

IMPACT OF
RACISM ON
MATERNAL
HEALTH
OUTCOMES

**BLACK PEOPLE HAVE THE HIGHEST
MATERNAL MORALITY RATE IN THE U.S.**

BLACK PREGNANT PEOPLE ARE 4 TIMES
MORE LIKELY TO DIE FROM PREGNANCY
COMPLICATIONS AND 1.5 TO 2 TIMES MORE
LIKELY TO HAVE A STILLBIRTH COMPARED
TO THEIR WHITE COUNTERPARTS.

SYSTEMIC RACISM IS TO BLAME.

THE OVERALL HEALTH OF BLACK COMMUNITIES IS **DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY LIMITED ACCESS** TO HEALTHY FOOD, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS, QUALITY SCHOOLS, GOOD JOBS WITH A LIVING WAGE AND RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION.

THIS EXTENDS TO HEALTH DURING PREGNANCY AND POST-PARTUM.

**RACIAL BIAS IN THE MEDICAL
SYSTEM PLAYS A ROLE, TOO.**

BIAS, CONSCIOUS AND UNCONSCIOUS,
SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTS HOW MEDICAL
PROFESSIONALS PERCEIVE AND RESPOND
TO BLACK PREGNANT PATIENTS' PAIN.

HOW CAN WE DO BETTER?

- **RECOGNIZE OUR OWN IMPLICIT BIAS**
- **IMPROVE ACCESS TO THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF REPRODUCTIVE CARE**
- **ADDRESS MATERNAL AND INFANT MENTAL HEALTH**
- **ENHANCE SUPPORT AT EVERY STAGE OF PREGNANCY (INCLUDING POST-PARTUM)**

SOURCES

CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

**GABRIELLE T. WYNN, THE IMPACT OF RACISM ON
MATERNAL HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR BLACK WOMEN**

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH QUALITY