

# HEALTH EQUITY WEEK 2024

## Health Equity Week 2024 Tip Sheet | Wednesday, April 3 Unequal Outcomes in Pregnancy and Childbirth

### What is it?

Compared to White women, Black women are over three times more likely to die during pregnancy, while giving birth, or during the period after giving birth (postpartum). This difference remains regardless of income or education and is the result of structural racism and discrimination. Beyoncé and Serena Williams have spoken openly about their struggle to be heard during pregnancy and birth, and how bias among health care professionals impacts Black parents.

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### Why is it important?

In Philadelphia, from 2013–2018, 73% of deaths related to pregnancy occurred among Black women, even though they accounted for only 43% of births in that period. This inequality impacts someone we know, whether it is a family member, friend, colleague, or patient. Maternal and child health and wellbeing is a key measure of a healthy society. To advance equity and improve the health of our society, we must address these inequalities.

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### What can you do?

- Work to educate yourself and your colleagues about racial and ethnic disparities in your specialty.
  - Consider how your biases could be affecting the way you respond to patient concerns.
  - If you notice a difference in patient treatment or outcomes and need guidance on how to improve that disparity, reach out to the [Center for Health Equity Advancement](#) for project support.

### Read more:

- [Helping Black Families to Grow and Thrive](#)
  - [Healthy People 2030: Pregnancy and Childbirth](#)
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### Register for Events!

In celebration of Health Equity Week, visit the Health Equity Week website to view a [list of events](#) focused on advancing health equity through innovative solutions.