

# NNLM Black Maternal Health Week 2023

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## Objective

The objective of this second iteration of programming in the NNLM to support Black Maternal Health Week is to strengthen awareness of health issues and disparities that disproportionately impact Black women and their families.

## Program Description

**“Black Maternal Health Week is recognized each year from April 11 - 17 to bring attention and action in improving Black maternal health. Everyone can play a role in working to prevent pregnancy-related deaths and improving maternal health outcomes.**

Each year in the United States, about 700 people die during pregnancy or in the year after. Another 50,000 people each year have unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery with serious short- or long-term health consequences. Every pregnancy-related death is tragic, especially because two in three of them are preventable. Recognizing urgent maternal warning signs and providing timely treatment and quality care can prevent many pregnancy-related deaths...

**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.” - CDC**

## Addressing NNLM Goals

- Providing health information resources and data through historical lecture from expert researcher Dr. Deirdre Cooper Owens
- Increasing health equity through information about disparities for Black families through panel presentation by three leading researchers and providing an interactive journal club discussion
- Improving health information access to resources through sharing a curated list of resources and along with collaboration with the NNLM Reading Club with sharing resources about Black Maternal Health

## Addressing NNLM Initiatives

- Environmental Determinants of Health
  - Programming for BMHW 2023 will include addressing environmental determinants of health for Black families and infants
- Confronting Health Misinformation
  - Black Maternal Health is not frequently discussed or explored. Many people only hear dire outcomes without understanding what they are empowered to do to improve their outcomes and make more informed decisions about their health.

## Addressing Areas & Interest from the DRS

- Behavioral/Social Determinants of Health
- Maternal Health
- Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Populations