# Reimagining Black Maternal Health





# Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to define reproductive justice

Participants will explore how to apply justice frameworks into their medical institutions

Participants will challenge their assumptions related Black people with the capacity for pregnancy



#### Mindfulness

You are an expert in your own truth

Practice being present

Recognize intent, address impact



#### I Be Black Girl

I Be Black Girl (IBBG) is a reproductive justice organization that leads with boldness, innovation and inspiration, actively creating a radical change-making culture that centers Black women, femmes and girls.

Inspired by the work of bell hooks, Alice Walker, Audre Lorde and other Black feminist and womanist, our organization provides transformational change at the intersections of gender and race.



#### I Be Black Girl

I Be Black Girl serves as a collective for Black women, femmes and girls to actualize their full potential to authentically be, through autonomy, abundance and liberation.

#### **Areas of Work:**

Birth Justice Catalyst Advocacy Black Girls Lead



## Reproductive Rights

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# Centers the legal right to access sexual and reproductive health care services like abortion and birth control



### Reproductive Justice

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Links reproductive rights with the social, political and economic inequities at both a system and individual level, that affect one's ability to live wholly

(Adapted from Black Women's Health Imperative).

#### What Must Be Present

- Analyze and dismantle power systems
- Address intersecting systems of oppression and prioritizing race, class and gender
- Center and uplift the most impacted
- Join across issues and identities through a collective power building approach
- Understand the current climate
- Acknowledge the assumptions around this work

# What do we know about Black Maternal Health?



Black women experience "weathering," meaning our bodies experience physical harm due to exposure to chronic stress linked to socioeconomic inequities, discrimination and racism over the lifespan, making pregnancy riskier at an earlier age

#### Maternity Care Deserts

70.97%

34.9%

Infant Mortality Rates – Black or African-American

12.7

10.5

March of Dimes Report Card 2022 and Preterm Birth Rate

D Grade (10.8%)

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# **Group Activity**



## Example

- what are the systems at play
- who is most impacted and why
- what are the current assumptions

#### **Questions and Reflections**

# Continued Learning

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# CONNECT WITH US!

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