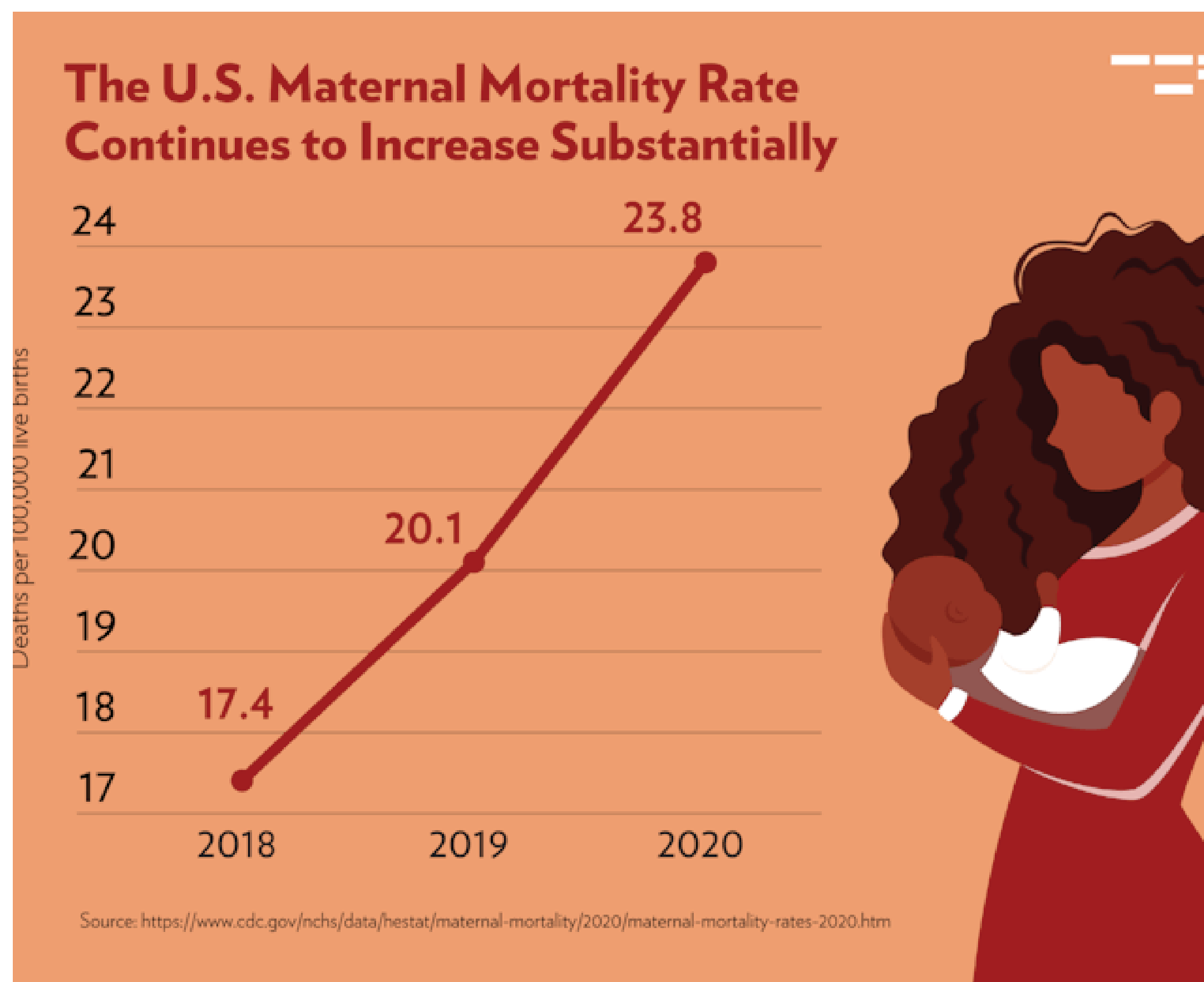


Community-Based Doula Program

MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS

In 2020, the United States maternal mortality rate was 23.8 deaths per 100,000 live births, with 861 known deaths due to maternal causes. The US is an outlier among the industrialized nations, with a maternal mortality rate several times higher than other high-income countries.



Due to systemic racism and discrimination at the individual level, Black women face unacceptable (and mostly preventable) risk during childbirth and throughout and after pregnancy.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the US, Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related complication than White women.

Hispanic women saw the largest maternal mortality increase of any racial or ethnic demographic group, rising by 44% in just one year.



In the Finger Lakes Region, the maternal mortality rate is a staggering 60% higher than the New York State average.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FLPPS is partnering with Healthy Baby Network, HealthConnect One, and Finger Lakes Community Health on a two-year initiative to establish a Community-Based Doula Program to address racial health inequities and improve the health and well-being of women, infants, and birthing families.

Healthy Baby Network and Finger Lakes Community Health employ doulas and provide doula services at no cost to low-income Black birthing individuals in the Rochester area and to Brown birthing individuals in the rural migrant farming community.

These organizations recruited and trained individuals who are trusted members of the community to provide doula services. Doulas improve prenatal care, raise breastfeeding rates, decrease unnecessary medical interventions, increase positive birth experiences, and improve parenting skills.

IMPACT

OVER
260

birthing individuals have been served

**DOULAS
PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE
IN ADDRESSING THE
maternal health crisis**

**DOULAS
COMBAT DISCRIMINATION
AND RACISM**
and help birthing individuals
to advocate for themselves

PROGRAM TEAM



Sherita Bullock
Executive Director
Jacqueline Lindsey, LMSW, CLC
Program Development Director
Jasmine Brewer, CD, CLC
Doula Program Manager

Katherine Rogala
Senior Director of
Programs and Grants



Twylla Dillion, MBA, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Shonvā Millien LPN, CD, PMP
Assistant Vice President and Team Lead
Rebecca Lesperance, M.S., CD, CLC
Senior Project Manager
Jana Darlington, MPH
Project Coordinator



Mary Zelazny, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
Yissette Rivas, MHA
Chief Services Officer
Ruth Modaffari
Contract Compliance Manager

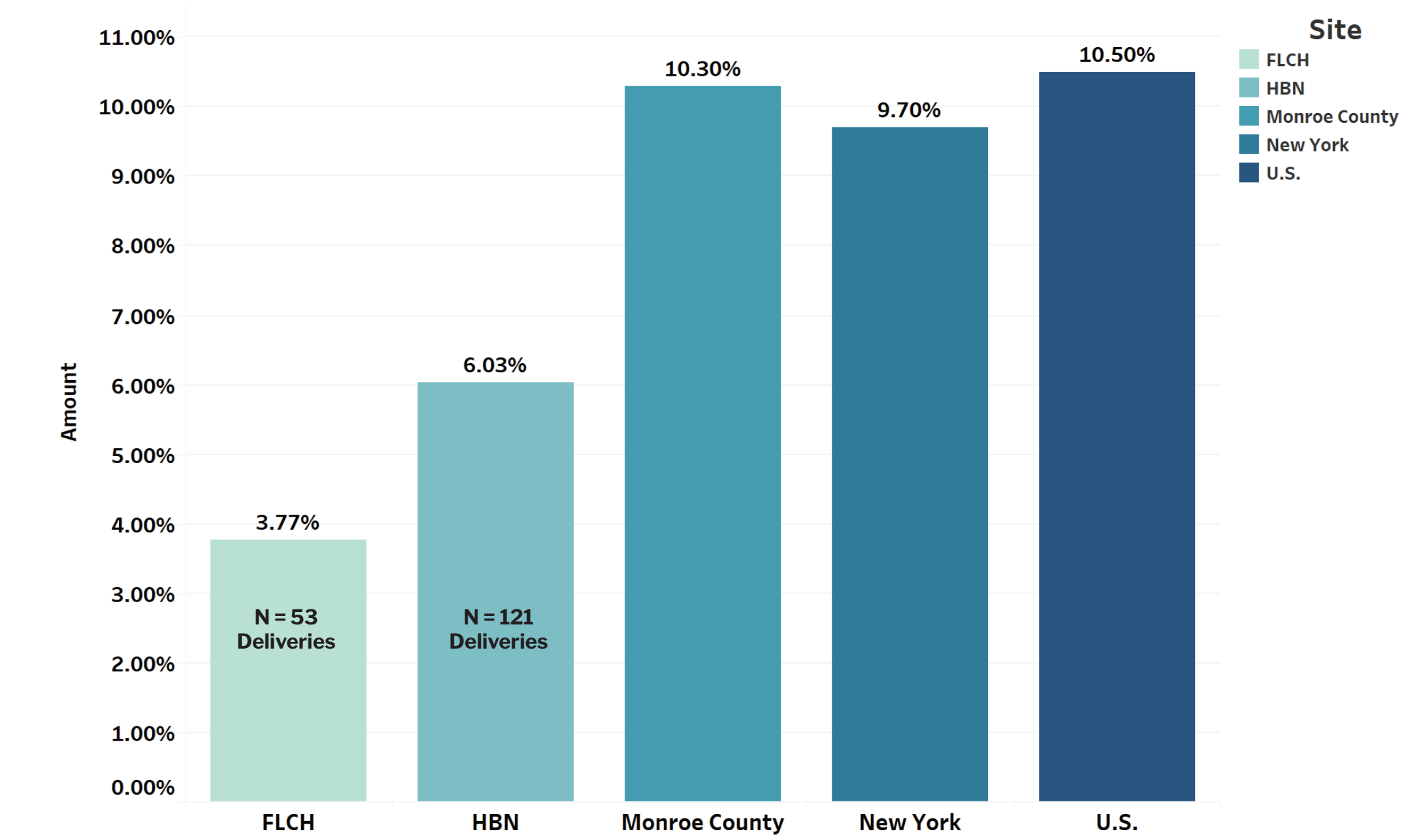
Kristina Owens, MS, FACMPE
Senior Program Manager,
Team Facilitator

OUTCOMES

Data was collected using standardized key performance indicator dashboards and patient surveys.

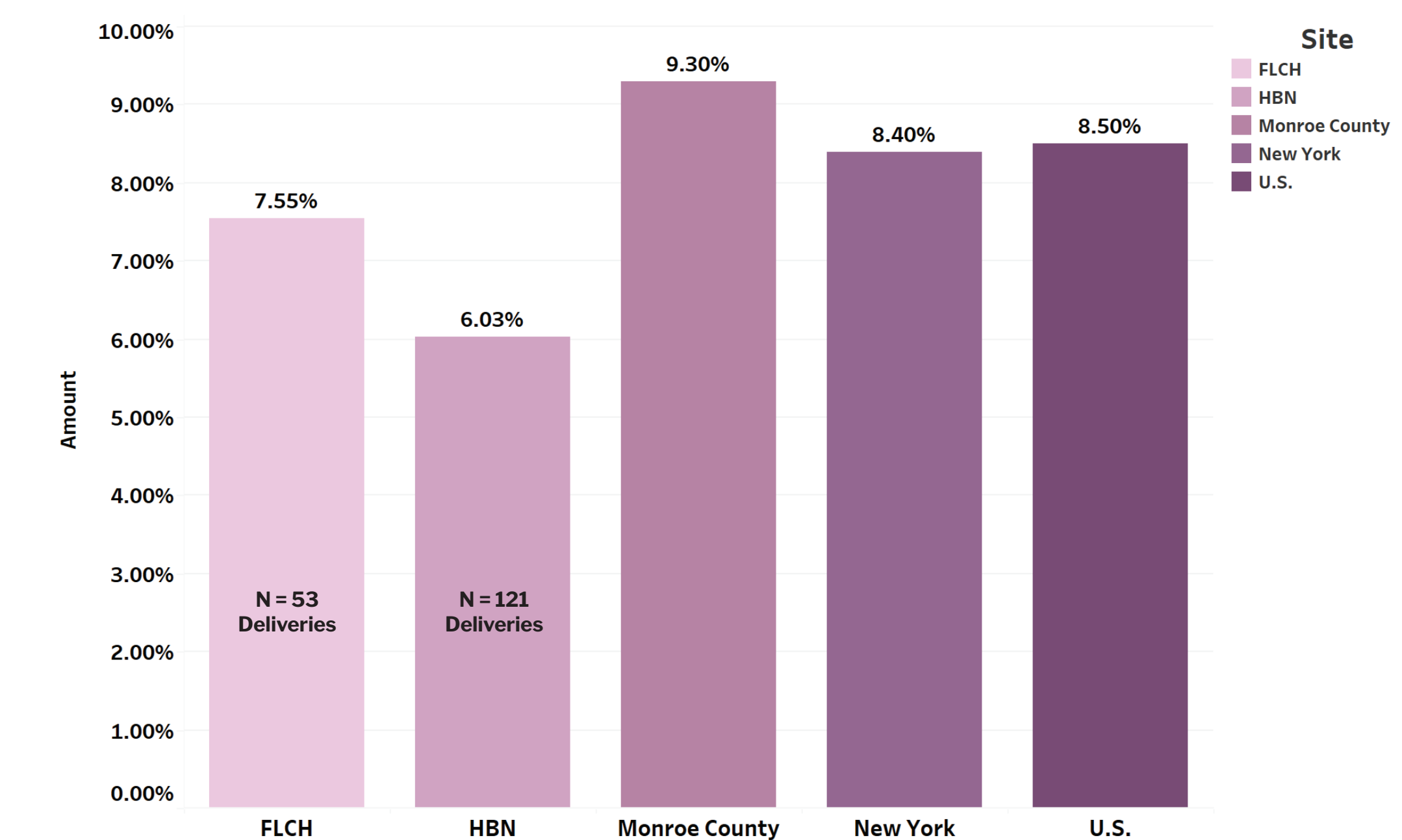
The dashboards and survey feedback was shared monthly with the Program Team and quarterly with the healthcare providers.

Percentage Comparison of Preterm Birth



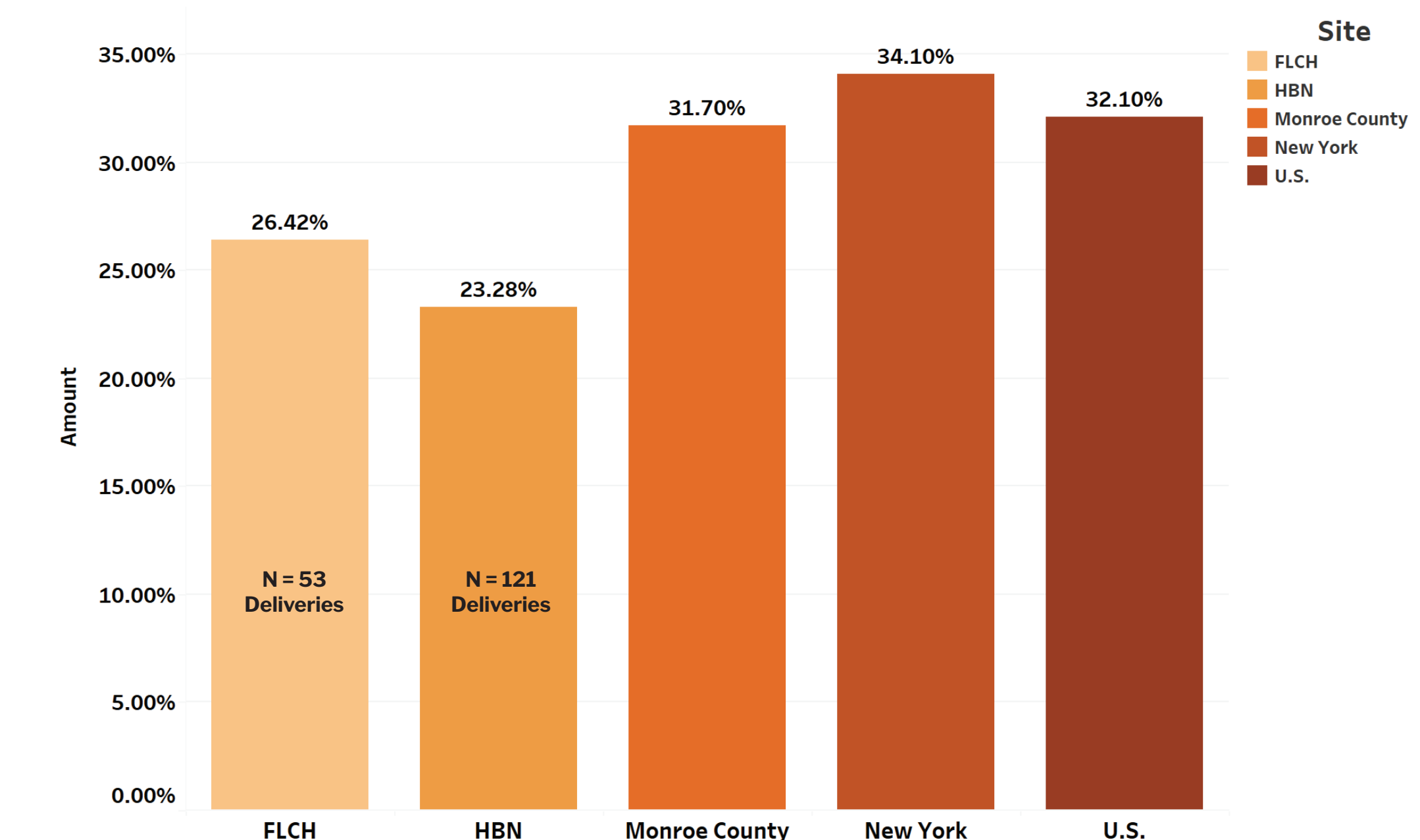
Data Source for Monroe County, New York and US: March of Dimes- Peristats
Note: Data points for Monroe County, New York State, and US are from 2021. FLCH and HBN data is from March 2022 – August 2023. Site data was calculated with the total counts of preterm births in numerator and total counts of deliveries in denominator.

Percentage Comparison of Births with Reported Low Birth Weight



Site data was calculated with the total counts of low birth weight in numerator and total counts of deliveries in denominator.

Percentage Comparison of Cesarean Deliveries



Site data was calculated with the total counts of cesarean deliveries in numerator and total counts of deliveries in denominator.



“My second birth experience, when I had my doula there, I could call her anytime during my pregnancy and anytime during my labor, and she was there. And that mattered a lot.”
- Healthy Baby Network Parent



““I think everyone should have a doula if they choose to have one, and financial constraint shouldn’t be an issue.”
- Healthy Baby Network Doula

“So many women of color have wanted doulas but were not able to afford doulas, and just the knowledge that now they have the opportunity to work with a doula, it’s not a financial stress on them. They get all the benefits, and they’re able to go into the birth a little bit more confident.”
- Healthy Baby Network Doula

The impact is real.



“I had the same doctor I had six years ago and had none of the results I had [during my first pregnancy] this time. So, what was the difference besides having someone there advocating for me. This time I didn’t go to ICU. Last time I was there by myself.” - Healthy Baby Network Parent



Hear more stories.

