

# The Face of Black Maternal Health Presented by: BLA(K GIRL



BLA(K GIRL

### **HERstory**

### Launch in November 2017

 We envision a world where Black women and girls can access their full potential to authentically, be.

### our work

- advocacy
- convening
- organizing and coalition building
- leadership exploration
- collective investments and resource redistribution

MANIBE

our partner <u>Women's Fund of Omaha</u>



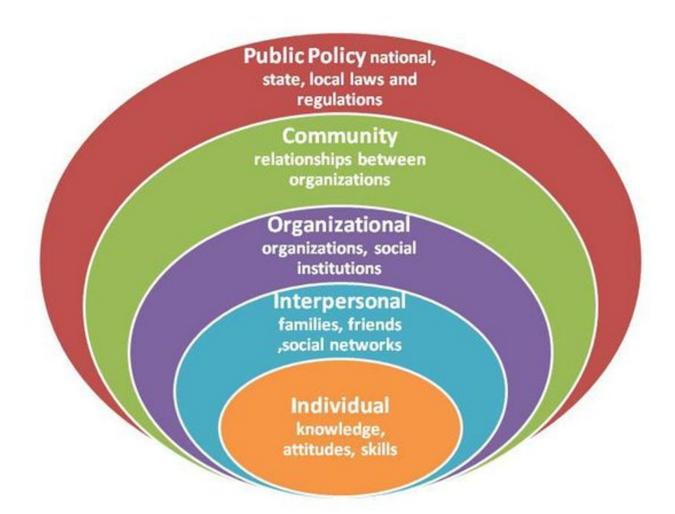
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# JESSICA EHULE CityMatCH



### Socioecological Model



### **Social Determinants of Health**



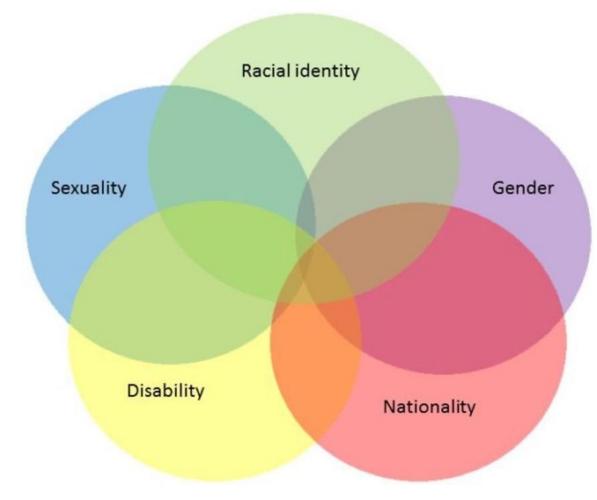
Social Determinants of Health Copyright-free



### Intersectionality

A term coined by professor Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989, intersectionality is a framework for understanding how aspects of a person's identity combine to create access to opportunities or exposure to discrimination throughout life.

We do not experience life in separate buckets. Our experiences are a result of the intersection of our political and social identities, and one cannot be separated from another.



## U.S. Maternal & Child Health Data Story

### Maternal Mortality in the US

Maternal Mortality is defined by the WHO as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management



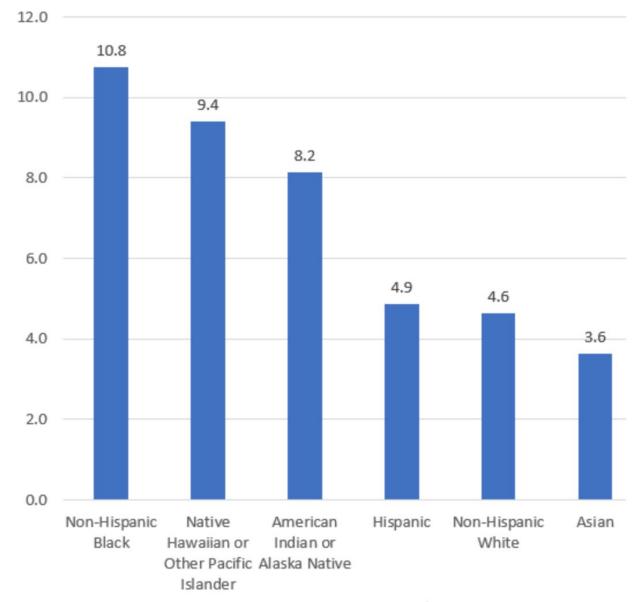
According to the CDC, the 2019 maternal mortality rate in the US is 20.1, significantly higher than the 2018 rate of 17.4.

When disaggregated by race, the maternal mortality rate for Black women is 2.5 times higher than White women.

The difference is often greater when we review data at the state and local level.



### Infant Mortality Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 2018



# The Black infant mortality rate is 10.7, compared to the White infant mortality rate of 5.4.

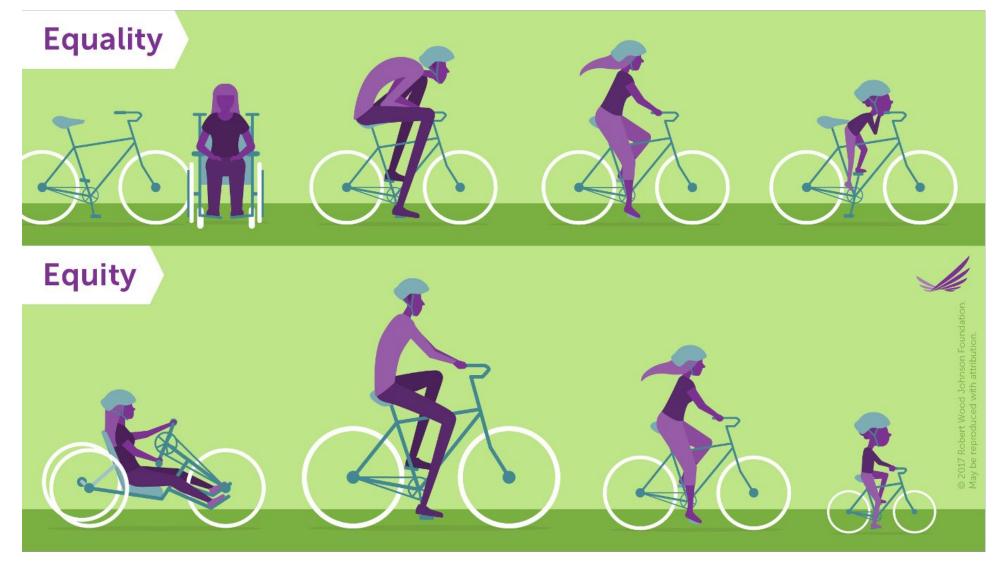


# Why do we have such stark disparities in the United States?

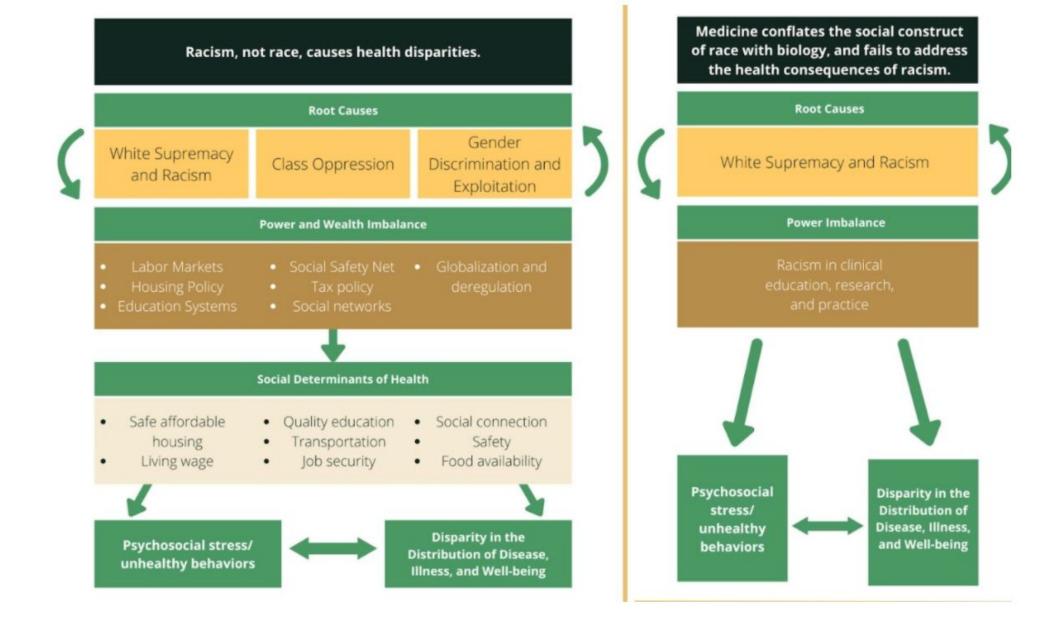




### Goal: Achieving Health and Racial Equity



# Racism is a risk factor, NOT Race



Source: Graphic adapted by Dr. Joia Crear-Perry, originally from Tackling Health Inequities through Public Health Practice, by R. Hofrichter and R. Bhatia

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Assistant Professor, Health Promotion

UNMC College of Public Health



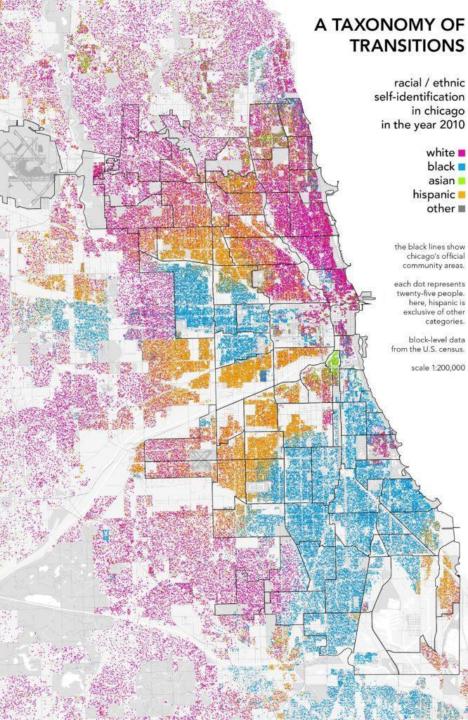
SKIN DEEP:	DAWN OF	US AND THEM:	DRIVING
THE SCIENCE	THE WHITE	WHY WE	WHILE
OF RACE	MINORITY	DIVIDE	BLACK

### SPECIAL ISSUE NATIONAL GFOGR A DUIC

# Black and White These twin sisters make us rethink everything we know about race

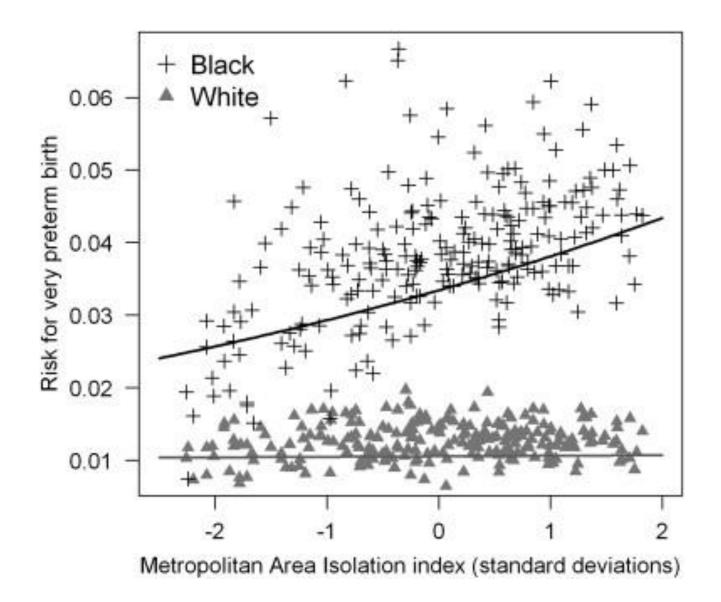
WHAT'S YOUR STORY? #IDefineMe

PRI



# Does segregation predict birth outcomes?

Segregation can signal racism Interpersonal Institutional



M.R. Kramer et al., "Metropolitan isolation segregation and Black-White disparities in very preterm birth: A test of mediating pathways and variance explained" Social Science & Medicine 71 (2010) 2108e2116

Given the same pregnancy complication, Black women are more likely to die.

### TABLE 1-

Prevalence and Case-Fatality Rates and Black–White Rate Ratios (With 95% Confidence Intervals [CIs]) for 5 Selected Pregnancy Complications, By Race: United States, 1988–1999

	Prevalence Rate <sup>a</sup>		i.	Case-Fatality Rateb		
	Black	White	Black-White Ratio (95% CI)	Black	White	Black-White Ratio (95% CI)
Preeclampsia	3176	2554	1.2 (0.8, 1.7)	73.5	27.4	2.7 (1.8, 3.6)
Eclampsia	131	83	1.6 (0.9, 2.3)	1536.3	626.2	2.5 (1.4, 3.5)
Abruption	970	895	1.1 (0.7, 1.5)	5 <mark>8.</mark> 4	21.3	2.8 (1.8, 3.7)
Placenta previa	454	433	1.1 (0.7, 1.4)	40.7	17.3	2.4 (1.5, 3.2)
Postpartum hemorrhage	1428	1890	0.8 (0.5, 1.0)	68.3	21.0	3.3 (2.1, 4.4)

Likely Factors Explaining Differences in Case Fatality Rates

https://doi.org/10.1053/i.semperi.2017.04.00

- Chronic health conditions
- Prenatal care utilization
- Quality of care

- Standardize care across facilities
- Improve access to Level III and Level IV birth centers
- Reduce barriers to prenatal care
  - Financially accessible
  - Geographically accessible
  - Culturally appropriate
  - Patient-centered
- Increase number of black obstetricians and midwives
- Implicit bias training

### PATIENT SAFETY BUNDLES





# **CHRISTIAN** MINTER, **IBBG ORGANIZER**



### **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." – SisterSong



### **Black Maternal Health Coalition**

- Centers and uplifts Black women and birthing folks to improve health outcomes
- Membership is 80% Black women
- Representatives from healthcare systems, state agencies, nonprofits, and community-based programs

- Maternal Mortality Review Committee composition & recruitment
- Severe maternal morbidity data collection and dissemination
- Feedback to legislators on bills impacting maternal health



### Nebraska Black Maternal Health Month

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA

RESOLVED

WHEREAS, a person's race should never determine their health outcomes and most importantly, pregnancy and childbirth should be safe for all Americans; and,

WHEREAS, for women of color, especially Black women, safety and equity has been tragically disproportionate in comparison to the general population, and therein exists one of the single widest racial disparities in women's health; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause, and Black infants are more than twice as likely not to survive; and,

WHEREAS, multiple factors contribute to these disparities, such as variation in quality health care, underlying chronic conditions, structural racism, and implicit bias, in addition, social determinants of health have historically prevented many people from minority groups from having fair opportunities for economic, physical, and emotional health; and,

WHEREAS, ensuring that all women have equitable access to health care before, during, and after pregnancy is essential; and,

WHEREAS, to improve Black women's maternal health, we need a comprehensive approach that addresses health across the lifespan, improves access to quality care, provides greater economic security to women, and uses policy to create system change; and,

WHEREAS, local organizations like *I Be Black Girl* are on the front lines along with various partners across Nebraska to address the inequities within the maternal health sector, with a primary goal to expand access to quality, culturally-relevant maternal health services; and,

WHEREAS, all Nebraskans must raise awareness of the state of Black maternal health by understanding the consequences of systemic discrimination, recognizing the need for urgent solutions, amplifying the voices and experiences of Black women, families, and communities, and committing to build a world in which Black women do not have to fear for their wellbeing, dignity, and lives before, during, and after pregnancy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA, that this Board hereby declares and recognizes the month of October 2021, as *Black Maternal Health Month in Nebraska* and encourages our residents to bring awareness to, find solutions, and utilize opportunities to change these tragic outcomes for Black women and infants.

DATED this 12th day of October, 2021

County Board of Com

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## Behind the data there are many stories...







CALL TO ACTION: <u>Thorough review of</u> <u>internal practices</u>, <u>policies</u>, <u>and procedures</u>. <u>Approach all work with a health and racial</u> <u>equity lens</u>.

Questions to ask during this review may include:

- How may my institution be intentionally or unintentionally causing harm to black women and birthing people, and communities of color?
- What opportunities exist for us to serve the community better?
- What support does the organization have from leadership to address issues of health and racial equity.

CALL TO ACTION: <u>Center Black women and</u> <u>birthing folks in the leadership, approaches</u> <u>and solutions.</u>

CALL TO ACTION: <u>Take a holistic approach</u> <u>to funding Black maternal health</u> <u>initiatives. Invest in:</u>

- community-based programs
- solutions that address social factors impacting health
- overall wellbeing
- qualitative research (uplift the lived experience of Black women)

## **KEEP IN TOUCH**

## www.ibeblackgirl.com hello@ibeblackgirl.org Social @ibeblackgirl

