

Second Annual Black Maternal Health Week – April 11-17, 2019.

Maternal mortality is rising in the United States. According to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) statistics the number of reported pregnancy-related deaths in the United States steadily increased from 7.2 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1987 to 18.0 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2014. Examining these statistics further shows disparities by race:

- 12.4 deaths per 100,000 live births for white women.
- 40.0 deaths per 100,000 live births for black women.
- 17.8 deaths per 100,000 live births for women of other races.

[Black Mamas Matter Alliance](#) is an organization founded in 2015 by activists, experts, and stakeholders concerned about Black women's health. Goals of the organization include: **Advancing care for Black mamas** by exploring, introducing, and enhancing holistic and comprehensive approaches to Black mamas' care; **Shifting the culture by** redirecting and reframing the conversation on Black maternal health; Amplifying the voices of Black mamas.

The campaign and activities for Black Maternal Health Week serve to amplify the voices of Black mamas and center the values and traditions of the reproductive and birth justice movements. Activities during BMHW are rooted in human rights, reproductive justice, and birth justice frameworks. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and themes to share throughout Black Maternal Health Week, April 11-17. Please [contact](#) the Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition if you have activities planned for this week that you would like to share.