

CA Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act & Maternal Health Policy Nourbese Flint M.A.W.H.



IMPLICIT BIAS

DATA COLLECTION



Black Women for Wellness

- Committed to the empowerment, health and well-being of Black women and girls.

- Shangazi Program

- 501(c)3 established in 1997



Black Women for Wellness

- Mission: To build the political and electoral

Action Project

power of Black women throughout California

- 501(c)4 established in 2017

- First Black Reproductive Justice 501(c)4 in the Country



CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE

- **Maternal Health**

Between 2011 and 2013, the ratio of death for Black women was 26.4 per 100,000, almost 3.8 times higher than that for white women.

- In Los Angeles County, the largest county in California, the rate of maternal death for Black women is over 4.5 times higher than the County overall rate for women.
- In 2013, the ratio of Black maternal mortality in Los Angeles was 58.6 per 100,000 and in 2018, the ratio was 85.8 per 100,000. This is compared to LA County's ration for all women in 2018, which was 17.9 per 100,000.

Infant Health

- Infant mortality rate is 4.2 per 1000 live births in California
- Indigenous/Native American infants in California die at a rate of 11.7 per 1000 live births, followed by Black infants who die at a rate of 8.7 per 1000 live births.



CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE

- Pregnant and postpartum people who are Black, Indigenous/Native American, and/or people of color, also face mistreatment at hospitals at higher rates than their white counterparts
- Higher numbers of Black, Asian, and Pacific Islander pregnant and postpartum people report unfair treatment, harsh language, and rough handling during labor and delivery hospital stay as compared to their white counterparts
- Higher numbers of pregnant and postpartum people who speak an Asian Language or Spanish at home, report unfair treatment during their labor/delivery hospital stay, as compared to pregnant and postpartum people who speak primarily English at home
- California hasn't published updated data since 2015 on maternal mortality. Los Angeles County has show a slight increase in number.
- CA does not have a codified MMRC board, no requirement to address racial disparities in maternal and infant outcomes.
- CA also has a OBGYN workforce shortage

POLICY ACTIONS

- SB 464: California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act (Sen. Holly Mitchell) (2019)
- SB 1237: Justice & Equity in Maternity Care Act (Sen. Bill Dodd) (2020)
- SB 65: California Momnibus Bill (Sen. Nancy Skinner)

SB 464 - California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth



- Took effect January 1, 2020
- Mandates evidence-based implicit bias training for perinatal inpatient providers every two years
- Improves death certificate reporting for more accurate maternal death count for CA
- Requires publication of maternal morbidity and mortality data stratified by race and other determinants
- Mandates community education about ways to report experiences of healthcare associated discrimination



IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING

- Identify previous or current unconscious biases and misinformation
- Identify personal, interpersonal, institutional, structural and cultural barriers to inclusion
- Introduce corrective measures to decrease implicit bias at the interpersonal and institutional levels, including ongoing policies and practices for that purpose
- Education on the effects of historic and contemporary exclusion and oppression of minority communities
- Education on cultural identity across racial or ethnic groups
- Effective communication across identities (incl. race, ethnic, religion, and gender)
- Power dynamics and organizational decision making
- Discussion on health inequities and the impacts of implicit bias on maternal and infant health outcomes
- Perspectives of diverse, local constituency groups and experts on particular racial, identity, cultural and provider-community relations issues in the community
- Education on Reproductive Justice

LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- COVID-19 slow down roll out
- Implicit Bias Training: Implementation & Accountability
- physician accountability
- Budding Industry of Inadequate Trainings
- Exploring ways to provide funding through budget process to incentivize smaller hospitals to provide rigorous and robust implicit bias training



WHAT NOW - SB 65 CA MOMNIBUS

- Establishes the California Pregnancy-Associated Review Committee within the California Department of Public Health to continuously engage in the comprehensive, regular, and uniform review and reporting of maternal deaths throughout the state.
- Updates the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review process to investigate, track, and review
- Establish a program to increase student attendance and placement of certified nurse-midwives and licensed midwives of color.
- Extends postpartum Medi-Cal coverage from 60 days to one year
- Updates CalWork Pregnancy Supplement, that hasn't been changed since 1983
- Create guaranteed income pilot for CalWork participants to receive monthly cash aid from 6 months of pregnancy to child is 2 years of age.
- Requires Medi-Cal coverage for doulas.

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