



HEALTH
ENGAGEMENT NURSE

NURSE'S CORNER

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NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH – APRIL 2024

Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than White women. Multiple factors contribute to these disparities, such as variation in quality healthcare, underlying chronic conditions, structural racism, and implicit bias. Social determinants of health prevent many people from racial and ethnic minority groups from having fair opportunities for economic, physical, and emotional health.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, April 8). *Working together to reduce Black Maternal Mortality*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthequity/features/maternal-mortality/index.html>

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES: BLACK VS. WHITE IN THE U.S.

[Why are Black maternal mortality rates so high? - Mayo Clinic Press](#)

The maternal mortality rate for Black mothers doesn't improve with socioeconomic status or educational level. For example, data from 2007 to 2016 show that among women with a college degree or higher, the pregnancy-related mortality ratio was five times higher for Black mothers compared with white mothers.

HOW CAN WE SOLVE THE BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS?

[Solving the Black Maternal Health Crisis | Johns Hopkins | Bloomberg School of Public Health \(jhu.edu\)](#)

Dire statistics about maternal health outcomes for Black women in America have become front-page news in recent years, in part because of the high-profile deaths of new mothers like CDC scientist Shalon Irving, as well as the deep racial health inequities laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic. But this problem isn't new—in fact, it has roots in the very fabric of American society and health care, with structural and systemic racism at its core.

HEAR HER CAMPAIGN

[About the Campaign | CDC](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC's) Division of Reproductive Health is committed to healthy pregnancies and deliveries for every person. The Hear Her campaign supports CDC's efforts to prevent pregnancy-related deaths by sharing potentially life-saving messages about urgent warning signs. Each person knows their own body better than anyone and can often tell when something does not feel right. The campaign seeks to encourage partners, friends, family, coworkers, and providers—anyone who supports pregnant and postpartum people—to really listen when she tells you something doesn't feel right. Acting quickly could help save a life.

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As Health Engagement Nurses, Wendy and Whitney are available to help you and your family make better health care decisions, refer you to appropriate wellness programs and services, and demonstrate how to navigate UnitedHealthcare tools and resources. They want to help you find a Primary Care Physician and encourage you to schedule your annual wellness visit. Contact the Health Engagement Nurses for more information!