

THE FACTS ABOUT: Black Preterm Birth in California

Preterm birth is the leading cause of death for babies in the U.S. under 1 year of age.

Black women—regardless of their socioeconomic status or education level—have a 52% higher risk of preterm birth than White women.

This gap is not closing.



52%

The preterm birth rate among Black women in California is 52% higher than the rate of White women.



Preterm Birth Rates in California

Overall: 8.6%

Black: 11.7%

White: 7.7%

Long-Term Health Effects

Prematurity (**born before 37 weeks**) can lead to long-term health problems. These include learning disabilities, behavior issues, dental problems, asthma, infections, and vision and hearing loss.

Did You Know?

Black college graduates have poorer birth outcomes than White women who did not finish high school.

Cost of Preterm Birth

The cost associated with U.S. premature births is a staggering \$26.2 billion per year. Each preterm baby results in an additional \$58,917 in maternity and newborn costs.



COMMUNITY BIRTH PLAN TASK FORCE

Reducing Black Premature Births in California

CHALLENGE: The preterm birth rate among Black women in California is 52 percent higher than the rate of White women.

GOAL: Develop, pilot and implement a Community Birth Plan uniting the Black community, hospitals, perinatal health care providers, public health and statewide organizations resulting in a reduction of Black preterm births to 8.1 percent by 2020 and 5.5 percent by 2030.

BACKGROUND

In September 2017, the California Department of Public Health's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division joined forces with the Los Angeles Department of Public Health and March of Dimes to host a summit designed to kick-start the development of a comprehensive Community Birth Plan that will provide guiding principles for reducing Black premature births in Los Angeles County. Parents, providers, public health agencies, hospitals, and faith and community leaders gathered to gain greater knowledge of the issue, and prioritized evidence-based strategies for preventing Black preterm births.

OUR PLAN

A task force of community partners has developed a Community Birth Plan to galvanize select birthing hospitals and their community partners around evidence-based health improvement activities that improve birth outcomes. These are our strategies:

- **Improve the quality of care for Black women**, by maximizing each encounter to teach preterm birth prevention strategies and improve the Black patient experience within hospitals.
- **Implement evidence-based and culturally appropriate clinical interventions** in the preconception, prenatal, postpartum and interconception period to reduce Black preterm birth rates.
- **Engage health plans in implementing reimbursements** and other activities to reduce preterm births.
- **Inform the community about Black preterm birth rates** and unite them around health improvement activities that improve birth outcomes.
- **Build a Fatherhood Preterm Birth Initiative** to inform dads and get their help in improving outcomes.

OUR PARTNERS

*Black Infant Health Program
Black Women for Wellness
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
CDPH Center for Family Health
CDPH Maternal, Child and Adolescent
Health Division
Children's Institute Inc.
Eisner Health*

*First 5 Los Angeles
iDREAM for Racial Health Equity
Kaiser Permanente
Los Angeles County Department of
Public Health
March of Dimes
Mrs. Rosa Robinson, Community and
Faith-based resident*

*PAC/LAC
Public Health Foundation
Enterprises WIC
Public Health Institute
Sutter Health
University of California, San Francisco
Watts Health*