Taking Action: Respectful Care of Pregnant and Birthing People
SACIM June 2020
Joia Crear-Perry, MD, FACOG
Mission
NBEC creates solutions that optimize Black maternal and infant health through training, policy advocacy, research and community centered collaboration.

Vision
All Black mothers and babies thrive.

Core Values:
Leadership, Freedom, Wellness, Black Lives, Sisterhood
Objectives

- Define Birth Equity
- Identify shared language and tools for Birth Equity
- Practice tools to apply towards Birth Equity and Respectful Maternity Care
Article 2.
Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 3.
Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 25.
(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same protection.
Reproductive Justice

The human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.

-Loretta Ross

We must...

• Analyze power systems
• Address intersecting oppressions
• Center the most marginalized
• Join together across issues and identities
Indicator ≠ Framework

**Indicator**

Indicator is a datapoint
- Measurement limited by current reality
- A product of our past understanding of public health and science
- Systems are more apt to adhere to specific prescribed indicators than to determine alternatives

**Framework**

A framework is a vision
- Expands understanding of current reality
- Allows freedom to explore language of indicators
- Exploration of alternatives to traditional data collection & application
- Questions historical construction health systems
birth equity (*noun*):

1. The assurance of the conditions of optimal births for all people with a willingness to address racial and social inequities in a sustained effort.

Joia Crear-Perry, MD
*National Birth Equity Collaborative*
Root Causes and Social Determinants of Health
Psychosocial Stress / Unhealthy Behaviors

Disparity in the Distribution of Disease, Illness, and Wellbeing

Adapted by MPHI from R. Hofrichter, *Tackling Health Inequities Through Public Health Practice.*
Racism - Not Race
Racism affects health both directly (i.e., via chronic stress) and indirectly (i.e., via race-based discrimination across multiple systems which creates differential access to high-quality schools, safe neighborhoods, good jobs, and quality healthcare, in other words, by shaping SDOH.)
Black mothers who are college-educated fare worse than women of all other races who never finished high school.

Obese women of all races have better birth outcomes than black women who are of normal weight.

Black women in the wealthiest neighborhoods do worse than white, Hispanic and Asian mothers in the poorest ones.

African American women who initiated prenatal care in the first trimester still had higher rates of infant mortality than non-Hispanic white women with late or no prenatal care.
CITIES WITH HIGHEST BLACK INFANT DEATHS
*1 in 4 black infant deaths occur in these places.

CITIES WITH ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS FOR BLACK BABIES
*Meeting our 5-year and 10-year goals in all 20 places means saving 3,000+ babies.

"Look at the Whole Me": A Mixed-Methods Examination of Black Infant Mortality in the US through Women’s Lived Experiences and Community Context

Maeve E. Wallace 1,2,*, Carmen Green 2, Lisa Richardson 2,3, Katherine Theall 1,2 and Joia Crear-Perry 2
Birth Equity Index

Data tool to identify significant social determinants

- A comprehensive set (50+) of social determinant indicators were selected to broadly define health and opportunities for better health within the social and physical environment of 20 US metro areas with some of the highest black infant mortality rates in the country. We identified those that were at least marginally associated with black infant mortality rates including:
  - prevalence of smoking and obesity among adult residents
  - number of poor physical and mental health days experienced by residents
  - percentage of residents with limited access to healthy foods
  - rates of homicide and jail admissions
  - air pollution
  - racial residential segregation (isolation)
  - rates of unemployment and low education among NH black residents
  - income inequality between black and white households

- We used data-reduction techniques to combine values of these indicators into an overall index of black infant mortality social determinants, with higher values representing worse health conditions.
Opportunities
“What’s missing from the care of Black women is their centered voice, validation of experience, and freedom to choose and be informed. Black women need respectful care that is free of implicit and explicit bias. It is the provider’s responsibility to address those biases. To address the issue of maternal mortality we need care that originates from and is defined by Black women-led organizations, practitioners, and community members.”

Jessica Roach, MPH

Join the Movement for Black Mamas
Black Maternal Health Week 2020
#BMHW20
#BlackMaternalHealthWeek

Black Maternal Health Week
April 11-17
#BMHW20
#BlackMaternalHealthWeek
Holistic Systems of Care

Setting the Standard for Holistic Care of and for Black Women

Mamatoto Village Doula Services
Washington D.C.

Ancient Song Doula Services
Brooklyn, New York
Community engagement
• Trauma informed story sharing
Respectful Maternity Care
Birth Equity during COVID-19

Alternatives to banning support persons
• Setting up telehealth doula services and lactation and prenatal care by providing birthing people iPad access (including data plans).
• Offering vouchers for food and meal-delivery services.
• Investing in home birth and birth centers to expand or maintain their current services.
  
  Dr. Monica McLemore, Scientific American

• Prioritizing COVID testing for pregnant women
• Permantently extend Medicaid postpartum coverage to 1 year

Laurie Zephyrin, StatNews
Thank you

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