

KEY BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH FACTS

Maternal Mortality

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 700 women die each year in the United States as a result of pregnancy or delivery complications. (Source: [CDC](#))
- In 2020, Black women were most disproportionately affected with a mortality rate of 55.3 deaths per 100,000 live births, compared to 19.1 deaths per 100,000 live births, and 18.2 deaths per 100,000 live births for White and Hispanic women, respectively. (Source: [CDC](#))
- The U.S. has an infant mortality rate of 5.6 per 1000 live births in 2019, with a health disparity among Black babies at a rate of 10.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018. (Source: [CDC](#))
- Black women are 3 - 5 times more likely to have a maternal death than Whitewomen in the United States. (Source: [AJMC](#))

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. (Source: [NCBI](#))

Breastfeeding

- About 75.5% of Black infants are breastfed compared to more than 85% of White and Latinx moms. (Source: [CDC](#))
- Among all infants, Black infants had a significantly lower rate of exclusive breastfeeding at age 3 months (39.3%) than did White infants (50.6%); at age 6 months, the rates of any breastfeeding were 49.3% among black infants and 60.0% among White infants. (Source: [CDC](#))
- Hospitals in areas with higher percentages of Black residents were less likely to provide recommended maternity care practices supportive of breastfeeding. (Source: [CDC](#))

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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. (Source: [AMA Journal of Ethics](#))
- 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 expand contraceptive access and use. (Source: [CAP](#))

Quality of Care/ Birth Justice

- People from some racial and ethnic minority groups are more likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic whites. (Source: [NCBI](#))
- Research indicates that 22% of Black women receive a lower quality of care than white women and are subject to discrimination in the healthcare field. (Source: [NCBI](#))
- In 2008, only 6.4% of obstetrician-gynecologists practiced in rural settings. (Source: [ACOG](#))
- 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. (Source: [IMI](#))

Covid-19

- African-Americans comprise only 13 percent of the total U.S. population, however, they make up 30 percent of the COVID-19 cases. (Source: [CDC](#))
- Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a rare but severe condition that

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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. (Source: [CDC](#))

- 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: [CDC](#))

Black Maternal Health Policy

- The Black Maternal Health [Momnibus Act](#) includes historic policies and investments in Black Mamas, families, and systems of care. Written by and for Black Mamas, the Momnibus invests in community-based organizations and the perinatal workforce addresses social determinants of health and the effects of climate change, promotes representative Maternal Mortality Review Committees and maternal mental health equity, and more.
- Mandatory and permanent postpartum Medicaid coverage for one year fills a major coverage gap in Black maternal health. One-third of pregnancy-related deaths occur between one week and one year postpartum, with 12 percent of pregnancy-related deaths occurring after six weeks postpartum., Despite this reality, Medicaid currently provides coverage for only 60 days postpartum, with the temporary option for states to extend coverage to a year granted in the American Rescue Plan of 2021. This coverage gap is particularly dire for Black communities, especially given that nearly half of births in the United States and approximately two-thirds of Black births are covered by Medicaid. (Source: [1](#), [2](#))