

Maternal Mortality

- The U.S. has an infant mortality rate of 5.8 per 1000 live births in 2017, with a health disparity among Black babies at a rate of 10.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018.
- Black women are 3 - 5 times more likely to have a maternal death than White women in the United States.
- Approximately 700 women die in the United States each year as a result of pregnancy or its complications.

Maternal Mental Health

- Black mothers are more likely to suffer from PMADs (Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders) like postpartum depression, in silence and without clinical help.

Breastfeeding

- Only about 66% of Black infants are breastfed compared to more than 82% of White and Latinx moms.
- Among all infants, Black infants had a significantly lower rate of breastfeeding at age 3 months (58.0%) than did White infants (72.7%); at age 6 months, the rates were 44.7% among black infants and 62.0% among White infants.
- Hospitals in areas with higher percentages of Black residents were less likely to provide adequate breastfeeding information and support to new mothers.

Reproductive Rights & Justice / Access to Contraception

- Black women are more likely than White women to report using a contraceptive method associated with lower efficacy (e.g., withdrawal, condoms) or no contraception at all.
- Black women disproportionately lack necessary reproductive health care—including contraception, abortion, STI screenings, and reproductive cancer screenings. This leaves them vulnerable to many risk factors around pregnancy. Recent improvements in

maternal and infant health across the 20th century are due, in part, to expanded contraceptive access and use.

Quality of Care/ Birth Justice

- People from some racial and ethnic minority groups are more likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic whites.
- Research indicates that 22% of Black women receive lower quality of care than white women and are subject to discrimination in the healthcare field.
- Perinatal community-based models of care offer enhanced care and support throughout the pre-pregnancy to postpartum spectrum, including doula and midwifery childbirth services to pregnant women who face barriers to care.

COVID-19

- African-Americans comprise only 13 percent of the total U.S. population, however, make-up 30 percent of the COVID-19 cases.
- Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a rare but severe condition that occurs approximately 2–4 weeks after the onset of COVID-19 in children and adolescents. MIS-C disproportionately affects children and adolescents from racial and ethnic minority groups. More than 70% of reported cases have occurred among children who are Hispanic or Latino or non-Hispanic Black.
- Pregnant people with COVID-19 are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19—including illness that results in ICU admission, mechanical ventilation, and death—compared with non-pregnant people. Additionally, pregnant people with COVID-19 might be at increased risk for other adverse outcomes, such as preterm birth.

SOURCE: <https://blackmamasmatter.org/resources/toolkits/>