

# Improving Black Maternal Health Outcomes

Resources and Tools for Healthcare Professionals

Curated by Dr. Terri, M.D.



This resource guide was curated to help healthcare professionals address maternal health disparities. The links and suggested sources below cover anti-racism, cultural sensitivity, legislative, inclusion and educational efforts.

Like Dr. Terri, Pampers is committed to supporting black women so they can thrive before, during, and after pregnancy. If you have a suggestion for an additional resource, contact us at [PampersPro.IM@pg.com](mailto:PampersPro.IM@pg.com) so we can include it in a future version of this guide.

## Familiarize Yourself with Racial Health Disparities

### Foundational Resources for Care Equity - Articles



**SETTING THE STANDARD FOR HOLISTIC CARE OF AND FOR BLACK WOMEN** The Black Mamas Matter Alliance outlines recommendations for addressing racial inequities in the U.S.



### **ACHIEVING HEALTH EQUITY: A GUIDE FOR HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS**

Provides guidance on how healthcare organizations can reduce disparities related to racial or ethnic group, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, age, mental health, sexual orientation, gender identity, geography, or mental or physical disability.

**SAVE 100 BABIES (2014)** Engaging communities for just and equitable birth outcomes through photovoice and appreciative inquiry. Jackson, FM, Saran, AR, Ricks, S, Essien, J, Klein, K, Roberts, D & Worthy, N. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 18(8), 1786-1794.

**ADDRESSING THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH (2009)** A cliff analogy. Jones, CP, Jones, Cy, Perry, GS, Barclay, G and Jones, CA. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 20(4 Suppl), 1-12.

**WHY YOUR ZIP CODE MATTERS MORE THAN YOUR GENETIC CODE (2016)** Promoting healthy outcomes from mother to child. *Breastfeed Med* 2016 Oct;11:396-7. doi: 10.1089/bfm.2016.0113 Epub 2016 Aug 11.

## Foundational Resources for Care Equity - Videos

**UNNATURAL CAUSES** Documentary series exploring the link between socioeconomic and racial inequities in health. Episode 2, *When the Bough Breaks*, relates to birth outcome disparities.

**ALLEGORIES ON RACE AND RACISM** TedX talk from Dr. Camara Jones describing racism through four allegorical tales.

**SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH** Short video emphasizing the impact of socioeconomic factors on health.

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### Hear Stories from Black Women and Families

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**DOCUMENTARY: BLACK BIRTH** From director Haimy Assefa, this documentary follows three expectant mothers as they navigate the joys and fears of Black motherhood and the realities of giving birth in America. The film debuted at Tribeca Film Festival as part of Queen Collective, a program developed in partnership with Procter & Gamble, Queen Latifah, and Tribeca Studios. Watch the documentary: <https://www.bet.com/shows/bet-her/queen-collective.html>

**VIDEO: KIRA JOHNSON'S STORY** Kira Johnson's husband tells the story of how his wife died in childbirth and advocates for change.



**ARTICLE: SHALON IRVING'S STORY** Wanda Irving recounts her daughter's final days before childbirth took her life in 2017.



**PODCAST: THE BIRTH HOUR** Each episode features an empowering, authentic birth story so pregnant women are informed going into pregnancy, birth and postpartum.

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### Discover Strategies to Improve Care Equity for Black Mothers

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**BLACK WOMEN'S MATERNAL HEALTH: A MULTIFACETED APPROACH TO ADDRESSING PERSISTENT AND DIRE HEALTH DISPARITIES** From the National Partnership for Women and Families, a comprehensive report on inequities in Black maternal health and policy approaches to address them.



**BATTLING OVER BIRTH: BLACK WOMEN & THE MATERNAL HEALTH CARE CRISIS IN CALIFORNIA** Centering on the birth experiences of Black women and best practices for care.

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### Collect Helpful Tools for Professionals and Patients

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**INTERACTIVE MAP: PERINATAL SAFE SPOTS** Forum to connect moms and families to local resources that help break through barriers to care.

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## Explore Maternal Health Data in Your Area

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**MARCH OF DIMES PERISTATS** Searchable database of maternal and child health data for the U.S., as well as by state and region.

**CDC STATISTICS ON A VARIETY OF HEALTH TOPICS** Information on diseases, injuries, birth and mortality data, and more for every state and territory in the U.S.

**HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030** Data-driven national objectives to support health and wellbeing.

**COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS AND ROAD MAPS** Searchable database with health information for all 50 states.

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## Get Involved with Legislative Efforts

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**BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH MOMNIBUS ACT OF 2021** Comprehensive legislation to address multiple dimension of the Black maternal health care crisis in America, including 12-month Medicaid coverage, access to care and support for the full postpartum period.

**MOMMA'S ACT**

**MIDWIVES FOR MOMS ACT**

**MOMMIES ACT**

**BABIES ACT**

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## Find a Training Opportunity

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**BREAKING THROUGH BIAS IN MATERNITY CARE** Available as both CNE and CME, this course provides health care professionals with insights for recognizing and remedying implicit bias in maternity care settings.



**IMPLICIT AND EXPLICIT BIAS SPEAK UP CHAMPIONS' TRAINING** One-day, interactive workshop to help individuals and groups discover how to dismantle racism and reduce perinatal health disparities.



**CONSCIOUS ANTI-RACISM: TOOLS FOR SELF-DISCOVERY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND MEANINGFUL CHANGE** Online training to empower healthcare professionals to confidently speak up against racism, confront their biases and contribute to social justice.



**NATIONAL BIRTH EQUITY COLLABORATIVE** NBEC creates solutions that optimize Black maternal and infant health through training, policy advocacy, research, and community-centered collaboration.

## Connect with Organizations Supporting Black Mothers



**EVERY MOTHER  
COUNTS**



**NATIONAL  
BLACK DOULAS  
ASSOCIATION**



**STATE PERINATAL  
QUALITY  
COLLABORATIVES**



**MATERNAL MORTALITY  
REVIEW COMMITTEES**

*Commonsense Childbirth*

**COMMONSENSE  
CHILDBIRTH**



**SHADES OF BLUE  
PROJECT**



### **ABOUT DR. TERRI**

As a Black woman physician who's been dedicated to the care for the most fragile babies and families for more than 20 years, and as a proud mother of two young adults, Dr. Terri understands the unique challenges of Black motherhood and wishes that some of these resources had been available during her pregnancies. She's a double board-certified neonatologist and pediatrician and an expert in racial health disparities around birth, known for her authenticity and compassion in discussing challenging topics.



Curated by Dr. Terri. M.D., 2021

**The views expressed in the included resources do not indicate the author's endorsement of P&G and likewise, do not indicate P&G's endorsement of the views of the authors.**