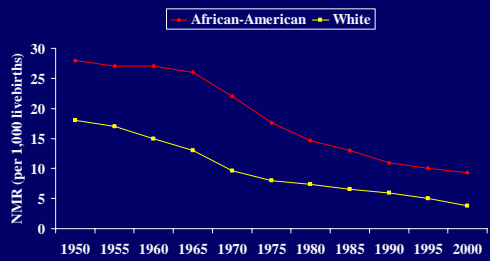


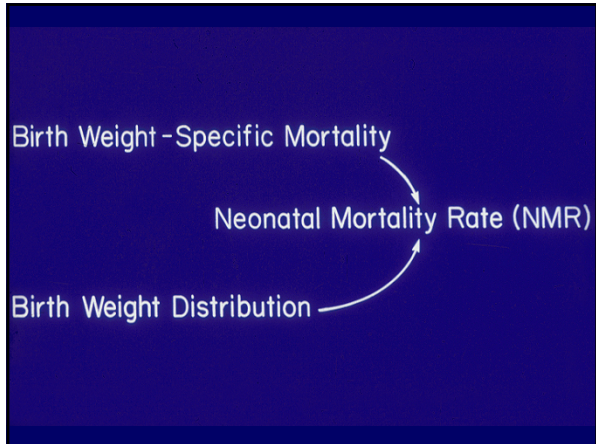
*African-American Women's Lifelong
Minority Status, Stress, and Pregnancy
Outcome*

James W. Collins, Jr.
2/20/07

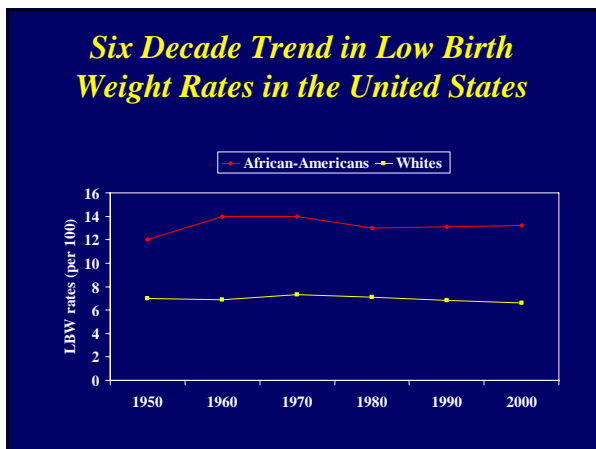
6,000 African-American infant deaths a year could be prevented if the IMR of African-Americans was lowered to the level of whites.

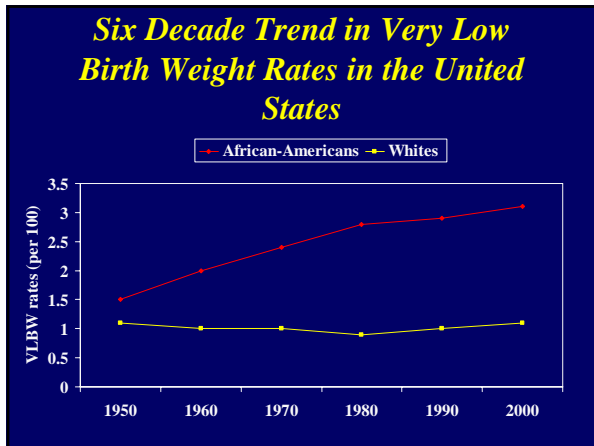
NEONATAL MORTALITY RATES

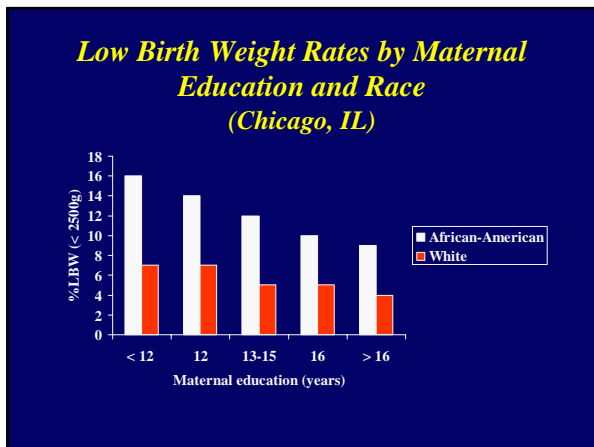


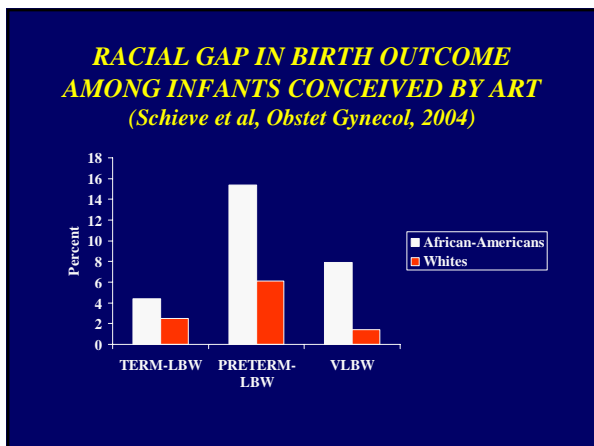


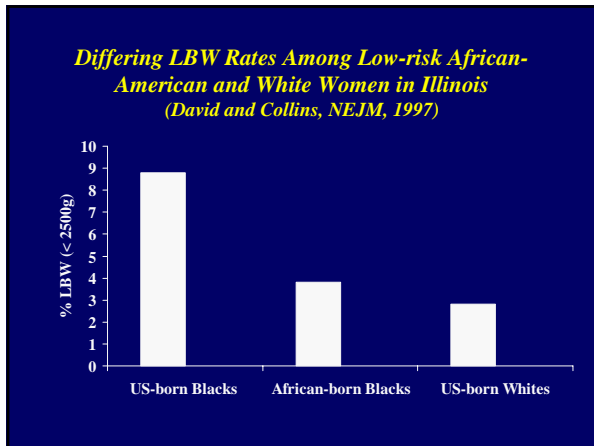
- LBW (< 2500g) infants account for 7.9% of births and 66% of deaths.
- VLBW (< 1500g) infants account for 1.5% of births and 50% of deaths.

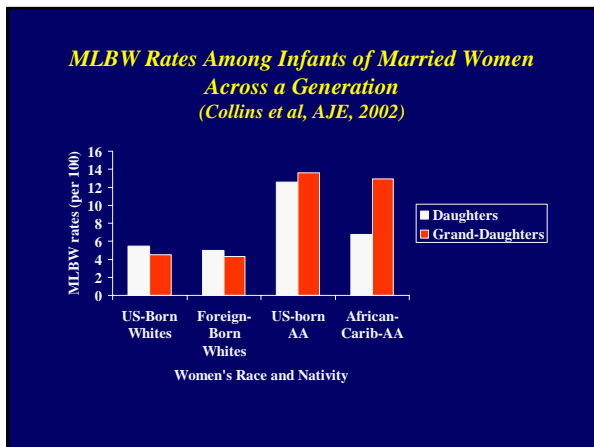


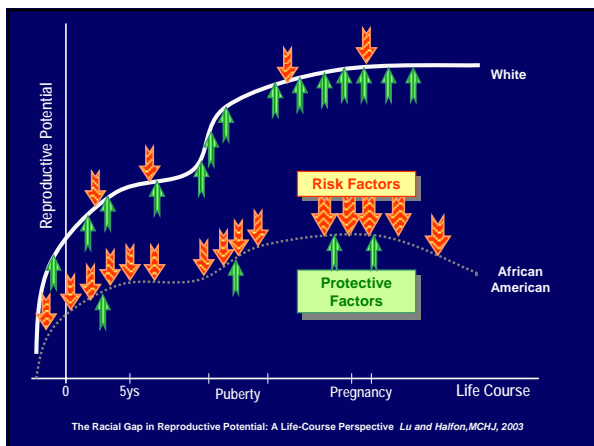












Changing Research Focus from Pregnancy to Pre-Pregnancy Factors

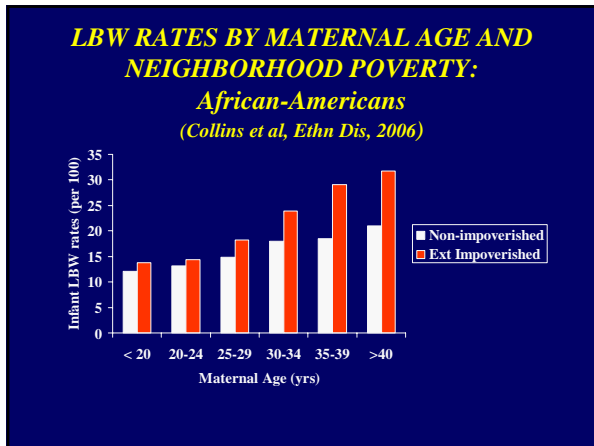
- Early-Life Programming Hypothesis:
 - Impaired fetal growth is a risk factor for later poor reproductive outcome.
- Cumulative Pathway Hypothesis:
 - Life-long exposure to neighborhood poverty and racial discrimination are risk factors for poor reproductive outcome.

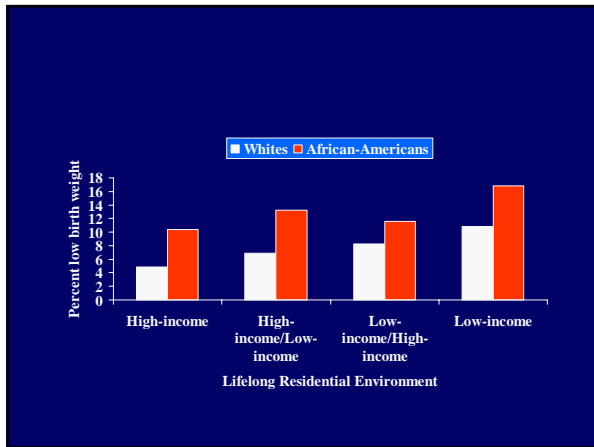
Percentage of Infants Born Into Poverty

White 4 %
African-American 46%

"for the last few days whole lots of things been going on like shoting, killing, dycing, death. that happens every day, every week, any month. like they tried to kill my cousin my uncle almost tried to hurt my grandfather to take his money. everywhere you go you see people on streets, in abandon building, on the corners, breaking in houses, getting stopped by police. every day the same things happen."

—Composition written by a 6th-grade pupil from Robert Taylor Homes.





MIDDLE CLASS

Prosperity still can't buy security, peace of mind in black middle-class areas

By Ron Grossman and Byron P. White
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS
Web-posted: Saturday, February 1, 1997

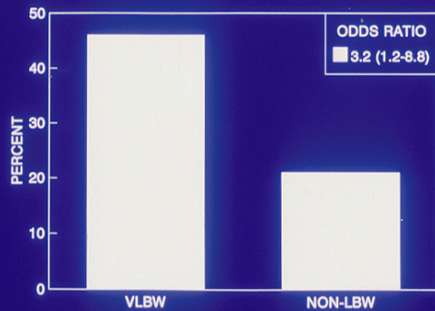
African-American Mothers' Perception of Their Residential Environment, Stressful Life Events, and Very Low Birthweight

James W. Collins, Jr.,¹ Richard J. David,² Rebecca Symons,¹ Arden Handler,³ Stephen Wall,¹ and Steven Andes⁴

VLBW AND UNFAVORABLE RATINGS OF RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT

Low Rating	VLBW	NON-LBW	OR (95% CI)
police	55%	26%	3.2 (1.2-8.4)
property	43%	23%	1.9 (1.1-3.4)
safety	48%	25%	2.8 (1.0-7.4)
friendliness	39%	20%	2.2 (0.8-5.8)
services	29%	19%	1.7 (0.6-5.0)
cleanliness	50%	28%	2.5 (1.0-6.4)
quietness	61%	42%	2.1 (0.8-9.7)
schools	28%	15%	2.8 (0.8-9.7)

VLBW AND UNFAVORABLE RATING (OVERALL) OF RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT

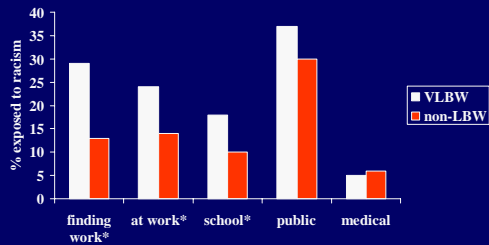


Race

“Race” is not a biological construct that reflects innate differences, but a social construct that precisely captures the impacts of racism.

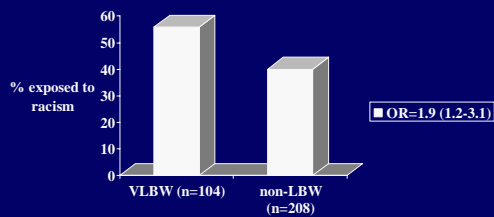
(Jones, AJP, 2000)

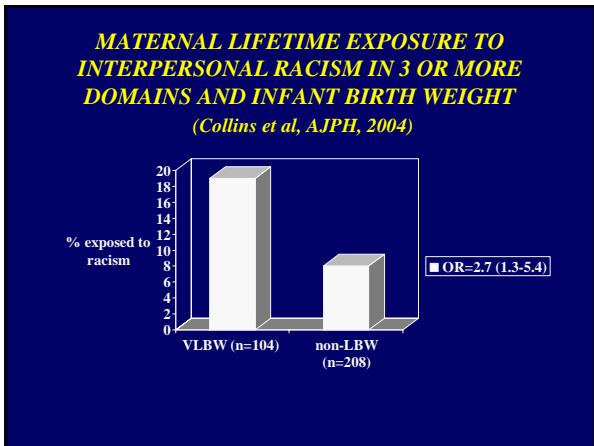
MATERNAL LIFETIME EXPOSURE TO INTERPERSONAL RACISM AND INFANT BIRTH WEIGHT



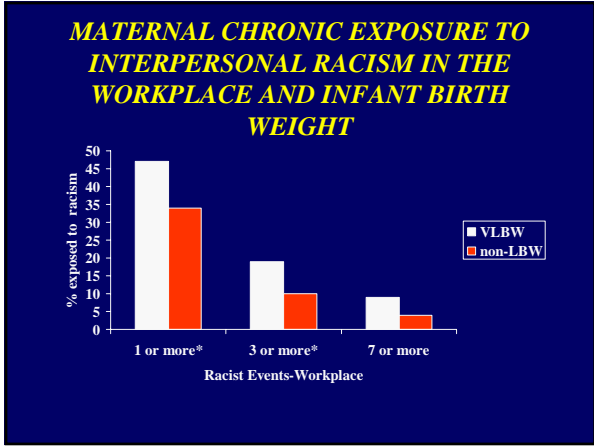
MATERNAL LIFETIME EXPOSURE TO INTERPERSONAL RACISM IN 1 OR MORE DOMAINS AND INFANT BIRTH WEIGHT

(Collins et al, AJP, 2004)





- MATERNAL LIFETIME EXPOSURE TO INTERPERSONAL RACISM AT THE WORKPLACE AND INFANT BIRTH WEIGHT**
- “Because you are African-American, you are assigned jobs no one else will do”. OR=1.7 (0.7-4.3)
 - “Whites often assume that you work in a lower class job than you do and treat you as such”. OR=2.3 (1.0-5.1)
 - “You are treated with less dignity and respect than you would be if you were white. OR=2.0 (0.8-4.3)
 - “You are watched more closely than others because of your race”. OR=2.3 (0.8-6.1)
 - “Because you are African-American, you feel that you have to work twice as hard”. OR=1.9 (0.9-4.1)



SUMMARY

The long-standing racial disparity in infant outcome cries out for fresh analyses that take into account the non-random, pervasive, and multifaceted inequality that is bound up in the historical context of race and begin to capture its effect on human beings over time. Pregnancy, while occurring during a limited time period, should not be considered independent of prior life experiences. Published data highlight that adulthood exposure to neighborhood poverty and the cumulative lifelong experiences of interpersonal racial discrimination are risk factors for poor reproductive outcome among African-American women.

Life Course Perspective

