36th National Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill  
Black Nurses: A Call for Transformative Health Equity Globally

Implications of Black Infant Mortality

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) serves as a national nursing body to influence legislation and policies that support comprehensive efforts to reduce infant mortality and its devasting effects. Medical neglect towards historically marginalized infants is a longstanding documented disparity that disproportionally impacts the Black community. NBNA calls on the 118th Congress to address infant mortality and its far-reaching effects as a urgent public health crisis.

Background

- The preterm birth rate is 52% higher among Black women than White women.¹,²,³
- Black mothers were twice as likely to receive late or no prenatal care compared to White mothers. ³,⁴
- The infant mortality rate for Black Americans is 2.4 times the rate for White Americans and has increased by 3% from 2021 to 2022.⁶,⁷
- Black infants are almost 4.0 times more likely to die from complications related to low birth weight compared to White infants and have 2.9 times the sudden infant death syndrome mortality rate.⁴
- Black Americans are more likely to be uninsured and are less likely to have Family Medical Leave Act benefits or utilize Maternity leave programs than White Americans.¹,³
- Receiving care from a Black health care provider can result in Improvements in mortality for Black infants.³
- Black infant mortality has serious implications for the health and well-being of all Americans.

Recommendations to Legislators

NBNA calls on the 118th Congress to

- **Support the Mothers and Newborn Success Act – S. 964** - establishes and expands various health programs to improve, and reduce racial, ethnic, and geographic disparities in maternal health outcomes.
- **Support the Nationally Enhancing the Well-being of Babies through Outreach and Research Now Act** or the “NEWBORN Act - S. 2978/H.R. 5789” - funds the establishment and implementation of infant mortality pilot programs in metropolitan areas with high rates of infant mortality in historically marginalized communities.
- **Support the Protecting Moms and Babies Against Climate Change Act. S.1601 / H. R. 3302** - establishes a grant program to protect mothers and babies from risks associated with climate change.
- **Support the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who Deliver Infants Early Act. H.R. 3226/ S. 1573** - reauthorizes through FY2028 and otherwise modifies research and education programs for preventing premature births.
• **Support the Healthy Moms and Babies Act S. 948 / H. R. 4605.** Establishes programs and requirements to support maternal and child health services under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Increases access to healthcare services in historically marginalized communities.

• **Support the Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act S. 2840.** Improves access and quality of primary health care and expands the health workforce.

• **Support the Improving Care and Access to Nurses Act S. 2418.** Allows non-physician health care providers to provide care and services under Medicare & Medicaid thus increasing access in historically marginalized communities.

• **Support the Perinatal Workforce Act H.R. 3523/ S. 1710 - Grows and diversifies the perinatal workforce (specifically).**

• **Support the Premature Infant Nutrition Act of 2024.** Mandates insurance reimbursement for human milk derived human milk fortifiers and other specialty human milk derived nutritional products for preterm and critically ill infants.

### References


