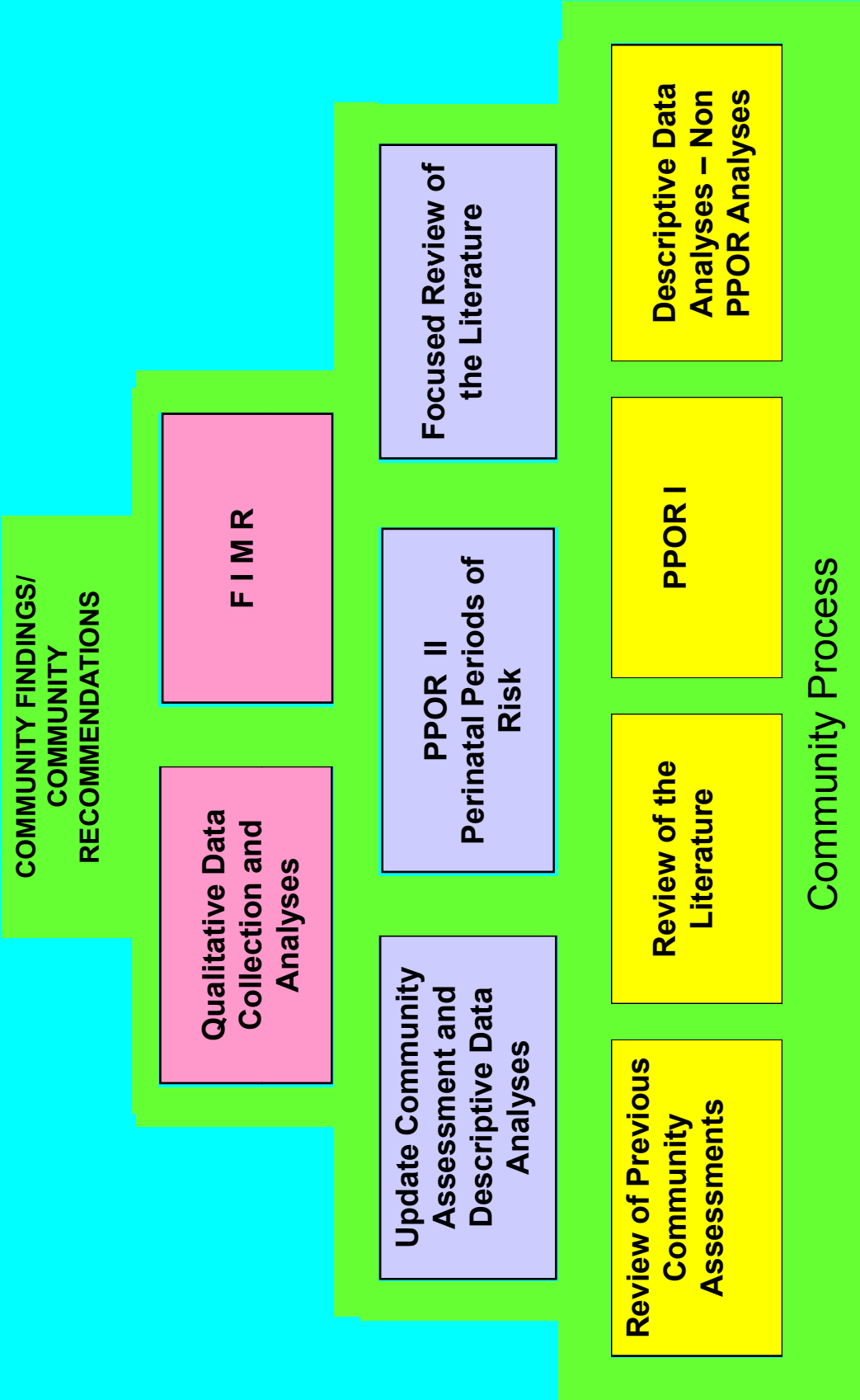
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# Integrated Methodology for Assessing Contributing Factors to Black Infant Mortality at the Community Level

- The assessment process involves multiple, interrelated activities that build on each other
- The assessment process involves multiple groups and individuals

# Integrated Methodology for Assessing Factors Contributing to Black Infant Mortality at the Community Level



## Review of the Literature

- To identify the national trends in disparities in birth outcomes
- To identify the general causes of disparities (Social, economic, behavioral, etc.)
- To identify recommendations for policy, research, prevention
- To identify gaps in the information on racial disparities in birth outcomes

## Review of Previous Community Needs Assessments

- Determine historical trends in racial disparities
- Identify areas of concern (behavioral, health care, environmental, etc.)
- Identify previous recommendations
- Identify gaps in information to be addressed in update of community assessment

# PPOR I

- Distributes fetal and infant mortality into
  - Maternal health/prematurity
  - Maternal care
  - Newborn care
  - Infant health
- Estimates excess fetal and infant mortality within each of these prevention areas.

# PPOR I

- Intended to be used along with other strategies
- Clarifies and identifies opportunities for intervention within the community

## Descriptive Data Analyses (Non-PPOR)

- Establish historical trends in birth outcomes by race
- Determine racial disparity ratios for a number of health status indicators
- Locate geographical areas bearing the greatest burden

## PPOR II

- Builds on initial findings
- Integrates additional analyses and community findings to explain excess infant mortality
- Identifies and prioritizes contributing factors to infant mortality

## Update Descriptive Data Analyses

- Builds on PPOR I findings to focus on the identification of contributing factors to excess infant mortality
- Uses data to identify a focus for qualitative data collection and analyses

## Focused Review of the Literature

- Identify research among similar populations with similar outcomes to:
  - Identify particular issues within similar communities (e.g., low birth weight, preterm births)
  - Understand what issues were found to contribute to the disparities (e.g., smoking, teen pregnancy)

## Focused Review of the Literature

- Provide direction as to what methodologies have worked best to provide crucial information to clarify the issues (e.g., focus group, individual interviews, surveys)
- Identify the types of questions asked
- Provide information as to what has not been asked or what has not yet been explored within the particular area

# Qualitative Data Collection and Analyses

- Generates detailed information and achieves a deeper understanding of how the community perceives the disparity in black infant mortality
- Sets quantitative results into their human and cultural context
- Does not use *preset* questions but is shaped by a *defined set* of topics
- Involves the community as active participants rather than subjects
- The analysis is not shaped and limited by the data

# Qualitative Process



# Qualitative Data Collection and Analyses

- Qualified personnel will provide training and technical assistance for:
  - Assessment of current qualitative data gathering methods of coalitions/consortia
  - Supplementary qualitative data collection
  - Creation of a database for qualitative data
  - Analysis of qualitative data
  - Secondary data analyses of the FIMR activities of participating coalitions/consortia

# Fetal/Infant Mortality Review

- FIMR is an action-oriented community process
- FIMR continually assesses, monitors, and works to improve service systems and community resources for women, infants, and families.
- The FIMR process begins with an infant death.

## Community Findings

- Integration of information gained from all data collected and analysis and interpreted by community members participating in the process.
- Community findings provide the basis for the development of community recommendations for improving birth outcomes for Black babies.

# QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSES

## Technical Assistance and Training

- Well-qualified personnel in the area of population-based data analyses and programming will be made available to the communities to provide technical support and impart expertise in the conduct of quantitative data analyses.

# QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSES

## Technical Assistance and Training

- **Schedule/Format**
  - Determine with each community time-related goal attainment (E.g., after three months what capacity would the community hope to achieve?).
  - Determine with each community a format and time frame for training (group training versus individualized; or a combination of both)

# QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSES

## Technical Assistance and Training

- **PPOR Analyses**

- How to compute descriptive PPOR (example of steps)
  - Strategies in determining a reference population (examples of a reference population)
  - Internal versus external reference
  - Fine-tuning by random sampling of a large population that is relatively low risk (for those communities with SAS and interested)
  - Multiple random sampling and computation of PPOR using the pooled sample as referent population
  - Computation of excess feto-infant deaths

# QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSES

## Technical Assistance and Training

- **PPOR Analyses**
  - How to interpret the results generated (examples)
  - How to validate the results (through comparison with results we have generated, as an example)
  - How to navigate the analytical segment of the PPOR (examples; the use of logistic regressions to identify potent risk factors of feto-infant mortality; )
  - Identifying risk factors and what they mean (concrete examples)
  - How to communicate results in layman's language (concrete examples)

# QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSES

## Technical Assistance and Training

- **Non-PPOR Analyses (where numbers or personnel capacity are lacking)**
  - Crude trend analyses of feto-infant morbidity and mortality over time
  - Tests for these trends (to determine whether observed trends are significant)
  - Examination of trends of feto-infant morbidity and mortality by sub-groups
  - Determination of disparity in feto-infant morbidity and mortality across sub-populations
  - Simple software-based tests to determine whether these are significant or not (explanation)
  - Summarizing results in the form of tables, charts, etc. (show examples)

# Current Literature Review

- Search for studies on racial disparities in birth outcomes, with a focus on African

## Americans:

- Professional journal articles
- Books
- Public and Private Organizations Reports (Joint Center Health Institute, CDC, NIH, IOM, etc.)

# Current Literature Review

- Search for:
  - Causes of disparities: medical, socio-economic, cultural, environmental
  - Proven strategies for researching specific causes
  - Effective/ineffective prevention strategies for addressing disparities in birth outcomes among African Americans
  - Effective/ineffective policies for improving birth outcomes among Blacks and for reducing disparities

- Phase I: Upon completion of initial literature review:
  - Reports on national trends will be disseminated to the communities
- Phase II: Upon completion of individual community assessments and data analysis:
  - Detailed information on specific issues identified in each community will researched be made available as requested
  - Community-level assistance in identifying effective strategies for addressing their particular issue(s) will be provided