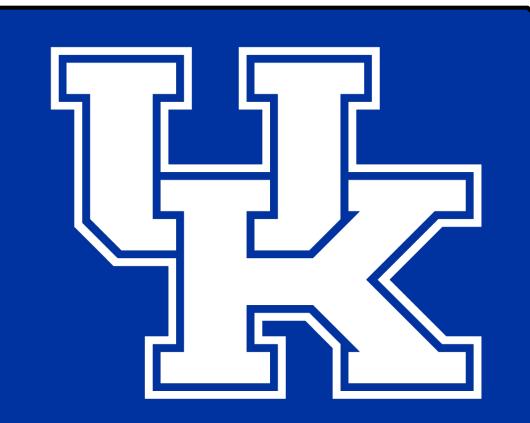
The Race of Health Workers As a Determinant of Black Women's Childbearing Experiences

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Introduction

- Maternal mortality rates (1,205 deaths in 2021) have been on the rise in the United States in recent years¹, with four in 5 deaths being preventable²
- Black women have the highest rate and are 3x more likely to die of **pregnancy** related issues as compared to white women.³
- Factors that contribute to the poor maternal health of black women include:
 - structural racism
 - implicit bias
 - poor quality in healthcare
 - mistrust of the healthcare industry^{3,4}
- Black women are also more likely to suffer from maternal morbidities or pregnancy-related illnesses as compared to their white counterparts.4
- Black women's historical and anecdotal experiences of medical experimentation, coercion, mistreatment continue to shape their engagement and satisfaction with medical care⁵

Potential Results

- Based on previous literature, we anticipate results to show that Black women experience several racialized pregnancy stigma and stereotypes requiring several coping strategies.⁵
- Literature related to the maternal health of Black women shows some implicit biases against the women. From this, we anticipate mothers to report some implicit biases they faced including assumptions of their socioeconomic status, marital status, and their pain tolerance because of their race.⁶
- Interventions recommended by studies on racialized pregnancy include training health care providers as well as social service providers on anti-bias and implicit bias. We foresee the study participants agreeing to this intervention as well as other programs geared to support their childbearing experiences including but not limited to⁵:

1. Support groups for **Black women who are** pregnant, or have given birth

2. Reproductive health facilities that are easily accessible

3. Better insurance coverage for reproductive health services

4. More Black medical professionals

5. Better education on pregnancy and perinatal care to encourage selfefficacy

We also anticipate Black mothers to also comparatively report better experiences including higher levels of satisfaction, perceived trust and empathy with Black health care providers because of racial and ethnic commonalities.³

Aims

Objectives of this study include to:

Overview of Recruitment Plans

Data Collection Plans

pregnant or have been through pregnancy.

to sign a consent form before the interview.

1. Overall childbearing experiences

2. Race/ethnicity of your health care worker

share a flyer with a QR code for an eligibility survey.

Participants will be compensated with \$50 gift cards.

- Identify/understand themes surrounding the experiences of Black women during maternity including prenatal, childbirth, and postpartum periods
- Identify experiences of common implicit biases by healthcare workers about Black women during maternity periods

Methods

We plan to recruit 10 Black women who are 18+ years old and are currently

Participants who are eligible for the study will then be contacted and asked

To ensure participants are in a comfortable space, we will offer interviews

3. Anything that could have been done better by your healthcare workers

5. Worries, complaints, and/or requests disregarded by your health workers

Accelerating discoveries to improve health™

6. (If ≥1 child) how childbearing experiences between your children differ

4. Anything you could have been done to make your experience better

online via Zoom or in-person in a conference room at a public library.

Questions the participants will be asked include the following areas:

Community partners around Lexington will be contacted by via email to

Understand methods of care preferred and requested from Black mothers to better their childbearing experience

Research Approach: Qualitative

Method:

In-depth interviews

Study Site:

In-Person / Zoom

Sample:

Black women aged 18-99 & have given birth

Thematic analysis

Data Analysis:

Next Steps

Next steps include:

- Outreach to and collaboration with potential community partners and organizations to aid in the recruitment of Black mothers for the study
- Conducting interviews with participants in their preferred locations
- Analyze collected data using thematic analysis to identify common themes amongst the experiences of participants
- Compile findings to compose an accurate report of the study

This study will contribute:

- Unique insights about the intersections of perceptions of healthcare providers' race/ethnicity with Black women's' lived experience of childbearing care
- To public discourse and interventions to address racialized pregnancy stigma in health care to improve maternal and infant outcomes for Black women

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