



Press Release

Uzazi Village Presents: 2021 Black Infant Mortality Awareness Walk *Nationwide Black Infant Mortality Awareness Walk*

For Immediate Release

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Kansas City, MO--Uzazi Village, a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating maternal and infant health inequity in Black and Brown communities, will host its seventh annual Black Infant Mortality Awareness Walk (BIMAW) on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

Participants will join this virtual event throughout the nation and convene to walk in solidarity to raise awareness for Black infant mortality. The walk is designed for participants to walk in their communities and maintain social distance while wearing BIMAW apparel to show support. Walkers may wish to walk around or near area hospitals to show support of this cause.

The purpose of the walk is to draw attention to staggering Black infant mortality rates around the country. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports the national Black infant mortality rate is 10.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, while the white infant mortality rate is 4.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

"Despite this being the eighth annual walk, very little has been done to increase the survival rate of black infants," says Hakima Payne, Chief Executive Officer of Uzazi Village. "Our African-American families are still more than twice as likely to lose their infants before their first birthday in comparison to their Caucasian counterparts. This walk is a chance for the community to come together and urge healthcare and government systems to address this disparity."

Uzazi Village was founded in 2012 to address health inequities in the maternity care system, specifically, as it impacts African-American families. Uzazi Village is home to the "Sister Doula" program, which provides pregnancy birth and postpartum support for childbearing families. The Ida Mae Patterson Center for Maternal and Infant Wellness which will serve local families with midwifery care, chiropractic care, mental health services and lactation care.

Join this year's Black Infant Mortality Awareness Walk by showing your support on social media channels using the #BIMAW and #BIMAW2021 hashtags.

For any additional information please contact Nia Casey at nia@uzazivillage.org. To register to participate in this year's Black Infant Mortality Awareness Walk, please visit, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-black-infant-awareness-mortality-walk-tickets-16899819314>.