

Birthing While Black: The Maternal Health Experiences in Kansas and Missouri



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No disclosures

Disclosure

Acknowledgement

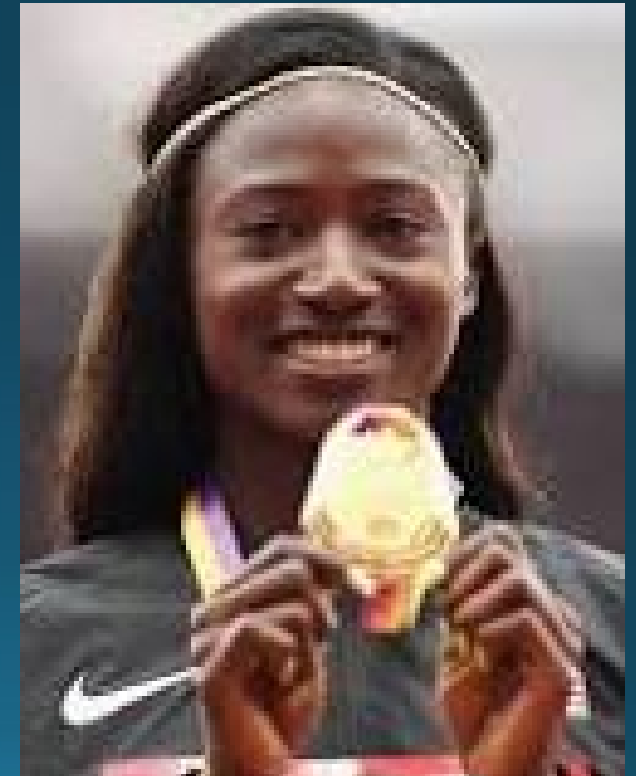
**Funding: PCORI
Engagement Award**



The Significance

*Meet Serena Williams, Dr.
Chaniece Wallace, Dr. Shalon
Irving, and Tori Bowie*

- The ultrasound revealed nothing, so they sent her for the CT, and sure enough, several small blood clots had settled in her lungs. Minutes later she was on the drip. She said, “listen to Dr. Williams!”
- *Meet Dr. Chaniece Wallace, MD*, a fourth-year pediatric chief resident
 - *She died in October 2020 of pregnancy complications*
- *Meet Dr Shalon Irving, PhD*: She went to the doctor/ER 3 times
 - Died 21 days after having her daughter
- *Tori Bowie, who captured gold as a sprinter in the Olympics and the world championships, died at age 32 from complications of childbirth, according to an autopsy report.*



Women Health: The Historical Perspective

Production and Economics during slavery

- Black women bodies were used to increase production and economic gain.

Racism in Obstetrics and Gynecology

- Medical **Super bodies**-Father of Gynecology-**John Marion Sims**
- Black women are more hypersexual or lascivious, black women don't experience pain, black women are immodest

Hysterectomies

- By age 35, Black women are also two to three times to have their uterus removed, peak ages 18 and 44.

Control Through Reproduction

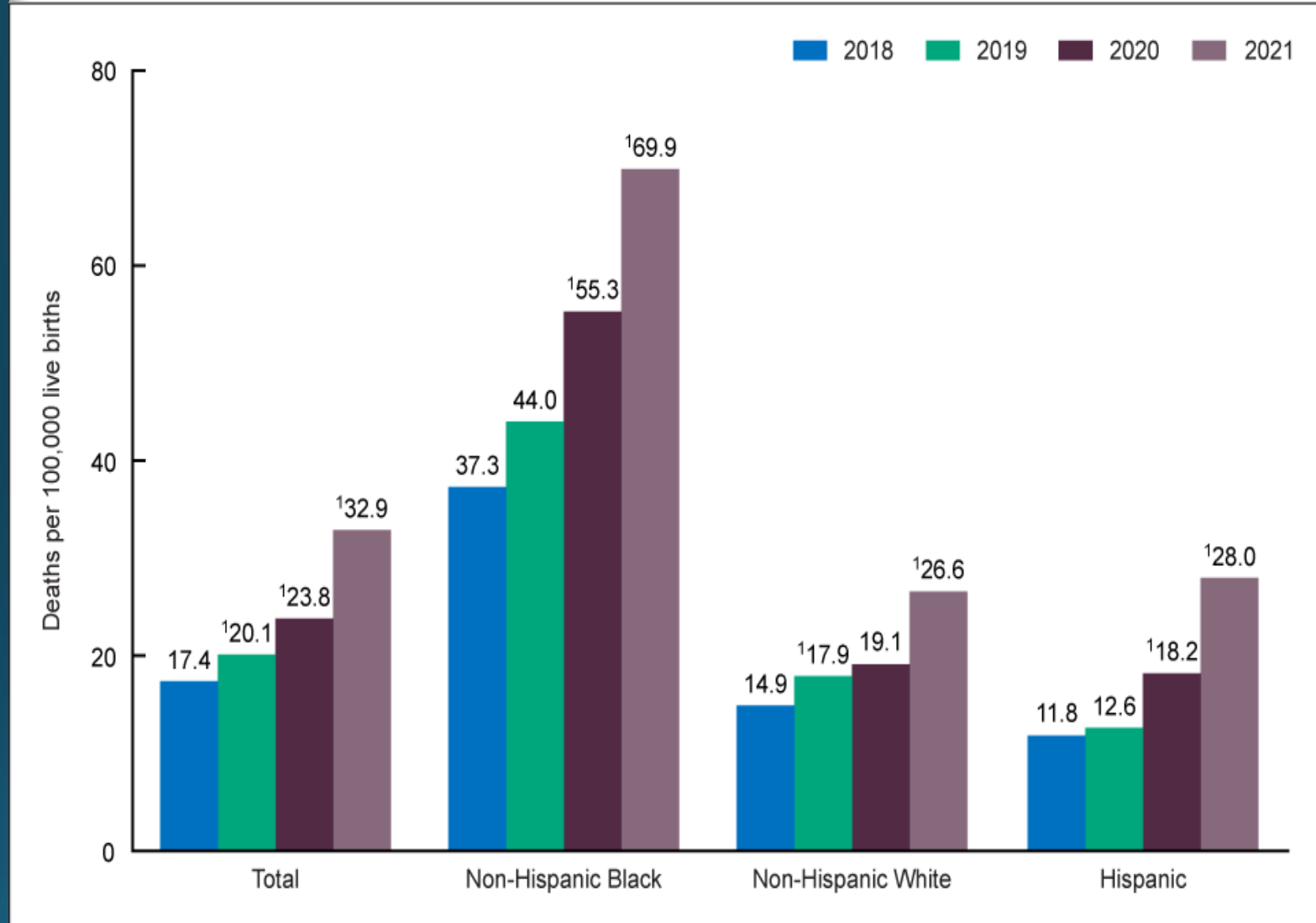
- The political game on women's rights and their bodies-reproductive injustices



The Disparities

Maternal Morbidity and
Mortality

Maternal Mortality in the United States



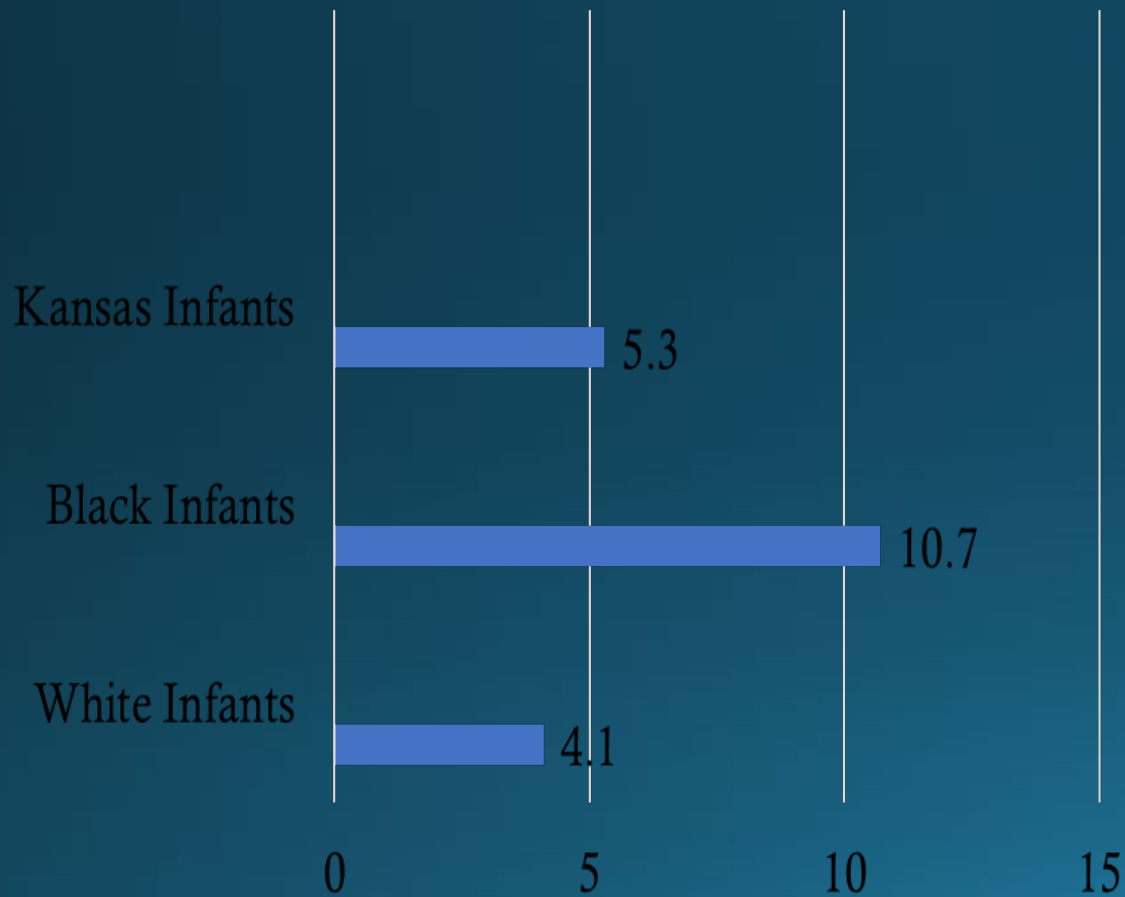
¹Statistically significant increase from previous year ($p < 0.05$).

NOTE: Race groups are single race.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

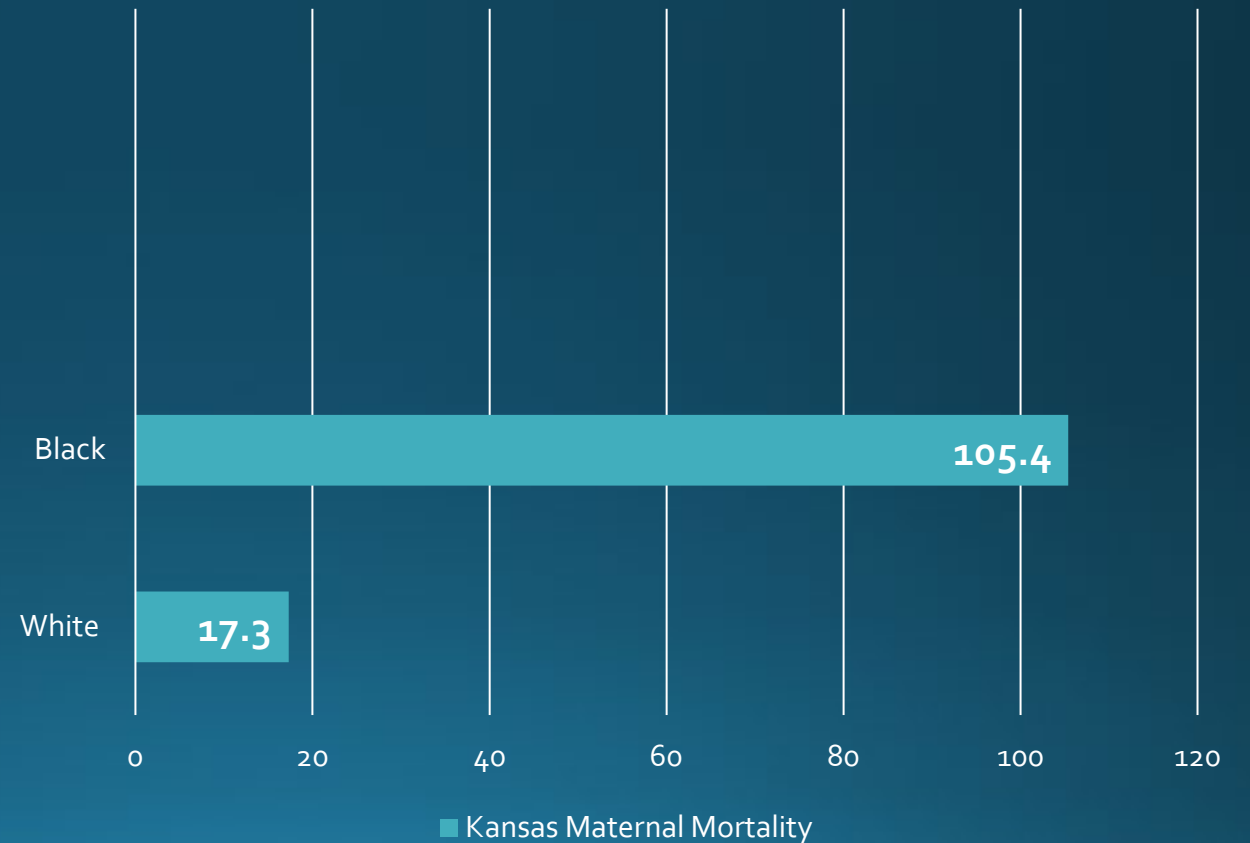
The Disparities in Kansas

Kansas Infant Mortality Disparities

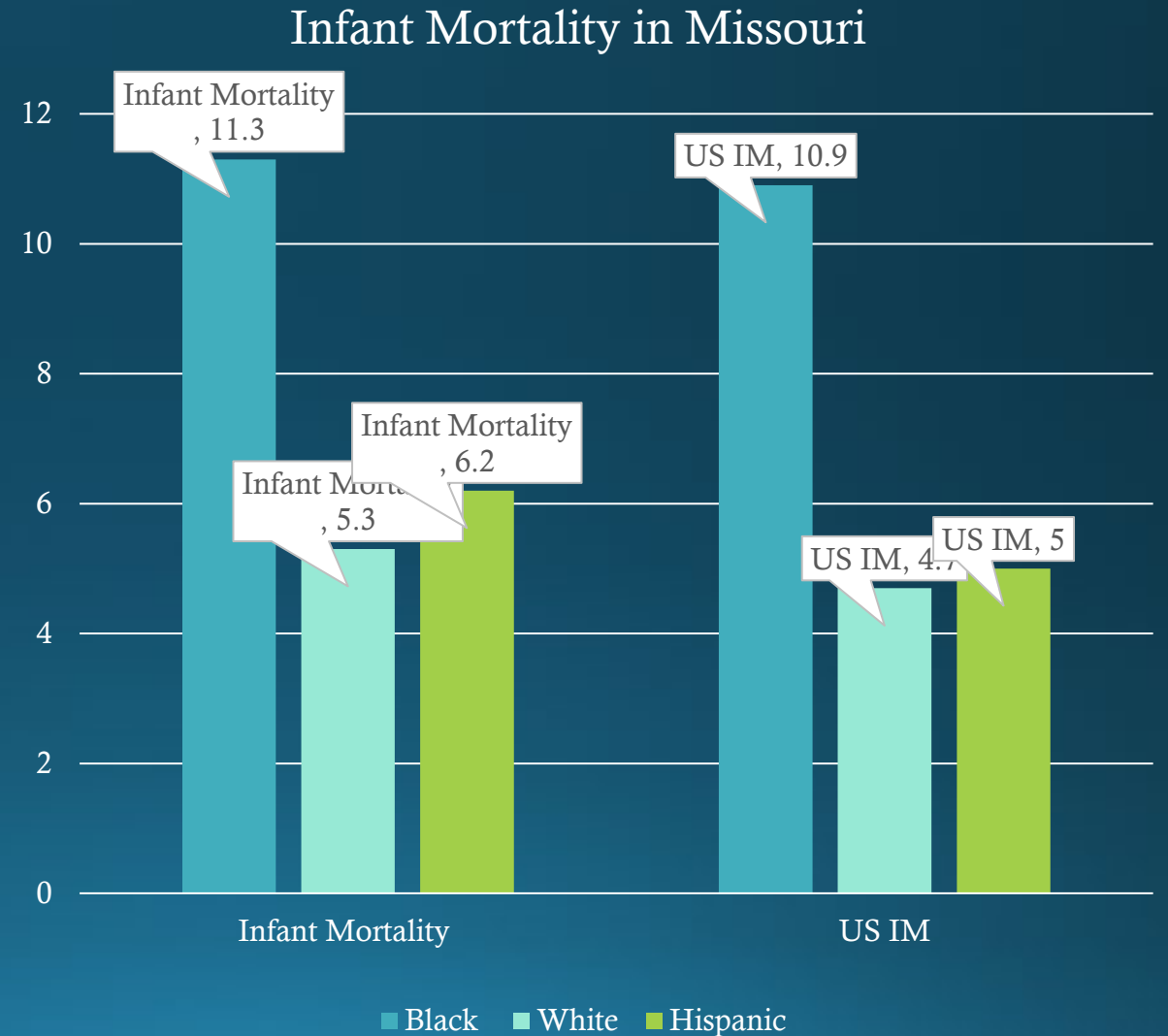
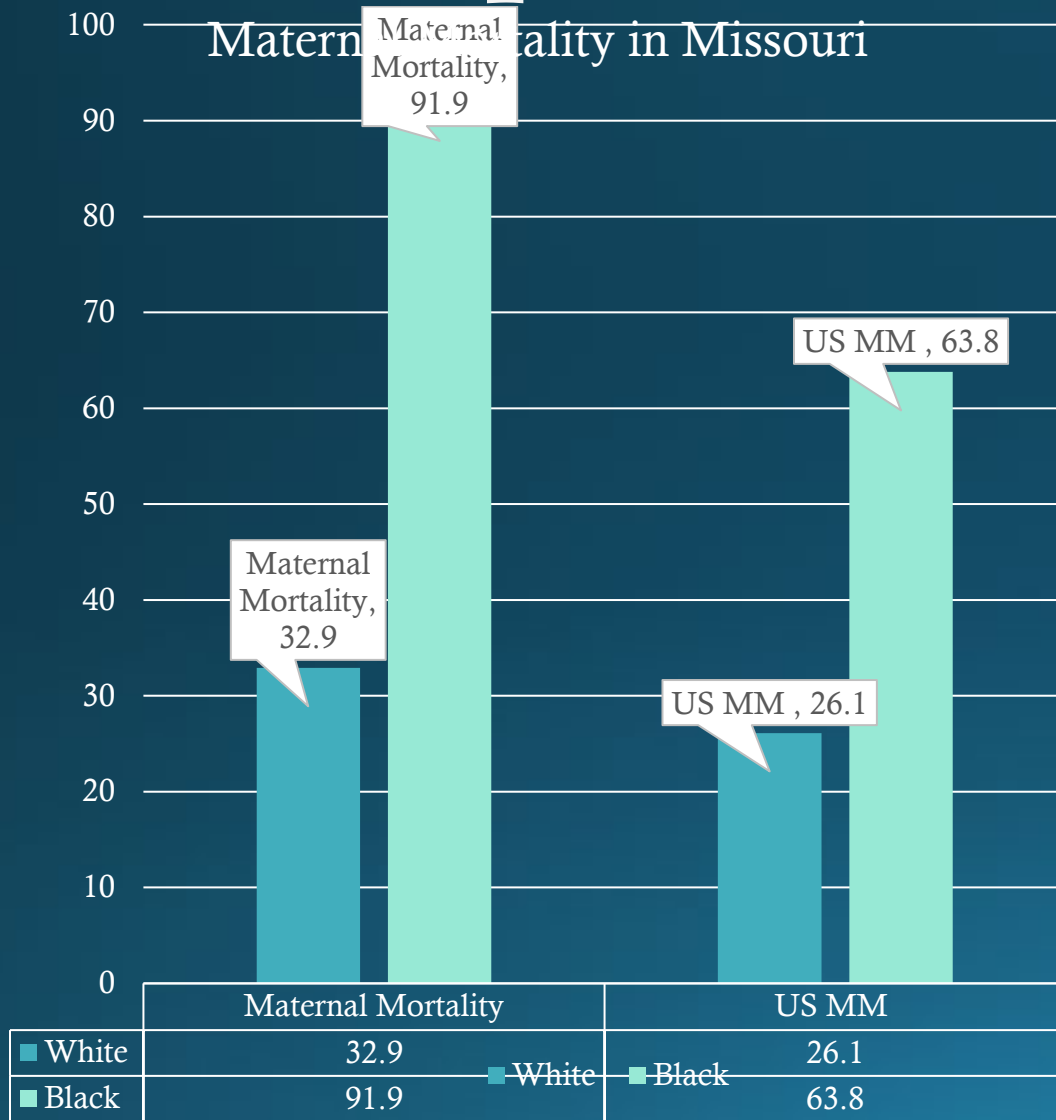


Kansas Maternal Mortality

(Deaths per 100,000 live births)

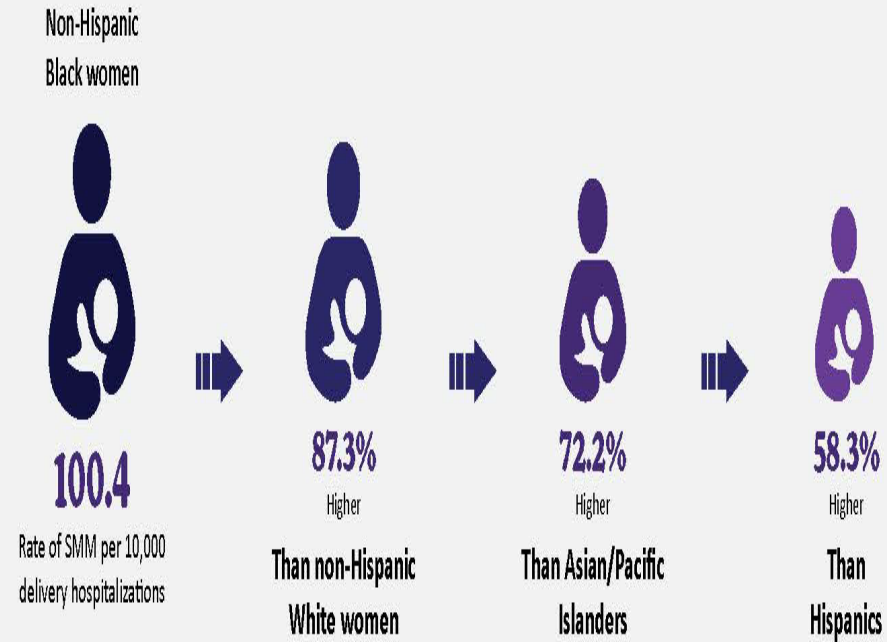


The Disparities in Missouri

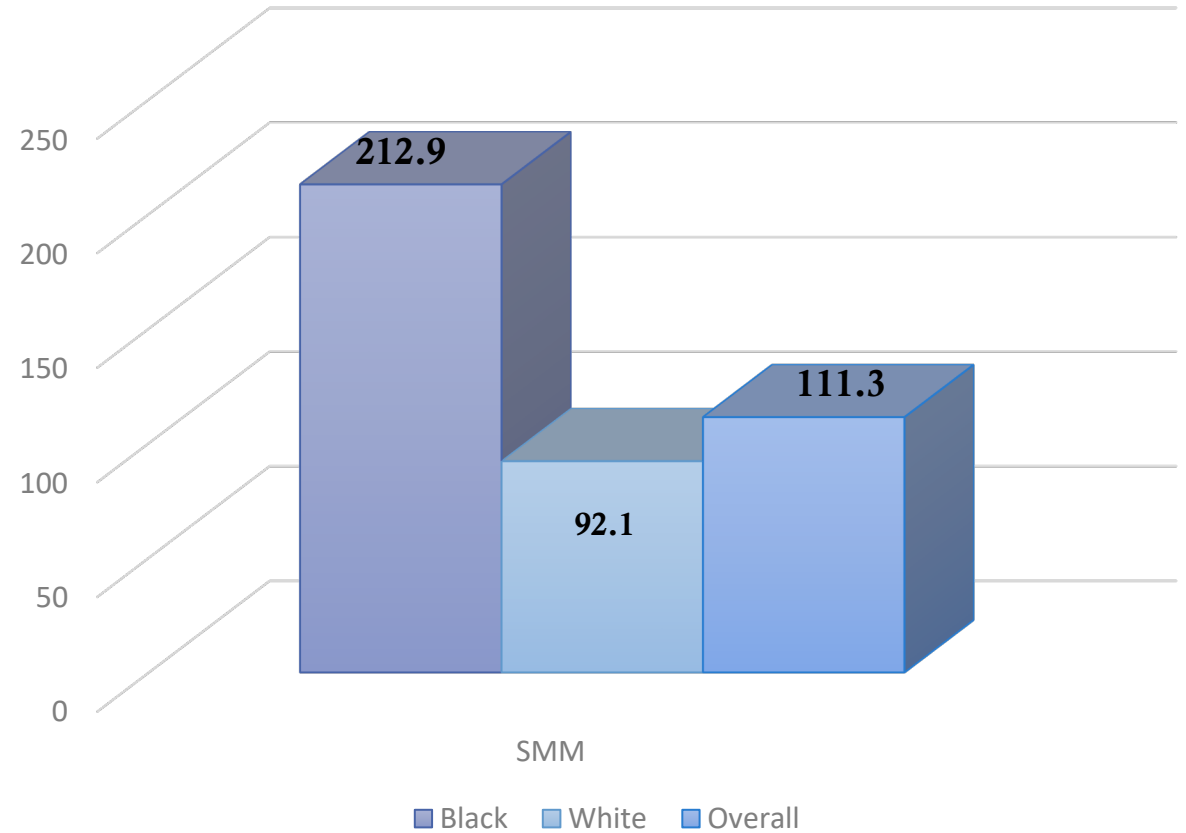


Severe Maternal Morbidity

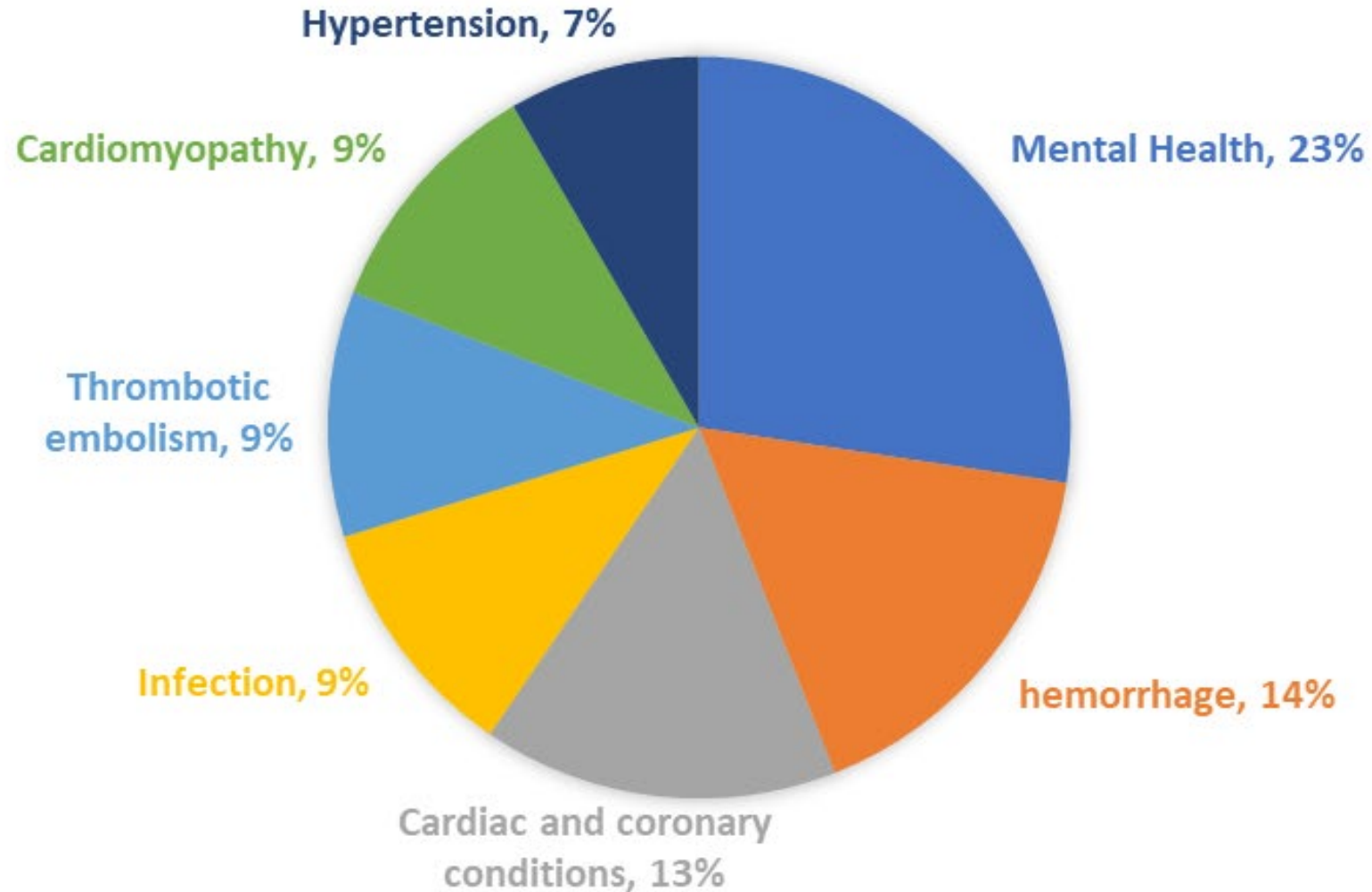
SMM in Kansas KDHE, 2021



SMM in Missouri



CAUSES OF MATERNAL MORTALITY



Finding the Root of Inequities

Black mothers who are college educated fare worse than women of all other races who never finished high school



Obese women of all races have better birth outcomes than black women who are of normal weight



Black women in the wealthiest neighborhoods do worse than White, Hispanic, and Asian mothers in the poorest ones



Black women who initiated prenatal care in the first trimester still have higher rates of infant mortality than non-Hispanic white women with late to no prenatal care.

It Starts With Listening



A few stories about birth!

Subtheme: Perinatal silencing of black women

- *“With my first daughter it was a, it was a matter of them not listening to I was in labor.*
- *“I felt just everything changed and I was like, Oh, no, this is different, my body is telling me this is different, and they're like, you know your whole mucus plug hasn't fell out, no contraction, you're only dilated to 1 or 2. I asked isn't that the beginning stages of labor? They are like, “You're going to sit like that for two or three weeks.” That's not what happened. By the next day I, between going to the hospital four times because I'm a new mom, where I should have been admitted to just, just stay, they sent me back and forth four times and I still had her that next day. She actually ended up being a rush delivery because I was dilated so far by the time I got back to the hospital. “*

Lack of information/follow-up

- One participant stated,
 - *“I feel like, from my recent experience in 2019 and my experience in 2001, 2001 was really traumatizing, too, and I had already had a child, I had a 6-month-old baby and then I just lost my little girl, and that was the most traumatic experiences for me, and they put a black rose on my, my hospital door. And so every time somebody came in it was just repetitive, “I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m sorry,” but there was not a social worker that came in to speak with me, there was not like a resource list, they provided no follow up services.”*

Perinatal Stress and The Stigma

- Defined as, “pregnancy in of itself is stressful, but pregnancy as a black woman comes with significant uncertainties and ultimately stress.
- One patient shared how stress impacted her soon after giving birth,
 - *I didn't feel like I was taken seriously or like my care was prioritized. During the miscarriage when they told me that they would have to remove it and do all those things, before the anesthesiologist came in I expressed to the doctor this is really scary for me, I've never had a tubal pregnancy before, like what does this look like, what is going on, you know, and all of those things, and she was like, well, she really didn't explain much, it was just basically saying it had to be removed or I would pass away.*

Black Women are
more than the data!



Mission and Vision

Vision

KBEN Vision: Every Black mom, dad, and infant receives quality and intentional prenatal, neonatal, and postpartum care in the state of Kansas.

CD366 Vision: Every Black birthing person, dad, and baby celebrates the baby's first birthday.

KBEN

Kansas Birth
Equity Network

9/20/2023



Mission

To use a community-centered approach to create solutions that improve Black maternal, paternal, and infant health in Kansas through training, research, healthcare, and advocacy.

KBEN's Approach



Community Engagement

Working with the Divine 9

- The Kansas Sisters and Brothers for Healthy Infants
- Kansas Birth Equity Network:

Lived Experience and Community Voice

Parent Support

Crown Wellness

Engagement

Vaccine work



Education

Birth Equity Training

BMHW Event

Birth Equity Summit



Scholars Training

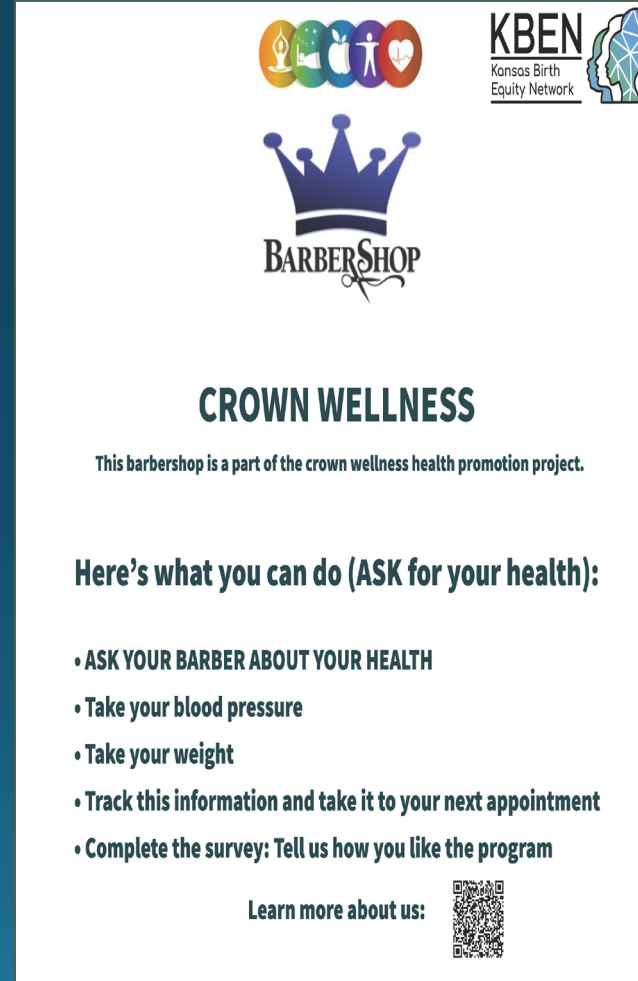
BEST Clinical Scholars Training

Doula program to improve coordination of care with health care and community

Paternal Postpartum Anxiety and Depression

Crown Wellness Barbershop Initiative

- Four Barbershops
 - Overland Park, KS
 - Kansas City, KS
 - Atchison, KS
- 3 Barbershops started in August
- 1 Barbershop started in November
- Barbers received training from experts on topics such as postpartum mental health support, blood pressure, cancer, diabetes, & COVID-19.



The flyer features a header with a row of five colorful icons (a flame, a leaf, a person, a heart, and a brain) and the KBEN logo (Kansas Birth Equity Network) with a stylized head profile. Below this is a purple crown icon with the word "BARBERSHOP" in a decorative font. The main title "CROWN WELLNESS" is in bold, followed by the subtitle "This barbershop is a part of the crown wellness health promotion project." The central text reads "Here's what you can do (ASK for your health):" followed by a bulleted list of actions: "ASK YOUR BARBER ABOUT YOUR HEALTH", "Take your blood pressure", "Take your weight", "Track this information and take it to your next appointment", and "Complete the survey: Tell us how you like the program". At the bottom, it says "Learn more about us:" next to a QR code.

Research Agenda Area

Maternal Mental Health

- Building a culture of support for postpartum mental health

Healthcare Systems

- COVID & Pregnancy

Hypertension & Preeclampsia

- Hypertension & Preeclampsia Awareness

The Benefits of Membership and Collaborative Work

Patient Engagement Roadmap



Parent Support Groups

Parent gathering circles



Led by Sapphire Garcia-Lies,
Doula & Founder, Kansas Birth Justice Society

Register:

<https://ksbirthjusticesociety.org/parent-circles/>



WEDNESDAYS

6:30 PM CST

KBEN
Kansas Birth
Equity Network



**Kansas
Birth Justice
Society**

Partnering with
Community Health
Council to support
the Black Father
Support Group

BLACK
DOPE
DAD'S KICK
MEETUP



Partnerships

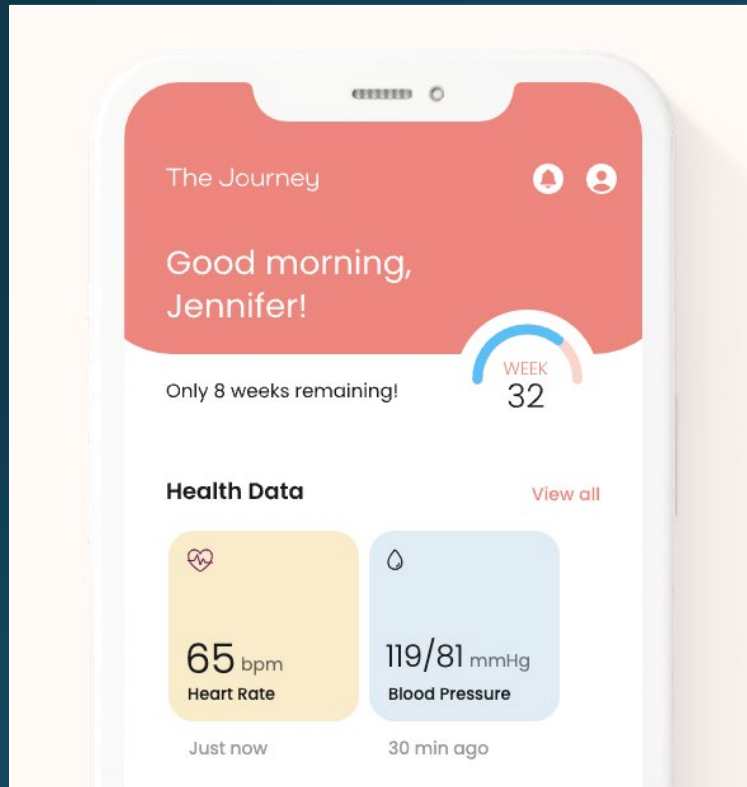
Kansas Fourth
Trimester Initiative

Dr. Shalon Irving
Maternal Action Project

Journey App

Maternal health apps

The Journey Pregnancy App



Believe Her App



- Peer to Peer Support
- Symptoms & Pregnancy Tracking
- Alerts to seek care

Research Agenda Area

Healthcare Systems

- Provider Patient Communication

Maternal Mental Health

- Promote Culturally Specific Mental Health Services

Vaccination Website



Increase the reach vaccination website

- We are in the beginning stages of developing a Vaccinate Your Family website tailored to Black communities in Kansas.
- Currently:
 - Working with community liaison (Shalese Clay, Wyandotte County) & OB/GYN expert (Kevin Ault) to prepare materials for the site.



Community Project Funding



The Healthy Blue Fund

- Blue Cross Blue Shield will award **\$50,000** to KBEN to fund members working on projects related to the research agenda.
- The funds provide support without the tedious grant writing process for KBEN member individuals and organizations across Kansas working towards birth equity.



Partnerships

Kansas Fourth
Trimester Initiative

Dr. Shalon Irving
Maternal Action Project

Journey App

What Works?

Collaboration with midwives and doulas:

- A study found that incorporating midwives as part of the care team during pregnancy and postpartum recovery is associated with better maternal health outcomes.
- Areas without nearby hospital services could also benefit from midwifery care.

Preconception health: A healthy pregnancy begins before conception

Medicaid Expansion

Parental Leave

Babies Join Mom at work for six months

KBEN's Amazing Team



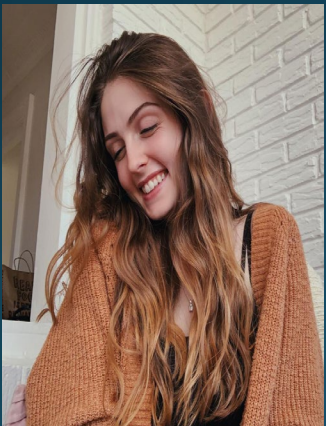
Oluoma Obi
KBEN, Program
Director



Bernard Schuster
Research
Associate



Shea Roy, PhD
Research Associate



Erin Attebery
GRA



Sharon Wolf,
Instructor

Learn More

Our Team:

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Oluoma Obi
Bernard Schuster
Sharon Wolff
Erin Attebery
Shea Roy

Community Leadership:

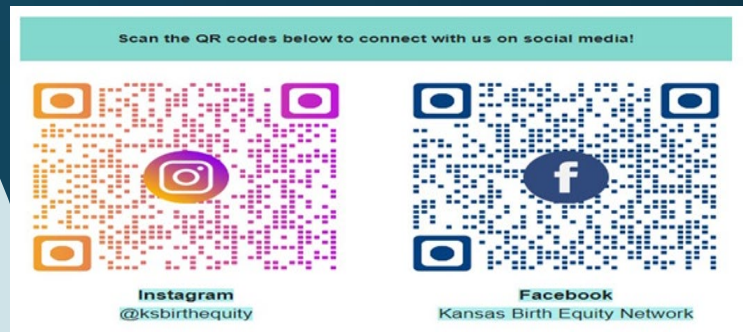
CD366 Lead: Joy Barnes,
Nicole Garner
Father's Engagement Lead:
Kyle Ellison

Join the network:
<https://redcap.kumc.edu/surveys/?s=C7PAHM8W3P>



<https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/academics/departments/population-health/research/kansas-birth-equity-network.html>

• Follow us



• Contact us at:

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Questions

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