LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH

MATERNAL, CHILD, AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH DIVISION



African American Infant & Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative (AAIMM)

Los Angeles City Health Commission

November 10, 2025

Today's Agenda

- The Crisis
- Our Response
- Programmatic Highlights
  - Community Action Teams
  - Fatherhood
  - Doulas
  - MotherBoard
  - Abundant Birth Guaranteed Income Pilot
  - Other AAIMM-Fueled Efforts of Note
  - Q & A



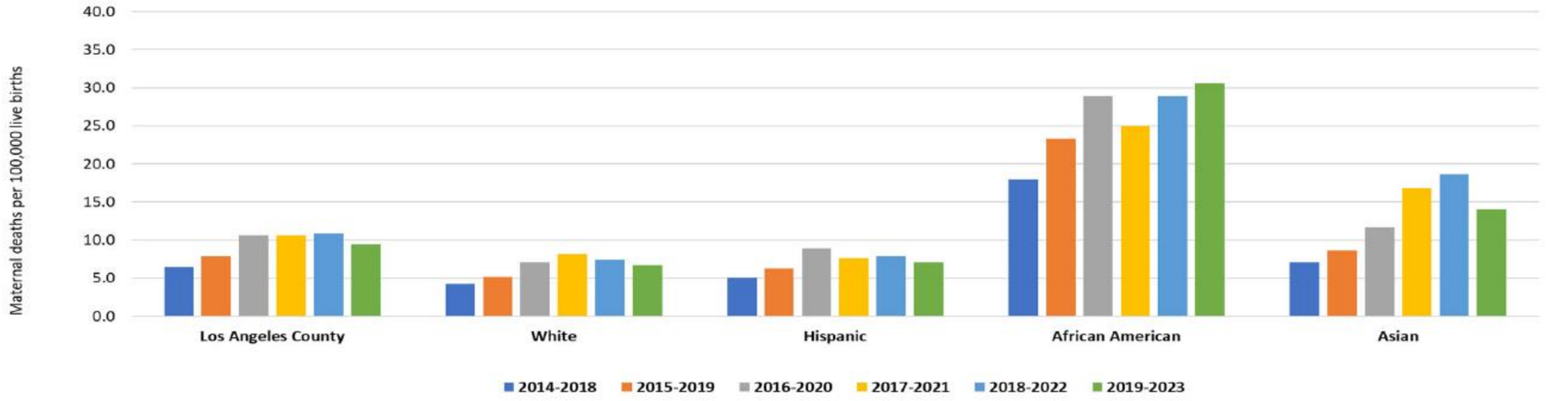
Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) and counts by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

	2021					2022					2023				
	LIVE BIRTHS	INFANT DEATHS	IMR	95 % CL		LIVE BIRTHS	INFANT DEATHS	IMR	95 % CL		LIVE BIRTHS	INFANT DEATHS	IMR	95 % CL	
White	21,065	71	3.4	2.6	4.2	20,124	53	2.6	1.9	3.3	19,385	50	2.6	1.9	3.3
Hispanic	52,502	210	4.0	3.5	4.5	53,070	212	4.0	3.5	4.5	50,272	215	4.3	3.7	4.8
African American	7,469	53	7.1	5.2	9.0	6,793	64	9.4	7.1	11.7	6,179	55	8.9	6.6	11.2
Asian	11,906	36	3.0	2.0	4.0	11,527	29	2.5	1.6	3.4	10,906	29	2.7	1.7	3.6
Los Angeles County	95,734	376	3.9	3.5	4.3	95,313	370	3.9	3.5	4.3	90,452	361	4.0	3.6	4.4

Notes: Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.

Data Sources: 2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth and Death Statistical Master Files. 2018-2023 Annual Birth & Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Maternal Mortality Ratio by Race/Ethnicity, Los Angeles County, 5-Year Moving Averages, 2014-2023



Note: Maternal deaths included to calculate MMR are defined by WHO as "the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes". Included in these deaths are ICD–10 codes A34, O00–O95, and O98–O99. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.
Prepared by: Analysis and chart provided by Division of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health
Data sources: California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Birth Statistical Master File, 2014 – 2017 & California Integrated Vital Records System, Births 2018-2019.
California Integrated Vital Records System, Deaths 2014-2019.
2020-2023 Annual Birth & Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data by Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.
More information on MMR and other measures of maternal death are available at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/Pages/Health-Topics/Maternal-Mortality.aspx

African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative (AAIMM)

Initiative description

We are a coalition of County departments, First 5 LA, community organizations, mental and health care providers, funders, and community members united to address the unacceptably high rates of Black infant and maternal deaths countywide and ensure healthy and joyous births for Black families in LA County.

Who we serve

Black women, birthing people, infants, fathers/partners, and families across Los Angeles County



Key Efforts

- Community trainings, events, giveaways
- Father support groups
- Culturally congruent clinical and wraparound care
- Guaranteed Income pilot program
- Policy and advocacy
- Birth Equity and individual/family-focused interventions and strategies
- Small grant awards
- Collaborations with CBOs/FBOs/small businesses, and more

Learn more - www.blackinfantsandfamilies.org

County of Los Angeles Public Health

AFRICAN AMERICAN INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY PREVENTION INITIATIVE
BlackInfantsAndFamilies.org

Initiative Values



RACISM IS THE ROOT CAUSE



BLACK WOMEN UP FRONT AND LEADING



FOSTERING EQUITY WHILE FIGHTING INEQUITY

FOR BLACK WOMEN OF ALL SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

ANTI-RACISM, ANTI-IMPLICIT BIAS



PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE

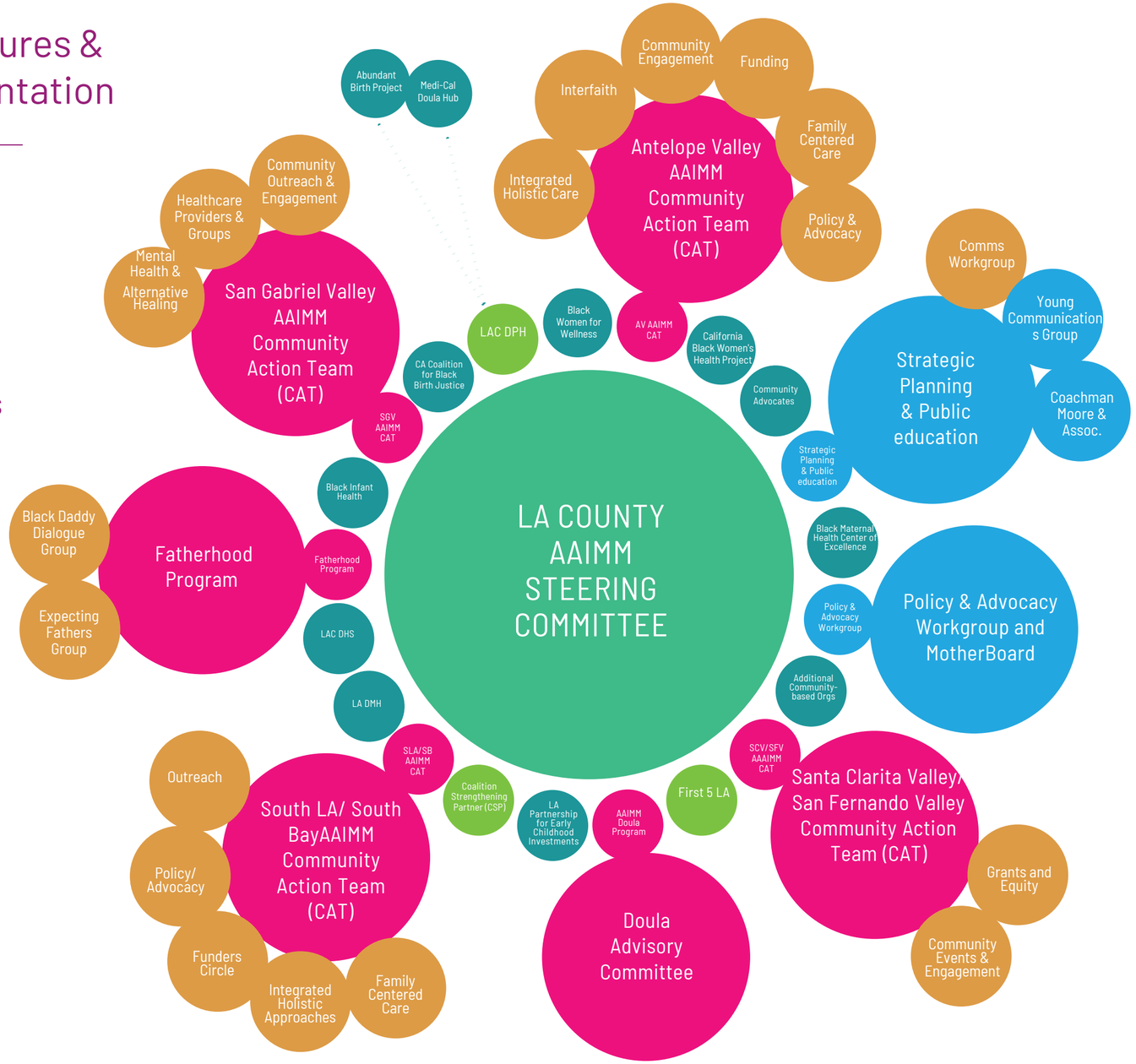


NO BLAME GAME

BIRTH OUTCOMES ARE A RESULT OF SYSTEMIC ISSUES, NOT AN INDIVIDUAL WOMAN'S CHOICES

LA County AAIMM Prevention Initiative Collaborative Structures & Steering Committee Representation

- AAIMM Management Team
- AAIMM Programs
- AAIMM Strategic Advisors
- Black Birth Equity Partners
- Workgroups



Updated 6.9.25

Community Action Teams



South LA/South Bay



Antelope Valley



San Gabriel Valley



Santa Clarita/San Fernando Valley

Join the Village

County of Los Angeles Public Health

AFRICAN AMERICAN INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY PREVENTION INITIATIVE

BlackInfantsAndFamilies.org



FATHERHOOD ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Join the Village

County of Los Angeles Public Health

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AAIMM Fatherhood Program

Central Strategies:

- Direct enrollment assistance and/or resource linkage for fathers who have birthing partners participating in AAIMM-related programs.
- Technical Assistance provided to agencies and organizations on being more father-friendly and improving their engagement and communication with fathers.
- Groups designed specifically for fathers of Black babies that provide education, support, and navigation tools for the prenatal, labor & delivery, postpartum, and parenting periods.

Fatherhood Ambassadors

- Black Infant & Health and African American Infant & Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative Collaboration

- Supportive network, offering peer-to-peer mentorship and sharing their personal insights and experiences with newly recruited fathers.

- Provide emotional support, practical guidance, and fosters positive parenting practices and emotional well-being.

- Expecting Fathers Group enrollment increased 220% during Fatherhood Ambassadors recruiting efforts.

- The six ambassadors rotated attendance, collectively providing a supportive presence at 51 events and trainings during their active time.

Assisted 64 fathers newly engaging with our Fatherhood program during the April- June 2025 timeframe.





AFRICAN AMERICAN INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY PREVENTION INITIATIVE
FATHERHOOD PROGRAM

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health



What is a doula?

A doula is a companion who provides health education, advocacy, and physical, emotional and non-medical support to pregnant and postpartum persons before, during and after childbirth (perinatal period), including support during miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDI-CAL DOULA HUB

DPH: Longstanding Champions of Doula Care

- AAIMM Doula Program since 2019, funded by CA Dept. of Public Health- Home Visitation Innovation Grant (**CHVP**) since 2021
- Expansion to Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) via Care First Community Investment (**CFCI**) in FY 22-23
- CalWORKs Home Visiting collaboration pilot and cross-referrals in FY 24-25 (**DPSS**)
- LA County Medi-Cal Doula Hub launched in February 2025



AAIMM Doula Program

Team of Black doulas with extensive experience funded to serve 200 clients countywide per year











- 3 Prenatal Visits
- Available to clients throughout pregnancy
- Support for any pregnancy outcome
- Labor & Birth Support
- Mental Health Screening & Referral
- 3 Postpartum Visits, regardless of pregnancy outcome

AFRICAN AMERICAN INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY PREVENTION INITIATIVE
DOULA PROGRAM

County of Los Angeles Public Health

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
MEDI-CAL DOULA HUB

What to Know About the new Medi-Cal Doula Benefit



- What services are available?*
  - Initial 90-minute visit.
  - Up to eight visits in any combination of prenatal and postpartum visits.
  - Support during labor and delivery, abortion, and miscarriage.
  - Two extended 3-hour postpartum visits.

- Services can be provided anywhere (i.e., telehealth, home, birth center, hospital, etc)

- Medi-Cal members who are pregnant or have been pregnant in the past year are eligible for doula services.

- Beneficiaries can find a doula by referencing the DHCS Doula Directory or contacting their health plan.

**These services are available through a DHCS-issued standing recommendation, no referral is needed. An additional 9 postpartum visits are available with a referral from a provider.*

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
MEDI-CAL DOULA HUB

MOTHERBOARD

A Black mother's lived experience advisory group to advance birth equity through policy and advocacy, leadership development, and power-sharing

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MOTHERBOARD ACTIVITIES

Collaborative Governance

Monthly advisory meetings with county and community leaders to engage in group decision-making, policy-making, and implementation of at least two policies/programs

Policy and Advocacy

Policy training and contribute to the development of the Annual AAIMM Policy & Advocacy Agenda

Community Outreach and Engagement

AAIMM Programs and activities (e.g., AAIMM CATs, Steering Committee, community events, etc.). Outreach, education and recruitment of Black residents into AAIMM-related programs.

Capacity building

Personal and professional development offerings.

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THE CALIFORNIA
Abundant
BIRTHPROJECT
The Nation's First Pregnancy
Guaranteed Income Program



Abundant Birth Project

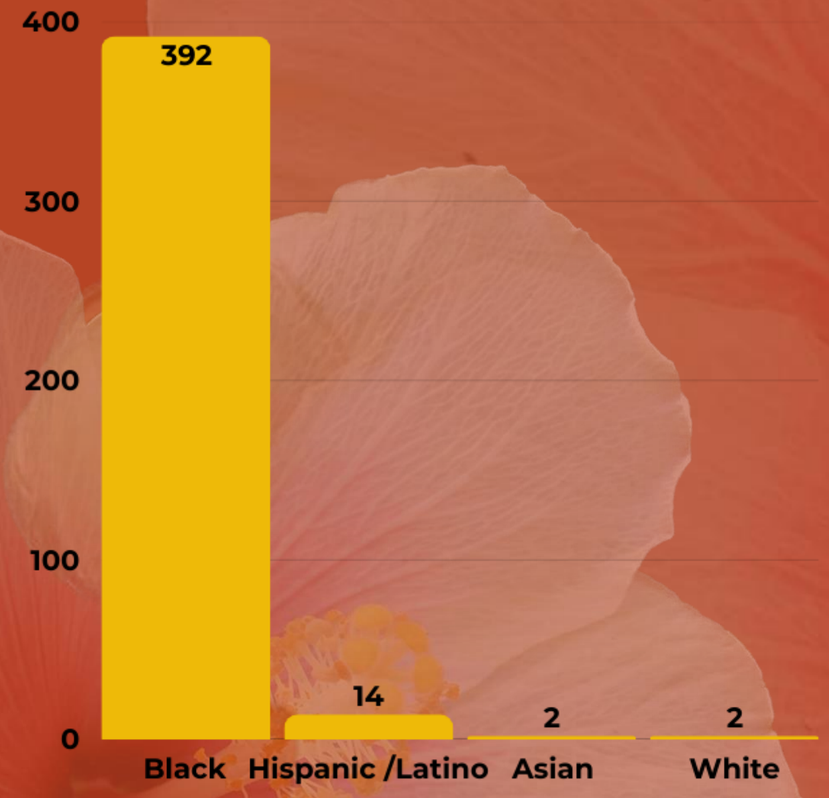
- Provides an Unconditional Guaranteed Income during pregnancy and postpartum

- Started with in San Francisco, now expanded to 4 other California counties:

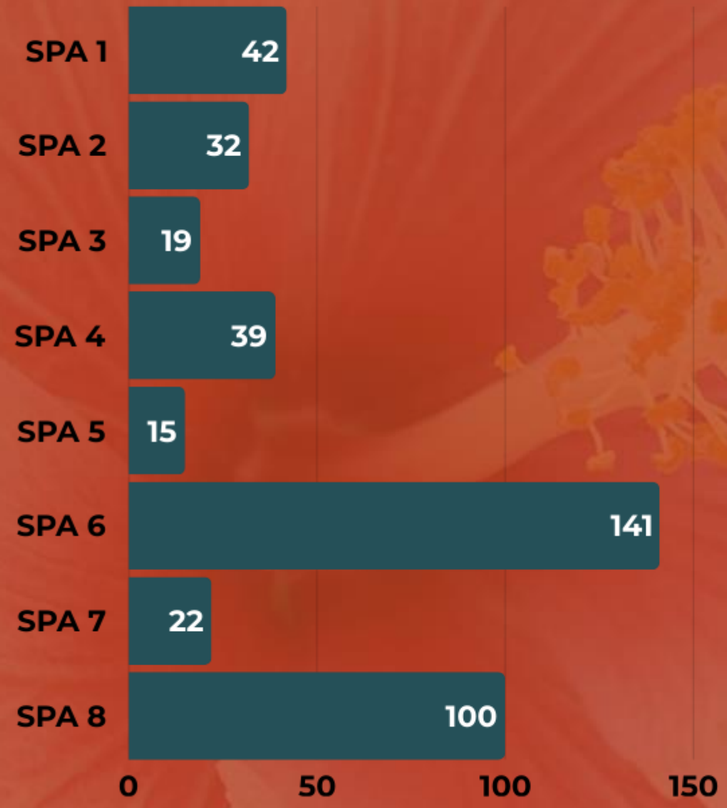
• Alameda	• Los Angeles
• Contra Costa	• Riverside

- Program provides 18 months of payments
- First of its kind in the US

LAC Participants



Race



SPA



Abundance Coaching

Other AAIMM-Fueled Efforts of Note

- AAIMM Village Fund
- AAIMM Communications
- Black Maternal Health Week
- Los Angeles County DPH Community Health Equity Improvement Plan
- UPCOMING: PROJECT 8000

DISCUSSION



AFRICAN AMERICAN INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY PREVENTION INITIATIVE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Public Health

Contact Us!

Melissa Franklin, EdD
Director, DPH MCAH
mfranklin@ph.lacounty.gov

Adjoa Jones, MBA
Birth Equity Unit Chief
ajones@ph.lacounty.gov

Helen O'Connor, MSPH, MA
Perinatal Innovation Unit Chief
hoconnor@ph.lacounty.gov

www.blackinfantsandfamilies.org
Instagram: blackinfantsandfamiliesla
Facebook: Black Infants and Families Los Angeles