



# **Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Partner Support during Pregnancy**

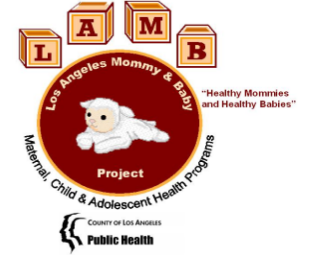
**Findings from the 2007 Los Angeles Mommy and Baby Survey  
(LAMBS)**

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# Overview

- Background and significance
- Research Questions
- Results
- Discussion
- Strengths
- Limitations
- Implications





# Background and Significance

Partner support during pregnancy:

- Has been associated with positive health behaviors.
- Is proposed to buffer against psychosocial stress that could lead to adverse birth outcomes
- Has been shown to be an important source of instrumental and emotional support.



# Background and Significance (cont)

Racial and ethnic disparities:

- In birth outcomes has been widely established in literature.
- In the receipt of adequate partner support may partly explain racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes.
- In partner support during pregnancy has been examined in only few studies to date.



# Research Question

What are the racial and ethnic differences in partner support during pregnancy among women in Los Angeles County?

# Methods – Overview of LAMB study



- Cross-sectional, population-based survey similar to Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)
- Self-administered mailed questionnaires with telephone follow-up
- Stratified random sample of new mothers selected from recent birth certificates in Los Angeles County



# Methods – Overview of LAMB study (cont)

- Unlike PRAMS, LAMB looks beyond individual risk factors during pregnancy.
- LAMB is conceptually guided by:
  - Ecological model
  - Life course perspective
- Design and questions allow for both routine assessment and multilevel analysis.



# Methods – Sampling Process

- Stratified random sample of neighborhoods defined by census tracts
- Stratification used to oversample high-risk tracts
- 135 census tracts were selected:
  - 90 from high-risk zip codes
  - 45 from low-risk zip codes

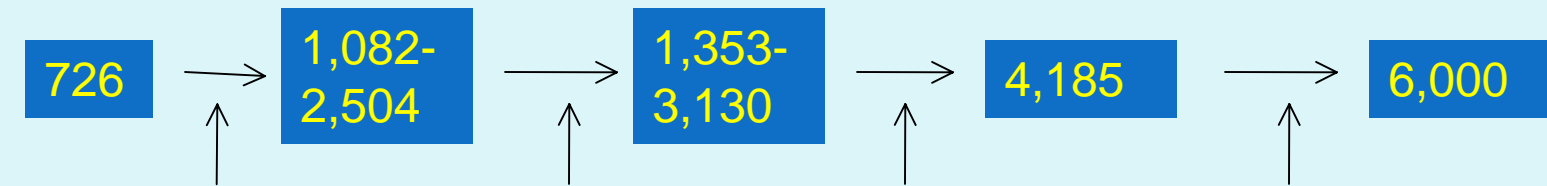


# Methods: Determination of Sample Size



- Total expected sample size per 2 yrs = 6,000
- Expected sample size determined by standard power calculations, based on LBW as outcome and racial discrimination as exposure
- Original sample size=726, based on type 1 error rate of 0.05 and power of 0.8.
- For this analysis, data collected from **1053** women from the 2007 birth cohort.

# Methods: Determination of Sample Size (cont)



Exp. Intra-community corr. = 0.01-0.05

Cluster size = 50 births/tract

Design effect =  $1/49 - 3.45 (1 + \text{intra-class corr.} \times (\text{cluster size} - 1))$

Minority specific analysis

Exp. Response rate of 65%

Preterm birth as a primary outcome

Low response rate (40%) in 2007 pilot study

# Methods – LAMB instrument



- Approximately 100 questions
- Covers a range of determinants of birth/pregnancy outcomes that occur before, during, and after the pregnancy
- 45-60 minutes to complete
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade level readability
- Provided in English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese), and Tagalog.



# Methods: Data collection

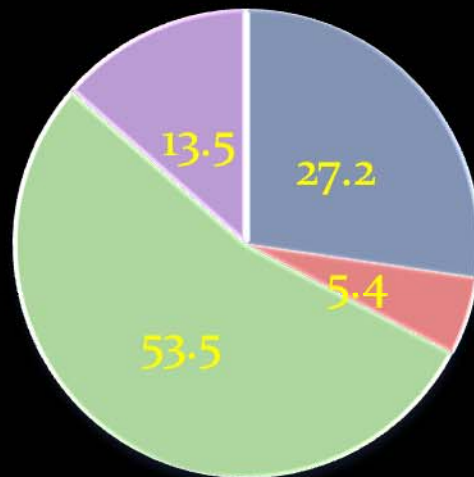
Step 1	Preletter
Step 2	Initial mail questionnaire packet
Step 3	Tickler
Step 4	Second mail questionnaire packet
Step 5	Telephone follow-up



# Methods: Sample Description

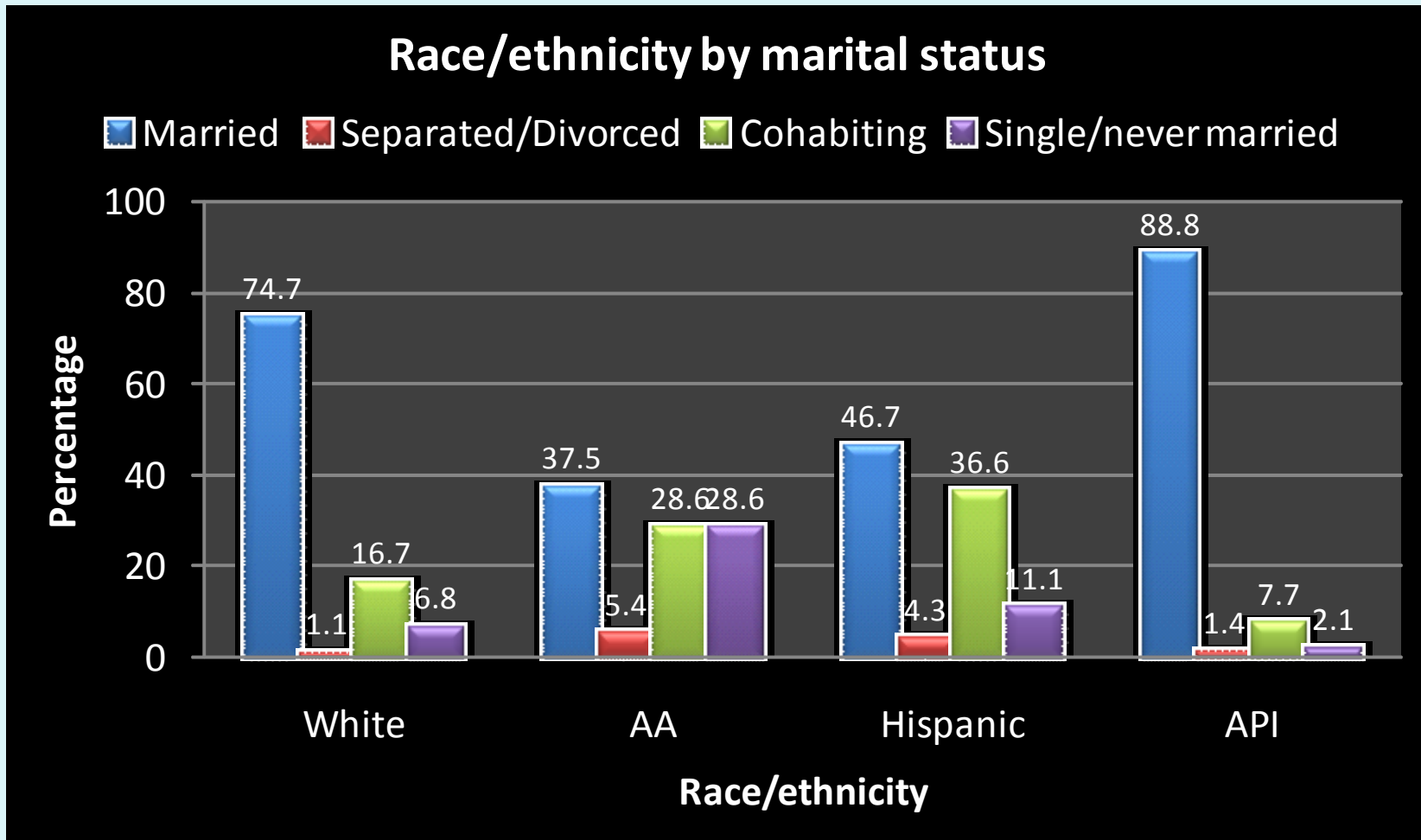
- N = 1,053 women

## Race/ethnic distribution of LAMB study respondents



- Whites
- African Americans
- Hispanics
- Asian/Pacific Islanders

# Methods: Sample Description (cont)



# Methods: Variable Description

Outcome variables:

- 6 dichotomous partner support variables - obtained from Fragile Families Study

**During your last pregnancy, did the baby's father do any of the following:**

- Gave you money or bought things for you?
- Helped you in other ways, such as taking you to the doctor or helping with chores?
- Gave you emotional support in labor?
- Visited you and the baby at the hospital after the delivery?
- Wanted to put his name on the baby's birth certificate as the father?
- Said he wanted to help you raise your child in the coming years?

# Methods: Variable Description

## (cont)



- Discrete ordinal satisfaction with partner support variable – developed by LAMB team

Overall, how satisfied were you with the support given by your baby's father **during your most recent pregnancy?**

- Not at all satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied (neutral)
- Somewhat satisfied
- Very satisfied



# Methods: Variable Description (cont)



Independent variable:

- Race/ethnicity – obtained from birth certificate data

**Whites/Caucasians** (includes Europeans & Middle Easterners)

**Blacks/African Americans**

**Latinos/Hispanics** (includes Mexican/Mexican-American, South American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Spanish or other Hispanic)

**Asian/Pacific Islanders** (includes Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, Asian Indian, Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan or other Pacific Islander)

- American Indian and Alaska Natives not included in analysis



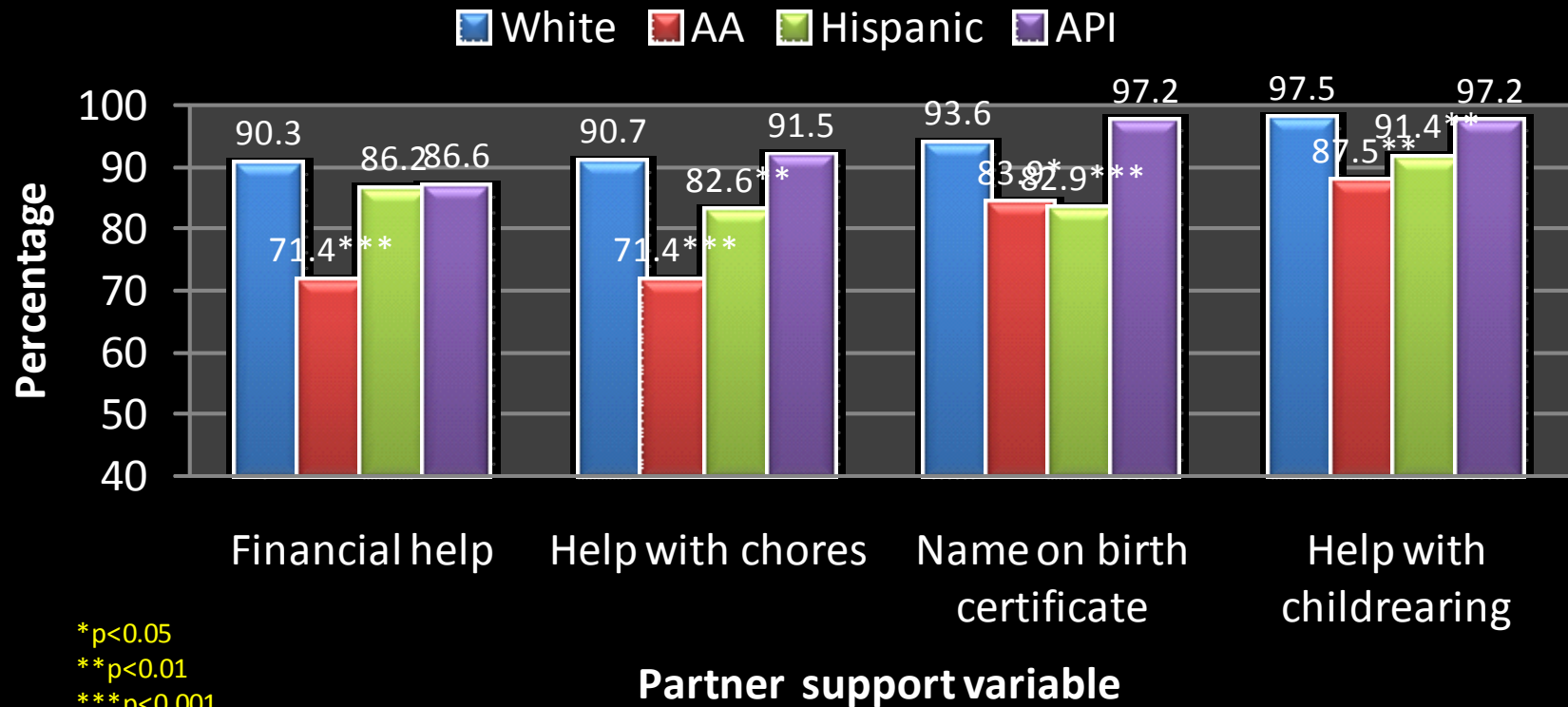
# Methods: Data Analysis

- Pearson's chi square test used to determine if:
  - Perceived receipt of partner support varied by race/ethnicity
  - Satisfaction with partner support varied by race/ethnicity

# Results – Partner Instrumental Support



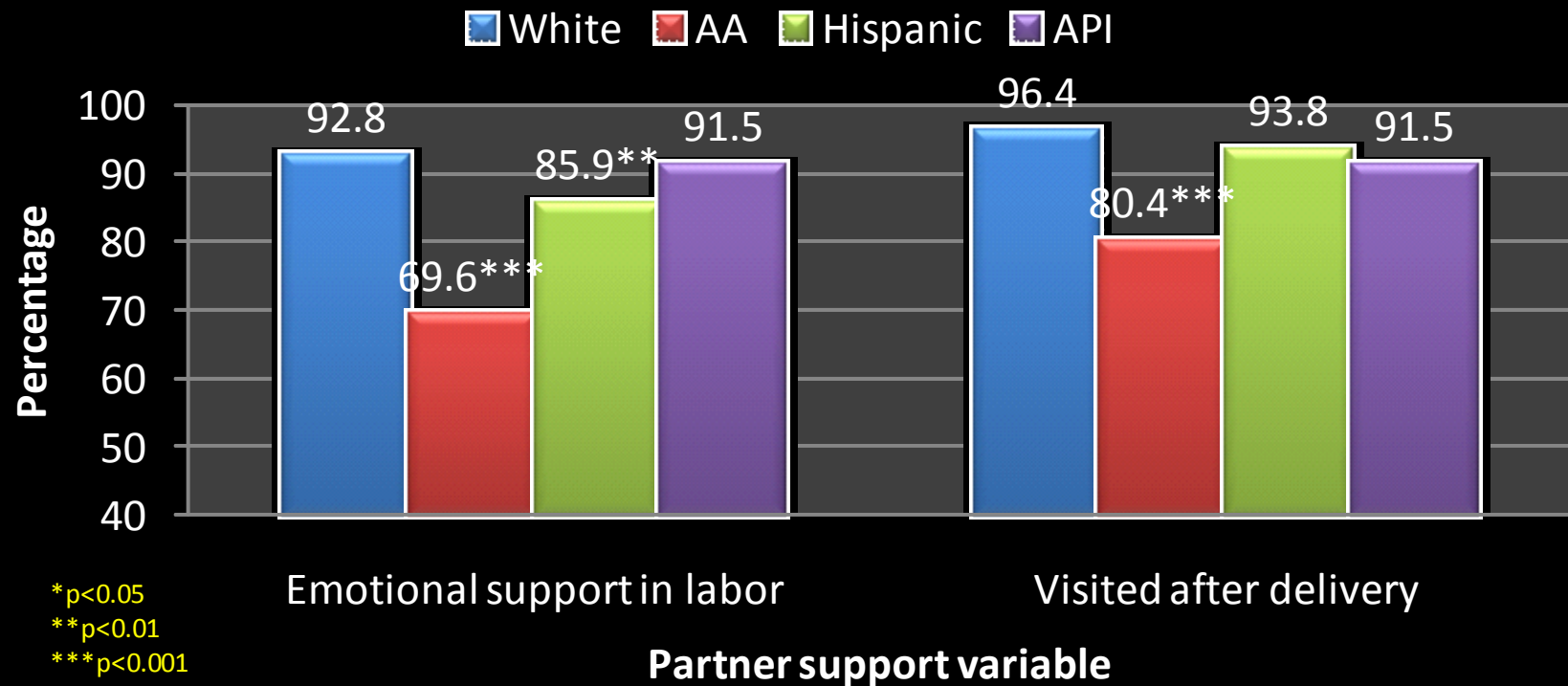
Partner instrumental support items by race/ethnicity



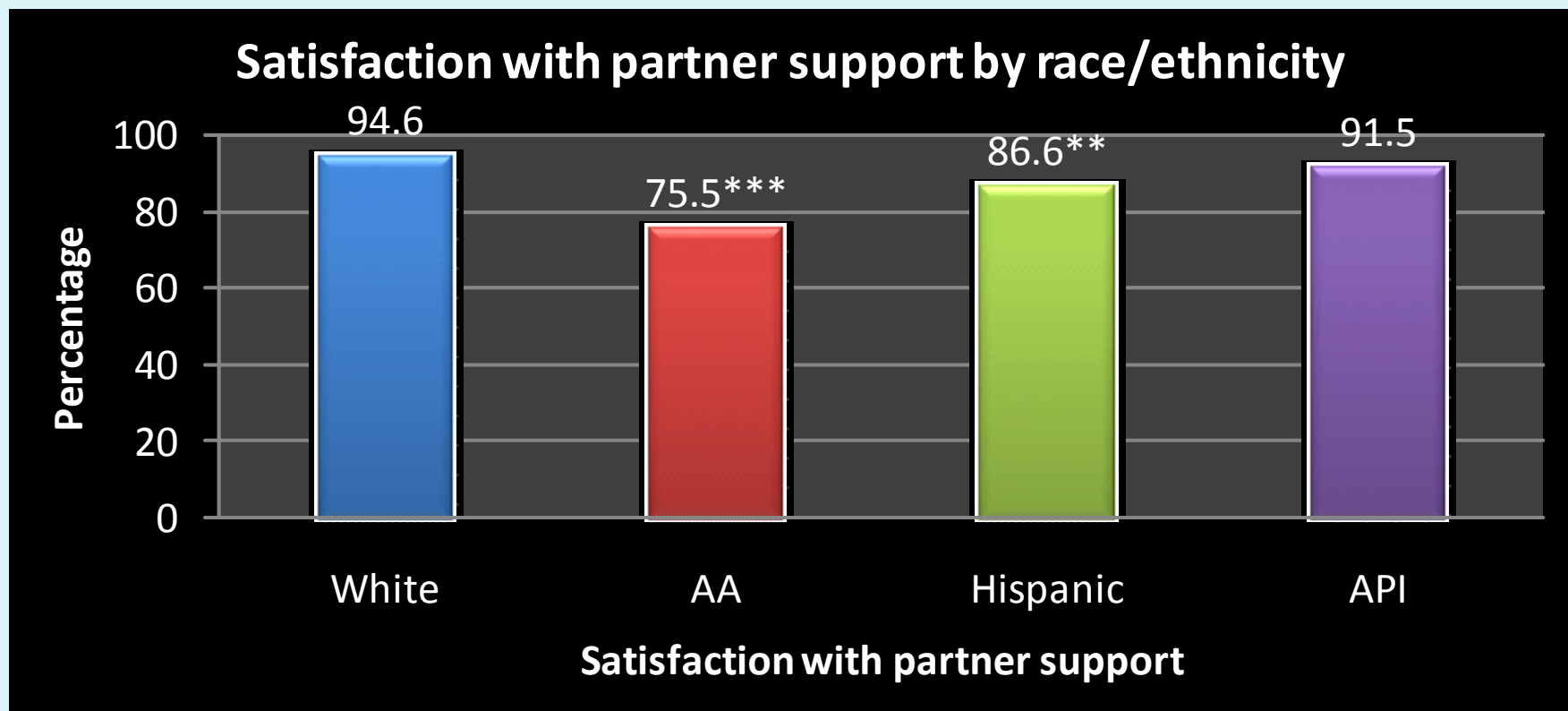
# Results – Partner Emotional Support



Partner emotional support items by race/ethnicity



# Results - Satisfaction with Partner Support





# Results – Summary

AA and Hispanic women in sample were significantly more likely than Whites to report:

- Lower partner instrumental support

AA -unadjusted ORs=2.8-5.6 ( $p<0.05-0.001$ )

Hispanic - unadjusted ORs=2.1-3.6;  $p<0.01-0.001$ )

- Lower partner emotional support

AA- unadjusted ORs=5.3-6.6; ( $p<0.001$ )

Hispanic - unadjusted OR=2.1 ( $p<0.01$ )

- Lower satisfaction with partner support during pregnancy

AA -unadjusted OR=5.5 ( $p<0.001$ )

Hispanic - unadjusted OR=2.6 ( $p<0.01$ )



# Discussion

- Our findings indicate racial and ethnic differences in partner support during pregnancy in the sample.
- Results regarding partner support among Hispanic women is **inconsistent** with previous findings (large % of unmarried Hispanic women in sample)
- AA women had significantly lower partner support and satisfaction with partner support (higher %'s of single/never married and separated/divorced women)

# Strengths



- Examines racial and ethnic disparities in perceived receipt of partner support and satisfaction with partner's role during pregnancy
- Provides new insights into the perceived availability of partner support among Hispanic women in sample
- Utilizes a randomly selected sample that is representative of racial/ethnic diversity in LA county



# Limitations - Analysis



- Dichotomized partner support and ‘satisfaction with partner support’ variables; does not fully capture constructs
- Receipt of partner support is PERCEIVED and may not adequately reflect occurrences in real world.
- Data is unweighted: decreases external validity
- Did not control for key socio-demographic factors (i.e. SES and acculturation)



# Limitations – LAMB study

- Self-administered questionnaire: Is based on self-report and does not allow for respondent to get clarification on questions.
- Survey is mailed and lengthy: Decreases response rate (~40%), especially for high-risk respondents.
- Incomplete data set: Does not allow us to make assumptions about prevalences in general population

# Implications



- Need for further research on partner support among Hispanics, particularly among the various Hispanic ethnicities.
- Need for programmatic intervention and policy development to increase partner support among AA and Hispanic women
- Need to explore how racial/ethnic disparities in partner support are related to disparities in perinatal outcomes
- Need to investigate how partner support is linked to psychosocial stress and health behaviors during pregnancy

# Acknowledgements



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# Further Information

- For further information, please visit [www.LALamb.org](http://www.LALamb.org)
- Contact information  
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# Citations



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