



## **Black Infant Mortality Awareness Walk:**

### *10 Facts to Know*

1. Infant mortality is the death of an infant before his or her first birthday<sup>1</sup>.
2. The infant mortality rate is an important marker of the overall health of a society. This rate is defined as the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births<sup>1</sup>.
3. The CDC reports that Black infants have a mortality rate 2.3 times higher than non-Hispanic white infants<sup>2</sup>.
4. The top 5 leading causes of death for Black infants are: low birthweight, congenital malformations, maternal complications, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and accidents (unintentional injuries<sup>2</sup>.
5. Overall trends in infant mortality have been declining in the US but the gap between Black and White infant mortality rates continues to grow<sup>3</sup>.
6. Racial/ethnic disparities in birth outcomes are markers or symptoms of larger social, economic, and political issues facing the US<sup>3</sup>.
7. Black mothers/birthing persons are twice as likely to receive late or no prenatal care as compared to non-Hispanic white mothers<sup>2</sup>.
8. Infants born to mothers/birthing persons who received no prenatal care are 3 times more likely to be born at low birth weight and 5 times more likely to die than those whose mothers received prenatal care<sup>4</sup>.
9. Offering more expansive choices in birthing options and prenatal care can lead to more positive birth experiences and healthy pregnancies<sup>5</sup>.
10. Disparities in maternal and infant mortality are rooted in racism<sup>5</sup>.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, September 10). Infant mortality. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
2. Ely, Danielle, and Anne Driscoll. "Infant Mortality Statistics from the 2018 Period: Linked Birth/Infant Death File." *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol. 69, no. 7, 16 July 2020.
3. Kirby, R. S. (2017, May). *The US black-white infant Mortality Gap: Marker of Deep inequities*. American journal of public health.
4. Healthy start. Maternal and Child Health Bureau. (2020, September 17).
5. Jamila Taylor, C. N. (2019, May 2). Eliminating racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality. Center for American Progress.