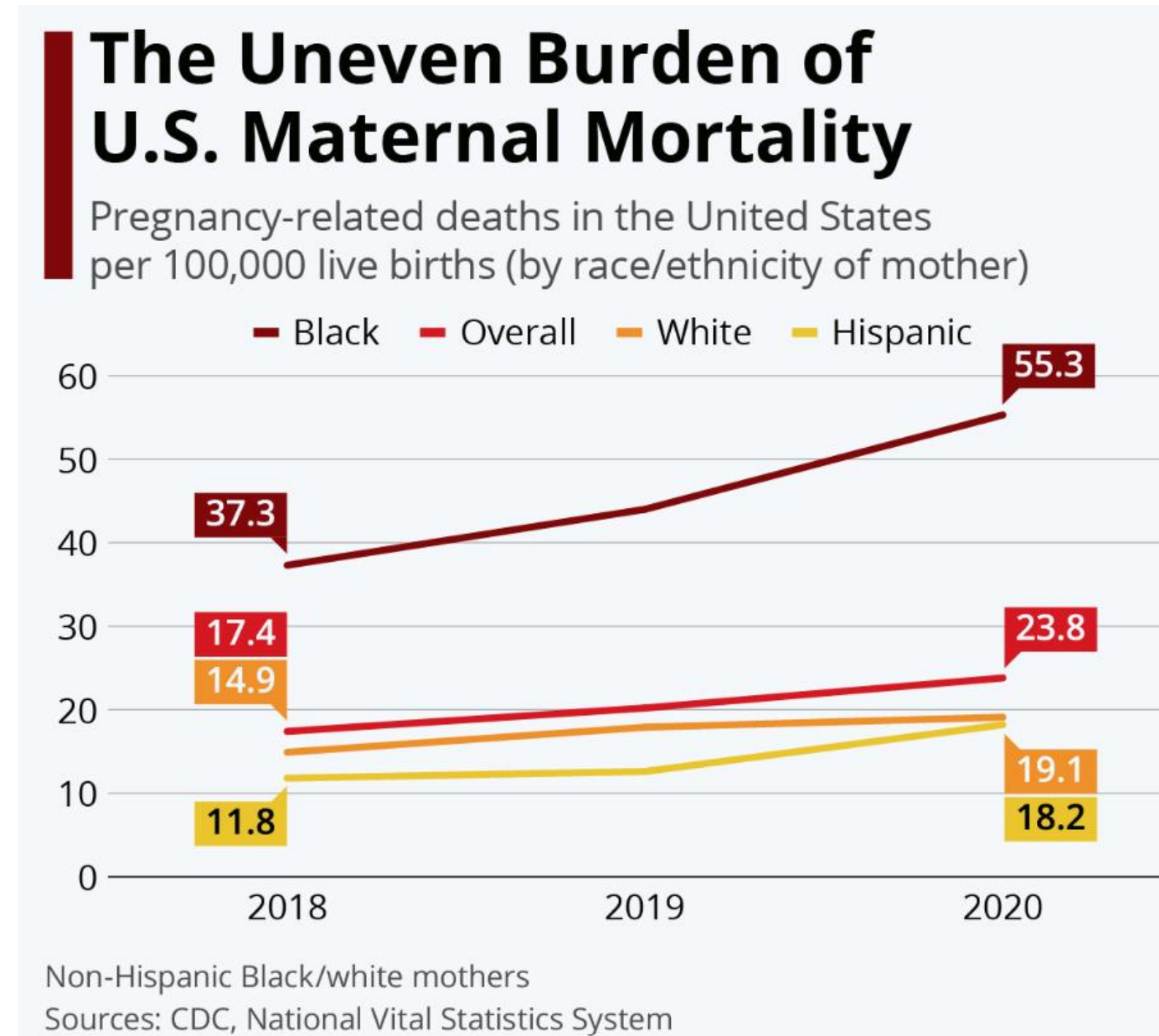


What?

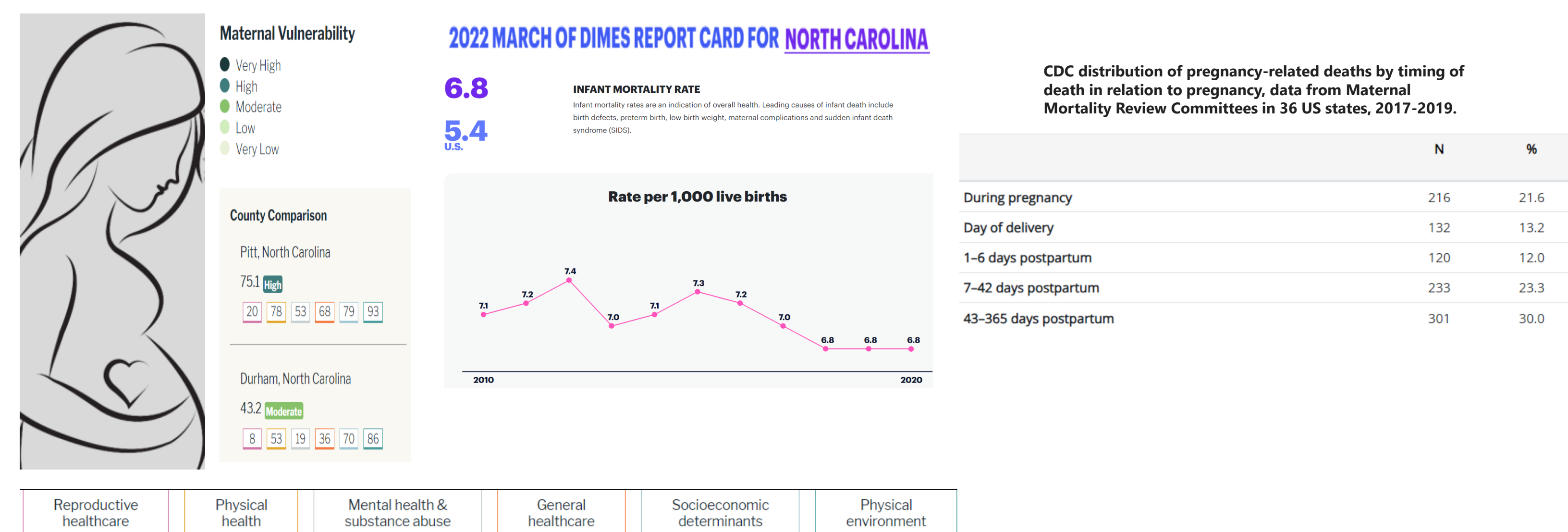
- No cost doula like support for birthing persons on L&D unit at ECU Health
- 40 volunteers serve 2 x 8hr shifts per month
- Provide continuous emotional, physical and informational support
- Use non-medical pain relief techniques
- Support patient within medical plan of care determined by their medical team.
- Stay with the birthing person throughout labor and birth giving reassurance, encouragement, and comfort.
- Aid with skin-to-skin contact and breastfeeding initiation in the immediate postpartum period



So What?



- ACOG Recommendation
- Promote positive birth outcomes to address disparities in maternal and Infant mortality rates in Eastern NC
- CDC reports NC Maternal Mortality Rate of 20 deaths per 100,000 live births compared to US MMR of 17.5 deaths per 100,000 live births
- Free doula support for those who face financial barriers and most at risk of poor birth outcomes



Now What?

- Strengthening program foundation
- Continue to develop education and training of volunteers
- Expand and develop program to provide prenatal and postpartum support
- Recruit more pre-health and health professional students
- Continue to expand connections at hospital and outpatient setting
- Connect with local and state networks committed to infant and maternal health
- Increase community presence and awareness of program



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