

Advocacy Efforts to Reduce Black Health Disparities

July 23, 2020

Nomsa Khalfani, PhD, Executive Vice President



shaping the future
of sexual + reproductive health care™

1

Moment or Movement



2

**CORONAVIRUS
PANDEMIC**

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

essential access
health

3

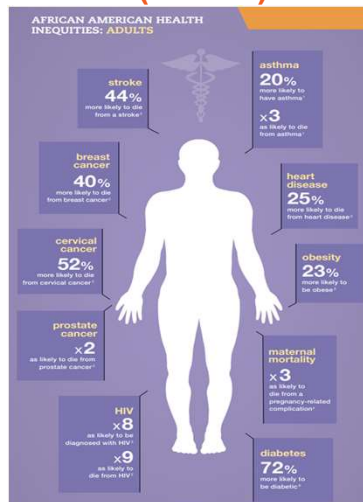
Systemic Racism + Health Disparities

essential access
health

4

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

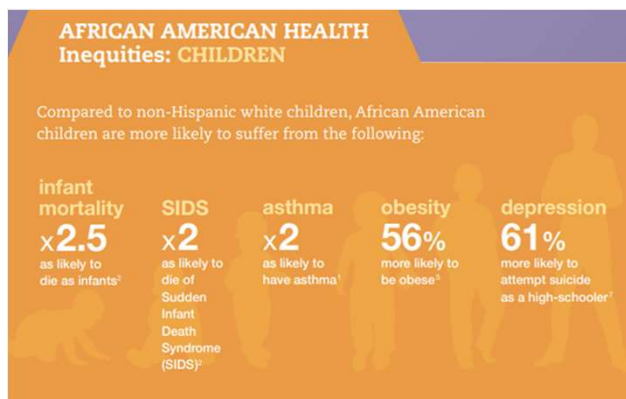
- Poverty
- Income inequality
- Wealth inequality
- Food insecurity
- Lack of safe, affordable health
- Racism



essential access health <https://familiesusa.org/resources/african-american-health-disparities-compared-to-non-hispanic-whites/>

5

Black Children



essential access health <https://familiesusa.org/resources/african-american-health-disparities-compared-to-non-hispanic-whites/>

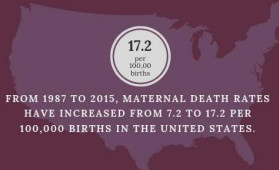
6

Racism + Maternal and Infant Mortality



7


BLACK MAMAS HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF MATERNAL MORTALITY IN THE U.S.




17.2
per 100,000 births

FROM 1987 TO 2015, MATERNAL DEATH RATES HAVE INCREASED FROM 7.2 TO 17.2 PER 100,000 BIRTHS IN THE UNITED STATES.

U.S. TRENDS IN MATERNAL HEALTH



BLACK WOMEN ARE **4X MORE** LIKELY TO DIE FROM PREVENTABLE, PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS THAN WHITE WOMEN.



3 IN 5 PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS ARE PREVENTABLE.



* LEADING UNDERLYING CAUSES OF PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS, BY RACE-ETHNICITY

Cause	White	African-American/Black
Hemorrhage	14.4	10.5
Cardiovascular & Coronary Conditions	15.5	12.8
Infection	13.4	8.1
Cardiomyopathy	10.3	14
Embolism	5.2	8.3
Preeclampsia and Eclampsia	5.2	11.6
Mental Health Conditions	11.3	1.2

(Measured in percentage (%))

*Source: Building U.S. Capacity to Review and Prevent Maternal Deaths (2018). Based from nine maternal mortality review committees. Retrieved from <http://www.innovation.org/Report>. from: AHRQ.

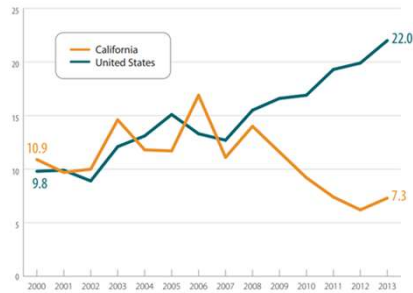
Source: CDC Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

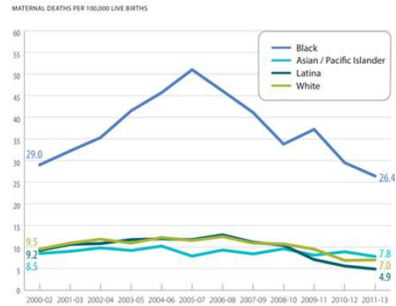
8

Maternal Mortality in California

Maternal Mortality Rate
California vs. United States, 2000 to 2013



Maternal Mortality, by Race/Ethnicity
California, 2000 to 2013



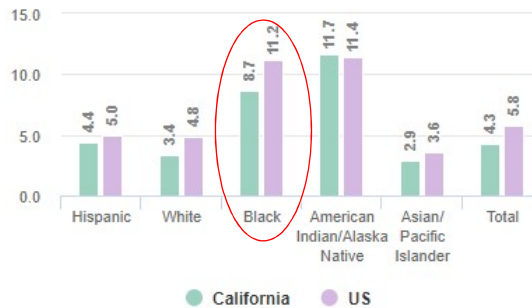
The California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review: Report from 2002 to 2007 Maternal Death Reviews (PDF), California Dept. of Public Health, Spring 2018.

9

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality rates by race/ethnicity: California and US, 2015-2017 Average

Rate per 1,000 live births



National Center for Health Statistics, period linked birth/infant death data. Retrieved July 22, 2020, from www.marchofdimes.org/peristats.

10

Fact vs Misperception

The Perception	The Facts
Socioeconomic status Does a higher level of poverty among black women explain the difference?	A secure job, a safe home and healthy food all contribute to health. When you look at white mothers alone or black mothers alone, better off moms have healthier babies. Los Angeles County data tell us that black women who have private insurance, which means they are employed, have worse outcomes than white women who receive public insurance.
Mother's education Could the gap in LA be due to a lower average education level among black women?	All over the world, women's education is associated with healthier births. White and black women who are well educated do have an advantage over those of the same race with less education. But county data show that better educated black mothers have worse birth outcomes than white women who did not complete high school.
Mom's behavior Could it be that black women engage in riskier behavior than white women?	That's not what the data tell us. While black and white women tend to engage in different kinds of risky behavior, risk-taking seems to be evenly divided. For example, white women drink alcohol more than black women, while black women in LA County smoke more than white women during pregnancy. Risk-taking, however, doesn't explain the gap. Black women in LA County who do not smoke have worse outcomes than white women who do.
Access to health care Perhaps the fact that black women are less likely to have private insurance, or a car means they are less able to get to prenatal care than white women?	Once again, this is a real concern, but it doesn't explain the inequality we see in birth outcomes. Data show that black women who had adequate care had worse outcomes than white women who did not.

essential access health https://www.blackinfantsandfamilies.org/fact_vs_misperception

11

Chronic, toxic stress, throughout the lifespan, from the structural and social racism Black women, face daily is at the root of the problem.



essential access health

12

Acknowledge + Action



13

Eliminating Racial Disparities in Health Care

- Explicitly acknowledge that race and racism are inherent in all systems, including health care
- Address the social factors and policies (past + present) that lead to poor health
- Identify the role of implicit bias + structural racism in creating and perpetuating racial health disparities
- Deliver quality health care with respect + dignity
- Enhance service coordination + systems integration
- Invest in patient-centered care that is responsive to the needs of Black folks
- Make racial equity a strategic priority



14

Policy Considerations

- Poverty
- Income inequality
- Wealth inequality
- Food insecurity
- Lack of safe, affordable health
- Racism



15

Improving Birth Equity in CA

- California Health Care Foundation <https://www.chcf.org/project/improving-birth-equity-california/>
 - Transparency/Monitoring/Data
 - Delivery System Interventions
 - Lived Experience and Community Voice
- Perinatal Equity Initiative
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/PEI/Pages/default.aspx>
- California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative <https://www.cmqcc.org/>
- Senate Bill 464, the California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act
https://sd30.senate.ca.gov/sites/sd30.senate.ca.gov/files/sb_464_maternal_health_fact_sheet_4.4.19_0.pdf



16

Thank You

nkhalfani@essentialaccess.org



shaping the future
of sexual + reproductive health care™