

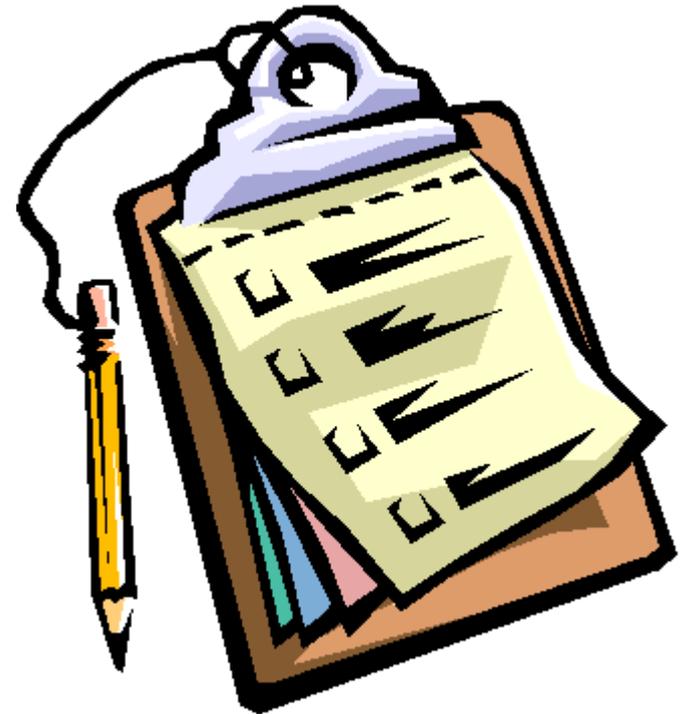


The Social & Psychological Impacts of Racism, Part II: A Policy Perspective

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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



PREEMIE Reauthorization ACT (PL 113-55)

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**