

## Infographic

## **Addressing Black Maternal Mortality**

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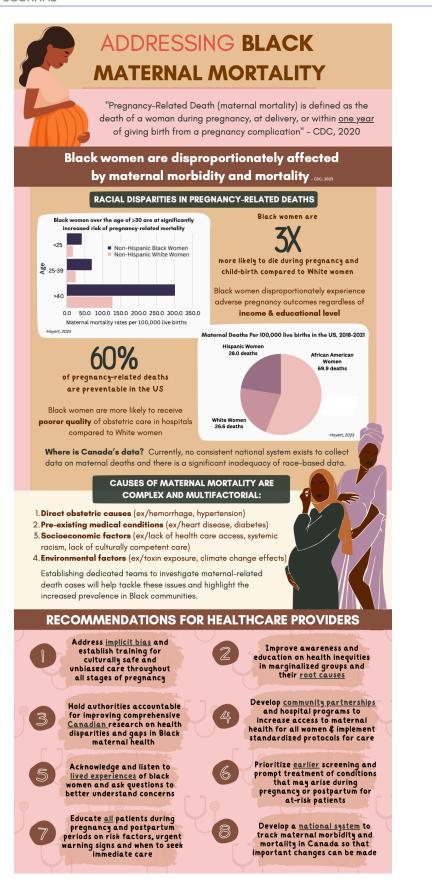
## Abstract

Increasing rates of maternal morbidity and mortality is a growing concern in many industrialized countries. Data from US maternal mortality review committees indicate that more than 80% of these deaths are preventable (Trost et al., 2019). Various factors contributing to this issue include advancing maternal age, increased adults living with congenital disease that may affect outcomes and increased prevalence of comorbidities such as diabetes and hypertension (Fink et al., 2023). In the United States, black women are disproportionately affected by maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, facing rates almost three times higher than those of white women (Hoyert, 2023). Few Canadian studies exist, but they echo similar findings. Research by McKinnon and colleagues (2016) found that Black women were more likely to have premature babies and have their pain experiences discounted. A more recent qualitative study based in Toronto reported pervasive obstetric racism experienced by Black women (Boakye et al., 2023). These disparities stem from a complex interplay of factors, including systemic racism, socio-economic disparities, and unequal access to quality healthcare. Unfortunately, research on Black maternal mortality and morbidity is limited in Canada, and we lack a much-needed national system to track these outcomes. Unlike the United States, few Canadian health agencies collect racial statistics. However, disaggregated racebased data is critical for informing targeted interventions and policy changes. This infographic was created under the umbrella of The Newcomer Health Hub, a Canadian medical student-run organization that seeks to increase awareness of health-care disparities in order to improve medical training. Infographics play a crucial role in enhancing comprehension, increasing engagement, and promoting health literacy. Together, through education, advocacy, and community engagement, we can work towards ensuring that every mother receives the support, resources, and care they need to have a safe and healthy pregnancy and childbirth experience, regardless of race or ethnicity.

Keywords: Black Women, Maternal, Race-based



HEALTHY POPULATIONS JOURNAL



HPJ  $\cdot$  Spring 2024  $\cdot$  4(1) | Page 50



HEALTHY POPULATIONS JOURNAL

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