

Maternal Mortality: The Role of Racism

Racial discrimination is reinforced in housing, education, employment, earnings, benefits, credit, media, healthcare, and criminal justice ¹



College educated black women are

3x
MORE LIKELY

To experience infant death & severe maternal morbidity rates than their white peers ^{4,5}



Black mothers are

4x
MORE LIKELY

To experience adverse fetal & maternal outcomes than white mothers ²



60%
OF PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS ARE PREVENTABLE⁹



24% 

of mothers perceived discrimination during their hospitalization for birth ⁷



Regardless of race, having a partner who was black also **increased** reported mistreatment ⁸

???

40%

of women reported some reluctance to ask questions ⁷



65% 

of women reported some barriers to open discussion with their providers ⁷

19-21%

of racial/ethnic minority women reported poor treatment due to race, cultural group, or language ⁷

>60%

of black/ hispanic women had public insurance ⁷

~60%

of white women had private insurance ⁷



CALL TO ACTION

- Implement the Reduction in Peripartum Racial Disparities Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health bundle framework with fidelity.
- Meet with committee members to share how you are addressing maternal mortality/morbidity disparities.
- Identify leader(s)/champion(s) within your system who will partner with the IHI Birth Equity Lab Team to move this important work forward in your organization and in Georgia.

Learn about Respectful Care and Cultural Humility.

In a recent survey, black women reported that good care included "not being afraid to ask a question", feeling like they "had a voice", and being given "a lot of education by the provider during appointments."³

For more information contact:

Shamonica McGill, M.S., M.B.A.
Morehouse School of Medicine
smcgill@msm.edu

Asha Immanuelle, MAS, BSN, PHM-C, RN
Center for Black Women's Wellness
aimmanuelle@cbww.org