

**Exercise 2.1 An APRN is working in a community clinic providing postnatal care to a diverse population of families. The APRN knows that there is an ethnic disparity for infant mortality.**

**1. Where could the APRN go to find information on infant mortality disparities?**

The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), published by the CDC, provides information on morbidity and mortality trends. However, this data is only accurate if providers are reporting diseases and conditions in a timely manner. APRN's can also look at population surveys from the U.S. National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), which is constantly surveying households throughout the year on various health topics. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is also part of the CDC, has access to public and private partners to gather data on a population's health status, influences on health and health outcomes. This data can be reviewed to identify health disparities among subgroups, such as infants (Cupp, 2020).

**2. What is the ethnic disparity in infant mortality?**

Infant mortality can include birth defects, preterm birth, low birthweight, complications with maternal pregnancy, SIDS and injuries. The infant mortality rate of the U.S. has significant disparities with the non-Hispanic Black population accounting for 10.8% followed by Native Hawaiian or other Islander populations at 9.4% and American Indians at 8.2%. Non-Hispanic White and Asian populations have the lowest mortality rates at 4.6 and 3.6% respectively. Some complications that occur in these subgroups include an increased risk of hypertension, preterm birth, c section, preeclampsia, diabetes and low birth weight in Pacific Islander women. In addition, although Asians have the lowest infant mortality rates, they are at a greater risk for low birth weight and small for gestational age births, putting the infants at risk for hypothermia, hypoglycemia and fetal distress (Jang & Lee, 2022).

**3. What social determinants of health are associated with infant mortality?**

Social determinants associated with infant mortality include economic instability, education level, access to quality healthcare, and living environments. Racism, especially toward the American Indian population, can lead to lack of basic human rights and quality healthcare (Jang & Lee,