The Perinatal Equity Initiative, Rally Around Our Sisters, is an innovative pregnancy and parenting support program for Black/African American women in San Joaquin County and their partners. The program raises awareness of the health related inequities facing Black/African American women, leading to maternal and infant deaths.

The initiative supports and promotes unique wraparound services designed to complement the **Black Infant Health Program (BIH)**. BIH provides social support, case management services, and assistance with referrals for Black/African American pregnant and parenting women.

Passport to Fatherhood, is a program designed to guide and support fathers during pregnancy and beyond through life skills workshops, support groups, and individualized case management.

The SistaCoach Program, provides one on one support to pregnant and parenting Black/African American women in a culturally safe environment. Sistacoaches offer education, resources and on-going assistance during and after delivery up until the baby turns one year of age.

It takes a village to raise a child.

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO CHANGE OUTCOMES.

Let's rally around our sisters to make change happen!

San Joaquin County
Public Health Services
health grows here

PERINATAL EQUITY INITIATIVE
San Joaquin County
Public Health Services

420 S. Wilson Way • Stockton, CA 95205
(209) 468-3004
RallyAroundOurSisters.org

Rally Around Our Sisters

CREATING A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY FOR BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTHERS & THEIR BABIES

Recognize
the Problem

Here in San Joaquin County and across the U.S., Black/African American moms and babies are dying at an alarming rate, much more often than those from other ethnic groups. **It's unacceptable**.

A mother's experience during and after pregnancy affects their health and their baby's.

Factors that negatively impact survival rates for Black/African American mothers and babies include:

- Repeated incidents of racism
- Fewer financial resources
- Inadequate prenatal care
- Lack of proper nutrition
- Mental distress from personal and external sources
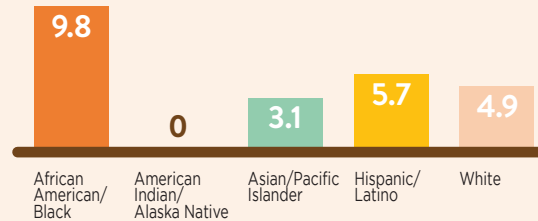- Substance abuse

It will take an all-out effort among moms, dads, family, friends, health professionals and **the whole community** to ensure healthy outcomes for Black/African American mothers and infants.

Source: Maternal and Infant Health Indicators and the 2019-2022 Community Health Needs Assessment for San Joaquin County
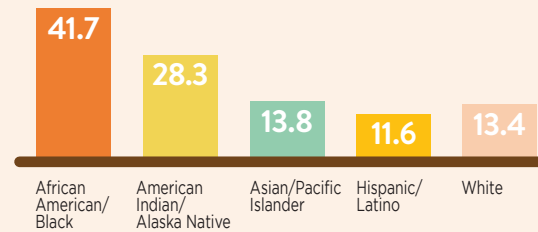
Understand
the Statistics

Black/African American infants die at two times the rate of White infants, and three times the rate of Asian infants.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births 2012-2016, San Joaquin County

African American/Black	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic/Latino	White
9.8	0	3.1	5.7	4.9

Black/African American women die from pregnancy-related causes more than three times the rate of White, Hispanic, and Asian women.

Rate per 100,000 of Maternal Death in the United States 2014-2017

African American/Black	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic/Latino	White
41.7	28.3	13.8	11.6	13.4

"A Black woman is 22 percent more likely to die from heart disease than a white woman, 71 percent more likely to perish from cervical cancer, and 243 percent more likely to die from pregnancy or childbirth-related causes."

- National Public Radio, 2017

Change
the Outcome

When we rally together, we make change together!

Please consider ways to support the Black/African American mothers in your life, and in your community:

- **FAMILY & FRIENDS** – Encourage moms to make and keep their doctor's appointments especially if they aren't feeling well. Offer your help in any way possible.
- **COMMUNITY** – Take time to ask questions and listen. Provide resources and offer support.
- **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS** – Be culturally sensitive when providing care, ask questions often, and avoid assumptions. Encourage mothers during their pregnancy and beyond.
- **DADS** – Be physically and emotionally present and engaged with your child to help them grow up healthy, happy, and successful.
- **MOMS** – Advocate for your baby and yourself. Listen to your body. Tap into the wisdom of your village.