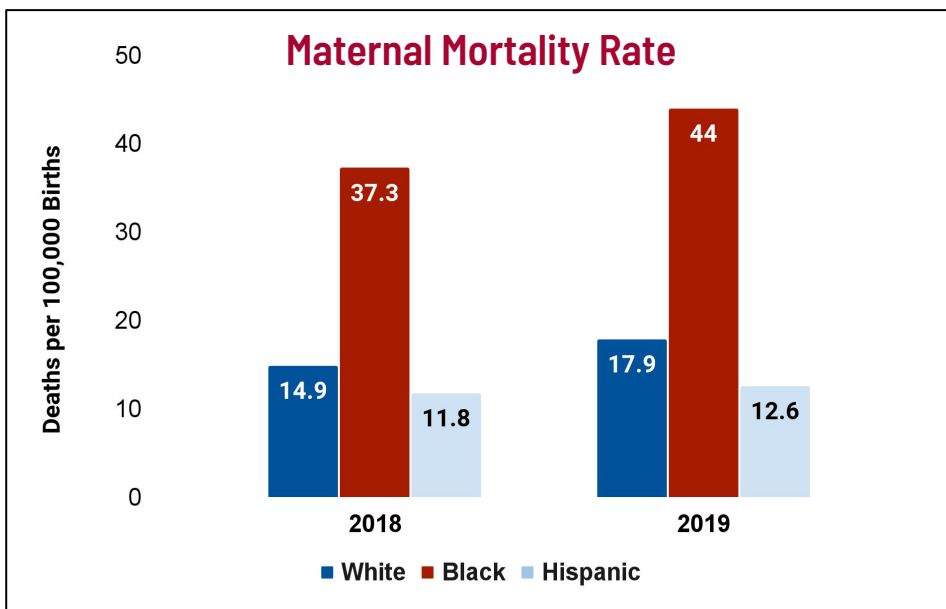
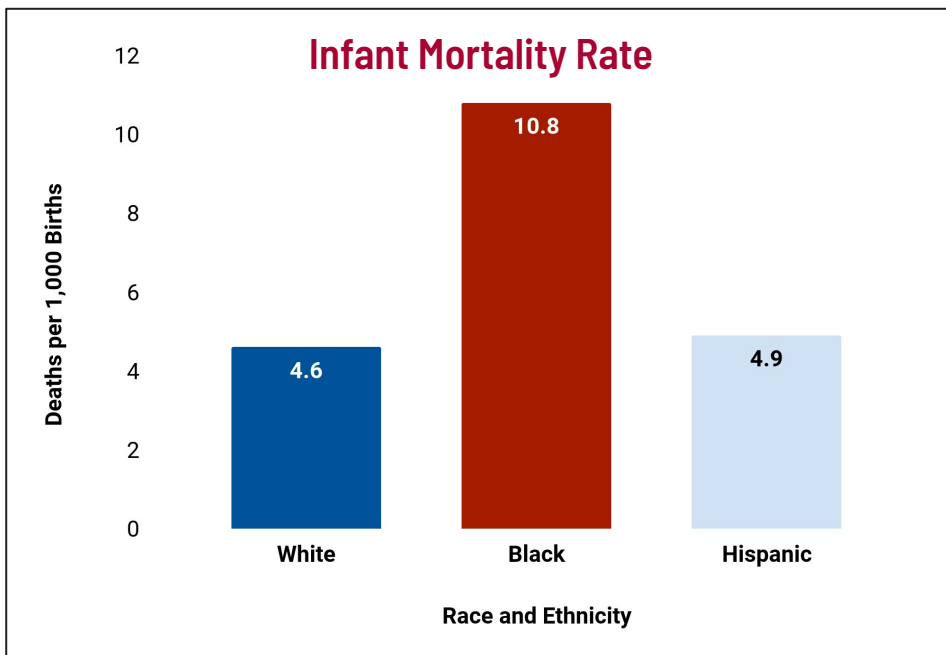


Statement of the Problem

There is a Black maternal health crisis in the United States. Black individuals who give birth are more likely than other groups to have unplanned cesarean deliveries, as well as higher infant and maternal mortality rates.^{1,2,3,4} These disparities occur regardless of socioeconomic status or education level.⁵ This problem is not new, but now more than ever, research can be deployed to improve equity in care and outcomes. Currently, robust research is being conducted on social determinants of health and systemic racism in the medical field. Members of Congress have proposed legislation to combat this tragic reality.



WHY RESEARCH IS NEEDED

Maternal health research focused on Black individuals allows us to tackle disparity head on and create equitable and promising solutions.

FY20 RESEARCH FUNDING

There were 127 Black maternal health research projects being funded by federal agencies.⁵

Funding Agency	Projects	Amount Received
NIH	122	\$71,711,169
AHRQ	2	\$1,001,217
CDC	3	\$417,554

Organizations conducting this research include but are not limited to:

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Mayo Clinic
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Mount Sinai School of Medicine
- Ohio State University
- Rand Corporation
- Rush University Medical Center
- Tufts University Boston
- University Of California San Francisco
- University Of Georgia
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center

A PUSH FOR PROGRESS

Recent Legislation (117th CONGRESS)

The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 is composed of twelve individual bills sponsored by Black Maternal Health Caucus Members:

Social Determinants for Moms Act (H.R.943/S.851)

Invest in social determinants of health research that pertain to maternal health outcomes, such as housing, transportation, and nutrition.

Sponsors: Rep. Lucy McBath [D-GA-6]/ Sen. Richard Blumenthal [D-CT]

Kira Johnson Act (H.R.1212/S.1042)

Bolster equitable community-based maternal health organizations.

Sponsors: Rep. Alma S. Adams [D-NC-12]/ Sen. Raphael G. Warnock [D-GA]

Protecting Moms Who Served Act (H.R.958/S.796)

Researching maternal health inequities that may exist for pregnant veterans and supporting the VA's maternal health programs.

Sponsors: Rep. Lauren Underwood [D-IL-14]/ Sen. Tammy Duckworth [D-IL]

The Perinatal Workforce Act (H.R.945/S.287)

Expand the perinatal workforce to guarantee that all birthing people receive culturally competent support.

Sponsors: Rep. Gwen Moore [D-WI-4]/Sen. Tammy Baldwin [D-WI]

Data to Save Moms Act (H.R.925/S.347)

Expand and improve maternal health data collection processes.

Sponsors: Rep. Sharice Davids [D-KS-3] /Sen. Tina Smith [D-MN]

Moms Matter Act (H.R.909/S.484)

Provide support to people with substance abuse disorders that are also facing maternal health problems.

Sponsors: Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester [D-DE-At Large]/ Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand [D-NY]

Justice for Incarcerated Moms Act (H.R.948/S.341)

Re-examine and advance maternal health care for incarcerated moms.

Sponsors: Rep. Ayanna Pressley [D-MA-7]/ Sen. Cory A. Booker [D-NJ]

Tech to Save Moms Act (H.R.937/S.893)

Invest in technology tools that can improve health outcomes for mothers in underserved areas.

Sponsors: Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson [D-TX-30]/Sen. Robert Menendez [D-NJ]

IMPACT to Save Moms Act (H.R.950/S.334)

Support advanced payment models to incentivize excellent maternity care and stability of insurance coverage from pregnancy all the way up to one year postpartum.

Sponsors: Rep. Janice D. Schakowsky [D-IL-9]/ Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. [D-PA]

Protecting Moms and Babies against Climate Change Act (H.R.957/S.423)

Support community-based programs that focus on climate change-related risks for moms and babies.

Sponsors: Rep. Lauren Underwood [D-IL-14]/ Sen. Edward J. Markey [D-MA]

Maternal Vaccination Act (H.R.951/S.345)

Encourage maternal immunizations to defend the health of birthing people and babies.

Sponsors: Rep. Terri A. Sewell [D-AL-7] /Sen. Tim Kaine [D-VA]

***Maternal Health Pandemic Response Act (H.R.8027/S.4769)**

Improve maternal health data collection strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Sponsors: Rep. Lauren Underwood [D-IL-14]/ Sen. Elizabeth Warren [D-MA]

*116th Congress

1. National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.
2. Federal Reporter. federalreporter.nih.gov
3. Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health: An Overview. KFF.
4. Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016. CDC.
5. Eliminating Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Mortality. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2019/05/02/469186/eliminating-racial-disparities-maternal-infant-mortality/>
6. Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. Congress.gov