The Social & Psychological Impacts of Racism, Part II: A Policy Perspective

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January 26, 2017
Outline

✓ The Issue
✓ Racial Disparities
✓ Research Gaps
✓ Legislation
Prematurity and Infant Mortality

✧ More than half a million babies in the U.S. – or about 1 in every 8 – are born prematurely every year.

✧ Prematurity, a complex issues, is the “greatest risk factor for infant mortality”.
Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- African American women are one and a half more times more likely to deliver a preterm infant compared to white women.

- The infant mortality rate for black infants is more than twice that of white infants.
What the Science Says

- Complex host of factors interferes with health pregnancy outcomes and racial disparities.

- Disparities in the rates of preterm birth between African American and white women persist after attempts to adjust for socioeconomic differences.

- Psychological stress from living in poor neighborhoods create the same damaging chemicals in the body as infection.
Federal Legislation
SECTION 2: RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES AT CDC
• Conducts studies on the multi-factors related to preterm birth.
• Improves national data to track the burden of preterm birth.
• Develops methods to better understand and prevent late preterm births.
• Requires CDC to submit a report to Congress regarding the progress and results of the studies.

SECTION 3: RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES AT THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
• Adds prenatal care for high risk pregnancies to the HRSA telehealth network grant program.
• Reauthorizes HRSA health care provider education demonstration project aimed at improving preterm birth education and the treatment and outcomes for babies born preterm.
• Reauthorizes $1.9 million for each of fiscal years 2014 – 2018

SECTION 4: OTHER ACTIVITIES
• Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality: Strikes the HHS Interagency Coordinating Council on Prematurity and Low Birth Weight and authorizes the existing Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality to provide recommendations to the Secretary including:
  – Supporting strategies to increase healthy pregnancies and reduce preterm birth rates through research, programs and education.
  – Coordinating federal programs designed to reduce infant mortality.
  – Implementing the Healthy Start program and Healthy People 2020 infant mortality objectives.
  – Requiring the Advisory Committee to develop a plan for conducting and supporting research, education and programs on preterm birth within the first year after enactment.
• Patient Safety Studies and Report: Requires the Secretary to coordinate existing studies on hospital readmissions of preterm infants and to report on recommendations.
113th Congress

✧ S. 2853, Accelerating Action in Maternal and Child Health Act of 2014
✧ H.R. 4216, Maternal Health Accountability Act of 2014
✧ S. Res 258, A resolution expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month, 2013.
114th Congress

✧ S. 1911, Reach Every Mother and Child Act of 2015
✧ S. 2220/H.R. 2866, Healthy MOM Act
✧ S. 466/H.R. 4695, Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act of 2015
115th Congress

✧ H.R. 315, Improving Access to Maternity Care Act