

Why are Black Moms Dying? Kayana Ward, MD

Abstract

This paper will investigate the maternal mortality and morbidity data in the United States, while focusing on the increasing health disparities plaguing black moms.

It will include a literature review regarding the potential contributing factors to the widening gap in outcomes in addition to assessing the interventions and health policies that are currently in place to improve the care that Black women receive.

Objectives & Goals

1. Investigate the data regarding maternal disparities and the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving equity at organizational, community, and societal levels
2. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations
3. Evaluate current policies for their impact on public health and health equity
4. Implementation of systematic structure changes

Methods

Database Used

- Pubmed & Google Scholar

Inclusion Criteria

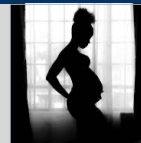
- Review of articles published from 2015-2021
- Topic regarding
 - Increasing Maternal Health Disparities in the United States
 - Maternal Mortality and Morbidity
 - Factors responsible for Maternal Health disparities

Search Yielded

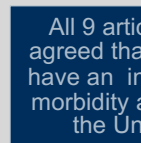
- 633 articles
- 9 articles reviewed



Results



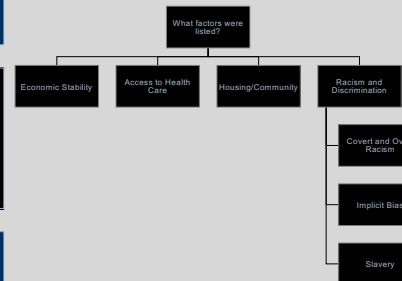
All 9 articles agreed that the disparities in the health and care for black mothers is worsening.



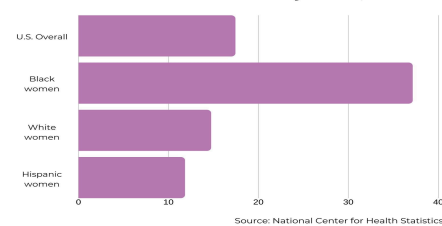
All 9 articles reviewed agreed that Black women have an increased risk of morbidity and mortality in the United States



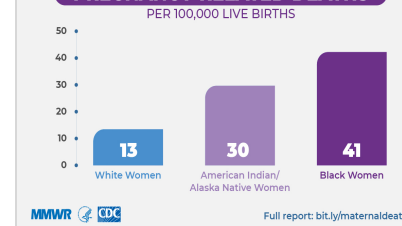
All 9 Articles listed multiple factors of the Social Determinants of Health as the root of the problem



Maternal death rates by race, 2018



PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS



Discussion/Conclusion

Black women are leading with the highest rates of maternal morbidity and mortality throughout the country.

The understanding and acknowledgment of how inequities based upon race and gender can affect the outcomes in Black women is instrumentally the key to closing the disparity gap in maternal mortality and morbidity.

The development Mothers and Offspring Mortality & Morbidity Awareness (MOMMA) Act and State-wide Maternal Mortality Review Boards are recent efforts for equitable care and accountability.

The change needed is the following:

1. Systematic- policy, resources, funding
2. Institutional- education of providers, more diverse pool of providers
3. Individual- education and support

Clinical Relevance

Addressing the health care disparities in the care of black women is important for moral and financial reasons.

The economic burden of maternal morbidity and mortality is billions of dollars each year (Crear-Perry et al., 2021).

Their loss of life affects the future lives of their families (psychologically), in addition to the workforce and economy

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Drs. Ehlike, LaRosa, Dalloul

References

- Admon, Lindsay K. MD, MSc; Winkelman, Tyler N. A. MD, MSc; Zivin, Kara PhD, MS; Terplan, Mashka MD, MPH; Mhyre, Jill M. MD; Dalton, Vanessa K. MD, MPH. Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Incidence of Severe Maternal Morbidity in the United States, 2012-2015. *Obstetrics & Gynecology* November 2018 - Volume 132 - Issue 5 - p 1158-1166doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000002937
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Pregnancy-related mortality surveillance. 2013. Available at: www.cdc.gov/nprp/mmr/etub/mmr/maternaldeath.html [PM5] Int.
- Chinn, J., Martin, L., and Radmond, N. Journal of Women's Health Feb 2021; 21(2): 218. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jwh/2020.2998>
- Hall, W. J., Chapman, M. V., Lee, K. M., Marino, Y. M., Thomas, T. W., Payne, B. K., Eng, E., Day, S. H., & Coyne-Beasley, T. (2019). Implicit Racial/Ethnic Bias Among Health Care Professionals and Its Influence on Health Care Outcomes: A Systematic Review. *American journal of public health*, 109(12), e60-e67. <https://doi.org/10.2195/ajph.2019.332003>
- Holdt-Somer, S. J., Sinky, R. G., & Bryant, A. S. (2017). Epidemiology of racial/ethnic disparities in severe maternal morbidity and mortality. *Seminars in perinatology*, 41(5), 258-265. <https://doi.org/10.1053/j.semper.2017.04.001>
- Howell, E. A. (2018). Reducing Disparities in Severe Maternal Morbidity and Mortality. *Clinical obstetrics and gynecology*, 61(2), 367-369. <https://doi.org/10.1097/GF0000000000000292>
- Howell, E. A., & Ahmed, Z. N. (2019). Eight steps for narrowing the maternal health disparity gap: Step-by-step plan to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in care. *Contemporary obstyn*, 64(1), 30-36.
- Howland, R.E., Angley, M., Won, S.H. et al. Determinants of Severe Maternal Morbidity and Its Racial/Ethnic Disparities in New York City, 2008-2012. *Matern Child Health J* 23, 345-355 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10955-018-2622-z>