



Collaborative Partnership in Fresno County

February 12, 2026

CalViva Health and California Black Infant Health (BIH) Program

Presented By:

Meena Dhonchak, Sr. Quality Improvement Specialist

Announcement

- Everyone is muted upon joining and will be muted throughout the event.
- Please use the chat (if available) or Q&A tool to ask questions or to provide comments/feedback.
- Today's presentation can be found on the Provider Portal.

Agenda

1. CalViva Health W30-6+ Performance Improvement Project (PIP) and Activities Presentation – 10 minutes
2. California Black Infant Health Program's Presentation – 35 minutes
3. Q&A – 15 minutes

Performance Improvement Project and Activities

What is a Performance Improvement Project (PIP)?

- Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan (MCMCs) **are required** to conduct or participate in a minimum of two PIPs per year. DHCS provides guidance to each MCMC on topic selection.
- A PIP is a focused effort to improve specific administrative or clinical performance to improve access to and quality of MCMC Plan.
- PIP must utilize the outcome-focused improvement strategies and must be documented and submitted on forms/reports supplied by the Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)' external quality review organization (EQRO).

CalViva Health

Performance Improvement Project (PIP) Topic



- ❖ DHCS has assigned to CalViva Health (CVH) for the 2023-2026 Performance Improvement Project the topic of: **Infant Well Care Visits specifically focusing on improvements in the Black or African American population.**
- ❖ The HEDIS® measure is Well-Child Visits in the First 30 Months of Life – Well-Child Visits in the First 15 Months. Children who turned 15 months old during the measurement year: Six or more well-child visits (W30-6+). The population of focus is **Black or African American infants in the W30-6+ denominator** in Fresno County.

CalViva Health

Performance Improvement Project (PIP) Aim Statements

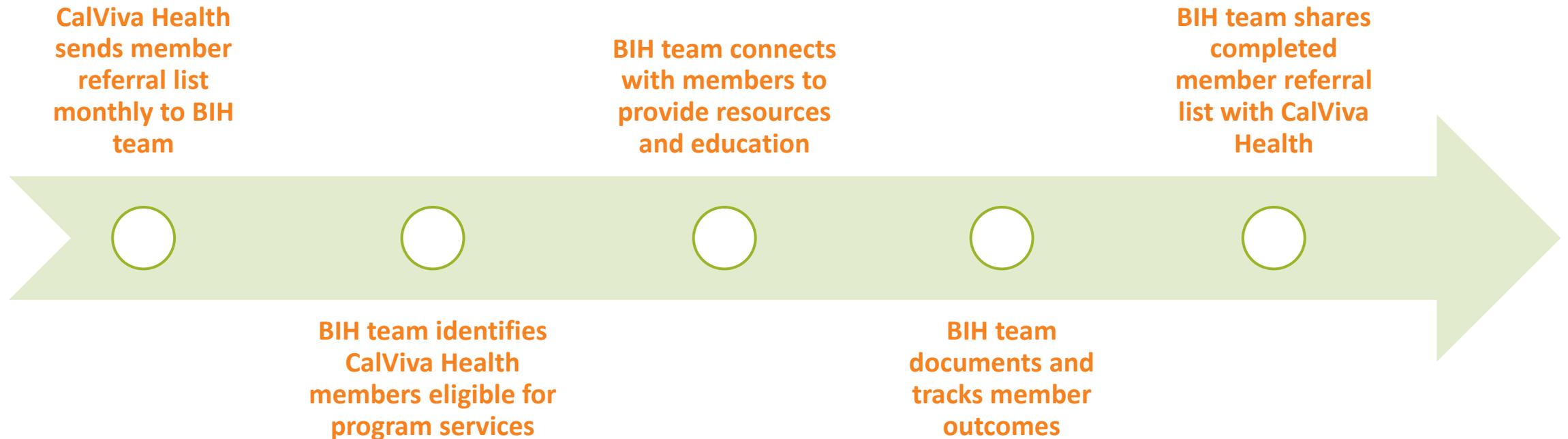
1. Do targeted interventions lead to statistically significant improvement in the percentage of Black or African American children 15 months of age in Fresno County that had six or more well-child visits during the remeasurement year.
2. Do targeted interventions lead to statistically significant improvement in the percentage of Black or African American children who complete three or more infant well-care visits within 120 days of life in Fresno County during the remeasurement year.

CalViva Health x California BIH Program PIP Collaboration



- 1. Refer and connect CalViva Health members to BIH programs and services**
 - Trusted partner to reach members and connect members with resources that meet their needs
 - Trusted partner to help CalViva Health continue building trust among the Black/African American community, to empower members to advocate for quality care, and to encourage member engagement and participation
- 2. Document and track member outcomes**
 - BIH prenatal and postpartum class attendance
 - Self-reported infant well-child visit provider appointments
 - Reach rates, program enrollment rates, member incentives distribution, etc.
- 3. Participate in the exchange of data and related information**
 - CalViva Health monthly member referrals to BIH
- 4. PIP Workgroup Meetings**
 - CalViva Health and BIH collaborative space to share findings, discuss barriers, highlight successes, etc.

CalViva Health x BIH Referral Process



CalViva Health x Black Infant Health Partnership Flyer

Download Link:

<https://calvivahealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/CVH-BIH-Partnership-Flyer-ENG.pdf>



BIH Helps CalViva Health Members and their Babies Live Healthier Lives

GET SUPPORT SERVICES AT NO COST

CalViva Health is happy to introduce our new community partner, California Black Infant Health (BIH). BIH has proudly served Black families for **more than 35 years** and is giving needed support to CalViva Health members at **no cost**. This partnership will help members make informed choices about how their baby can begin life healthy and strong. At the same time, BIH can empower members to live healthier lives.



Who can enroll

Members can enroll in BIH if they are:

- 1 Black or African American;
- 2 16 years old or older; and
- 3 Pregnant or gave birth in the past 6 months.

What BIH offers

California Black Infant Health (BIH) offers no-cost services that include:

- Group classes that help members make better health choices and lower stress.
- One on one support.
- Space to gather with other mothers and birthing people to discuss parenting and healthy relationships.
- Access to the BIH team who honor Black and African American history and culture.

How to enroll

As a CalViva Health partner, BIH will contact CalViva Health members who are eligible to enroll. Members will receive a text or call from BIH with more information.

Members can also self-enroll at the BIH website www.BlackInfantHealth.org. Or, scan the QR code here to complete an enrollment form.



Help us **share this message** with someone you know who is pregnant or just gave birth!



www.calvivahealth.org

Performance Improvement Project (PIP) Milestones and Accomplishments

Milestones and Accomplishments

- Since August 2024, CalViva Health has referred a total of 660 Black or African American pregnant and postpartum members to BIH Fresno.
 - 65 members were already enrolled in BIH
 - 595 members were outreached by BIH
 - 291 members were reached by BIH. Reach rate is 48.91%.
 - 56 new members enrolled in BIH. Enrollment rate is 19.24%.
 - 61 (27.48%) members self-reported completion of IWC visits.

Additional Resources



Implicit Bias Training

- On-demand online course developed by Dr. Sayida Peprah-Wilson
- Meets the requirements of California State Laws
 - AB-1407, AB-241, SB-464
- Register now by scanning the QR code or at:
<https://drsayida-uplifts.inc.mykajabi.com/offers/jADrx8iV/checkout>
- Available for all CalViva Health providers and clinic staff at no cost



**Strengthening Cultural Humility,
Dismantling Implicit Bias in the Healthcare Setting**
90-Minute Self-Paced Online Course

Health Net has partnered with Dr. Sayida Peprah-Wilson to provide an on-demand training on implicit bias with a focus on maternal health and perinatal health.

Course Overview

Studies have identified implicit bias as a contributor to disparities in the outcome of marginalized and minority communities. Mitigating implicit bias among providers has been identified as a strategy to improve client/patient-provider communication and service/treatment decisions, contributing to improved quality of care and outcomes.

This training will focus on increasing cultural conscientiousness, sensitivity and humility. It will also broaden participant's awareness of their own implicit biases (subtle, unconscious assumptions about others) and equip them with tools to engage with patients/clients, in more open, respectful and empathetic ways.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify implicit and explicit biases
- Define types of biases including confirmation bias, affinity bias and halo effect
- Describe principles of cultural humility and cultural safety
- Practice skills for cross-cultural communication

Course meets the requirements of California State Laws on implicit bias training

- AB-1407**
Requires nursing schools and programs to include implicit bias training as a core part of their curriculum.
- AB-241**
Requires implicit bias training for physicians and surgeons.
- SB-464**
Requires implicit bias training for perinatal care staff at hospitals.

Course also meets the implicit bias training requirements for California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Medi-Cal doula providers

REGISTER NOW



presented by
Dr. Sayida Peprah-Wilson
Psychologist, Doula, and
Founder of Diversity Uplifts, Inc.

DrSayidaUplifts.com

W30-6+ Resources

Children's Health Provider Quality Resources

https://www.healthnet.com/content/healthnet/en_us/providers/working-with-hn/hedis-measure-specifications.html

- Billing codes and best practices are included.

CalViva Health Wellness Programs

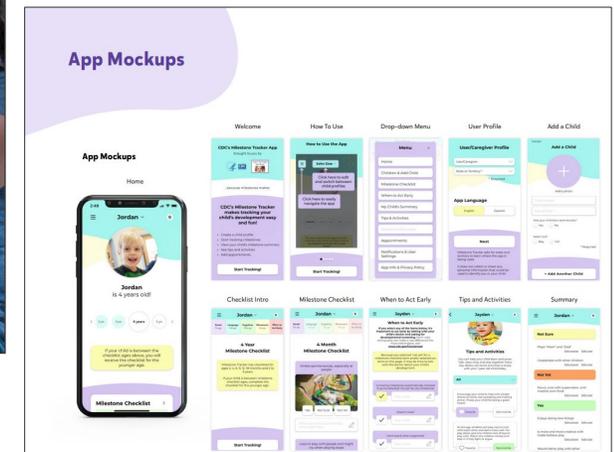
<https://www.calvivahealth.org/benefits/wellness-programs/>

ModivCare Transportation Services

<https://calvivahealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2025-CalViva-Transportation-Booklet-ENG-Remediated-4.24.25.pdf>

- **CDC Milestone Tracker App**

- Free to download on iOS and Android devices in English and Spanish
- Promotional toolkit (printable flyer, poster, web button, etc.) are available
- More information at [Milestone Tracker App](#)



Thank You!

Meena Dhonchak, MS-HCA
Sr. Quality Improvement Specialist
Quality Improvement Department, Medi-Cal
Meena.Dhonchak@healthnet.com

Fresno County Black Infant Health (BIH) Program



black infant health

Empowering Pregnant and Mothering Black Women

Fresno County Black Infant Health Program

BIH is

Love. Community.

Authenticity. Plug.



Presented By: Cherika Gamble, Health Education Specialist

Agenda

- Review Fresno County birth rates
- Social Determinants of health
- Health disparities between cultures
- Overview of the Black Infant Health Program
- Public Awareness Campaign



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Empowering Pregnant and Mothering Black Women

Statewide BIH Programs Are Funded By:

California Department of Public Health's Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Program (MCAH)

With support from local health jurisdictions administering the programs as well as other public and private agencies

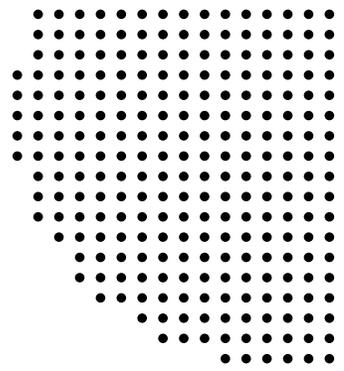


Did You Know?

- In California, the preterm birth rates among Black babies is 1.4 times higher than any other ethnic group and Fresno's preterm birth rate had no change from last year 10.0% (2025 March of Dimes Report Card).
- Black babies have higher rates of infant mortality, low birth weight, and prematurity than any other ethnic group.
- 1 in 7 Black infants in California are born too soon and small.
- Black babies are more than twice as likely as White babies to die before their first birthdays.
- Black women at all income levels and social statuses experience worse birth outcomes.
- Black women are three times more likely than White women to die of pregnancy-related complications.

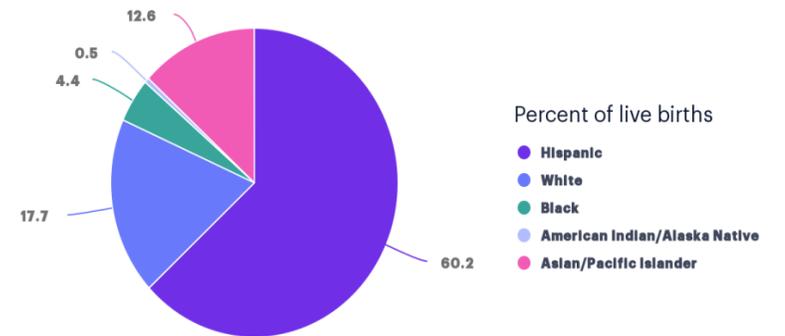
Fresno County Birth Data 2021-2023

- **Total births: 41,017**
- **Black African American births: 1,781**



PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Fresno county, 2021-2023 Average

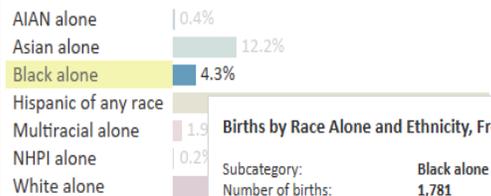


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All race categories exclude Hispanics. Percentages will not total 100 percent since missing ethnicity data are not shown. National Center for Health Statistics, final natality data. Retrieved September 9, 2025, from www.marchofdimes.org/peristats.

Births by Race Alone and Ethnicity, Fresno County, 2021-2023



Births by Race Alone and Ethnicity, Fresno County, 2021-2023

Subcategory: **Black alone**
 Number of births: **1,781**
 Number of total births: **41,017**
Percent: **4.3%**
 Lower 95% confidence limit: **4.1%**
 Upper 95% confidence limit: **4.5%**

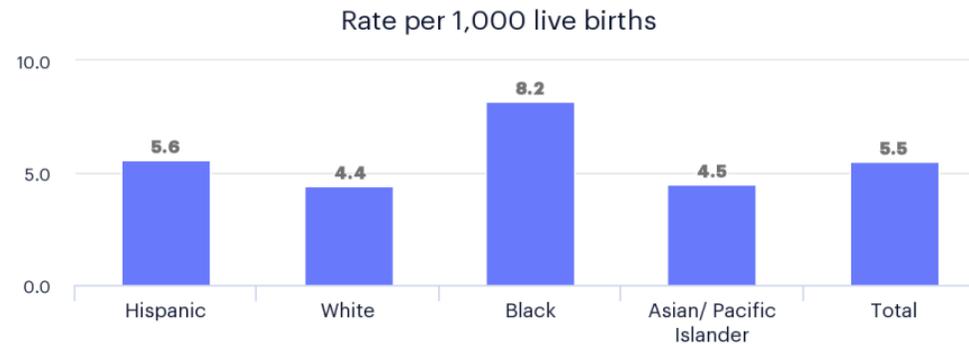
2011- 2012- 2013- 2014- 2015- 2016- 2017- 2018- 2019- 2020- 2021- 2022- 2023

Fresno County Infant Mortality Rate 2021-2023

- From 2021-2023, Blacks/African Americans had the highest infant mortality rate (8.2%)

INFANT MORTALITY RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Fresno county, 2021-2023 Average



Data only available for categories shown.

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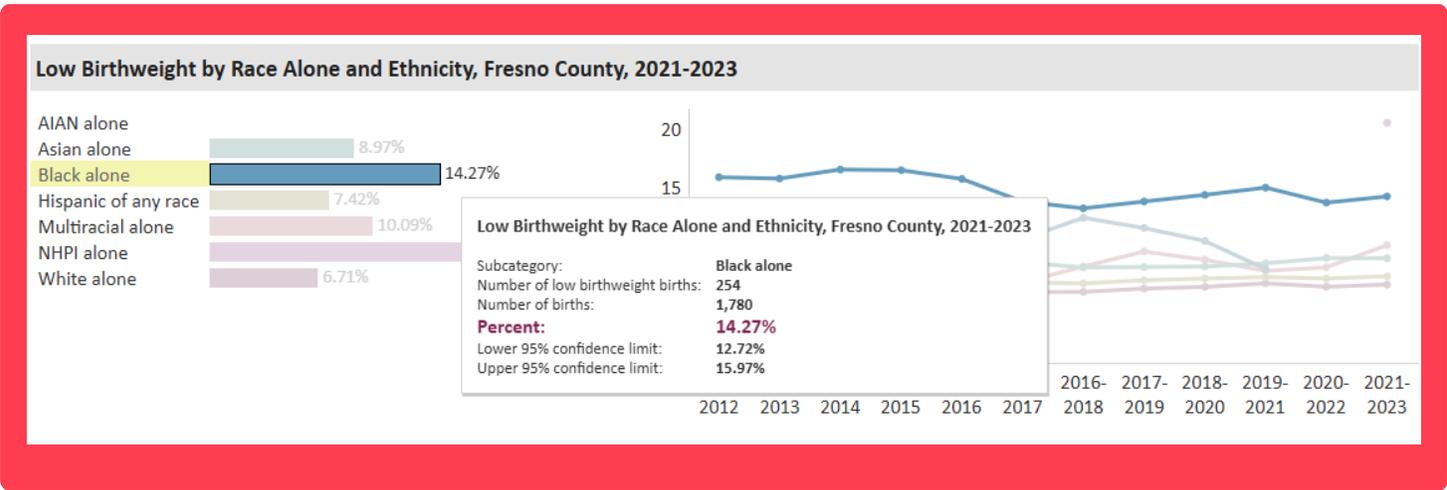


All race categories exclude Hispanics. An infant death occurs within the first year of life.

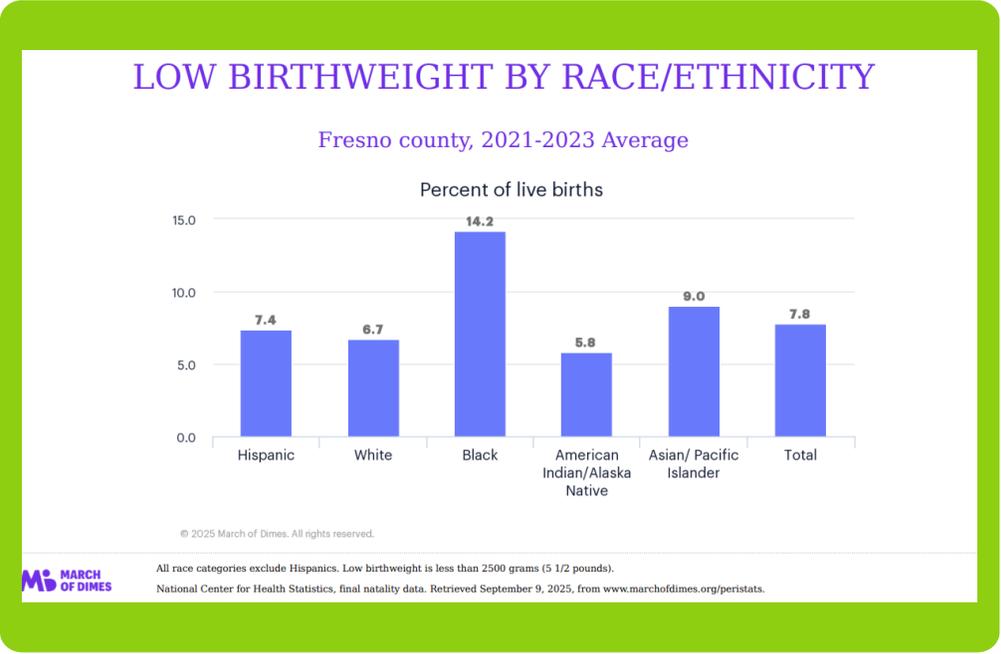
National Center for Health Statistics, period linked birth/infant death data. Retrieved September 9, 2025, from www.marchofdimes.org/peristats.

Fresno County Low Birthweight Rate 2021-2023

- From 2021-2023, Blacks/African Americans had the highest low birthweight rates in Fresno County (14.27%)



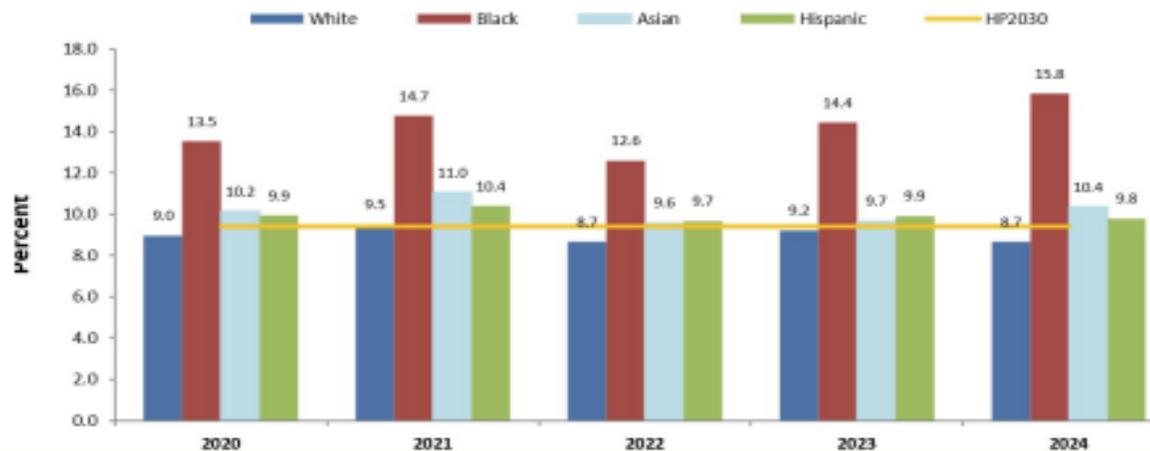
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Fresno County Preterm Birth Rate 2021-2024

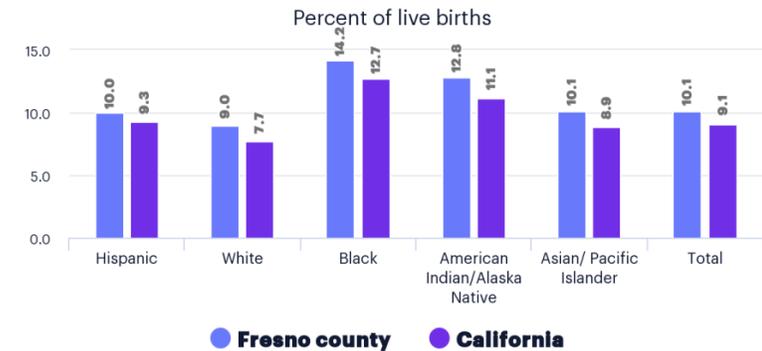
- From 2021-2023, Blacks/African Americans had the highest preterm birth rate (14.3%)
 - In 2024, Blacks/African Americans had the highest rate with a 15.8%

Figure 1. Preterm Birth Rate by Race/Ethnicity, County of Fresno



PRETERM BIRTH RATE BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Fresno county and California, 2021-2023 Average



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All race categories exclude Hispanics. Preterm is less than 37 weeks gestation. National Center for Health Statistics, final natality data. Retrieved September 8, 2025, from www.marchofdimes.org/peristats.

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

SDOH are influences in health that are nonmedical

- Education
- Income
- Housing
- Job security
- Early childhood development
- Access to healthcare



BIH and Life Course Perspective SDOH between cultures

Black/African American

Risk Factors

- Fear, Poverty, Poor Health

Lack of

- Love, Social Support, Trust, Culture, Wealth, Equity

Exposure to:

- Violence, Crime, Social Disorder
- Racism, Discrimination, Profiling

Limited Access to:

- Education/Literacy,
- Income/Wealth, Healthcare,
- Healthy Food, Safe Housing, Fair & Equal Judicial Representation



Other non-black white identifying

Protective Factors

- Love, Social Support, Good Health, Wealth, Equity, Privilege

Access to:

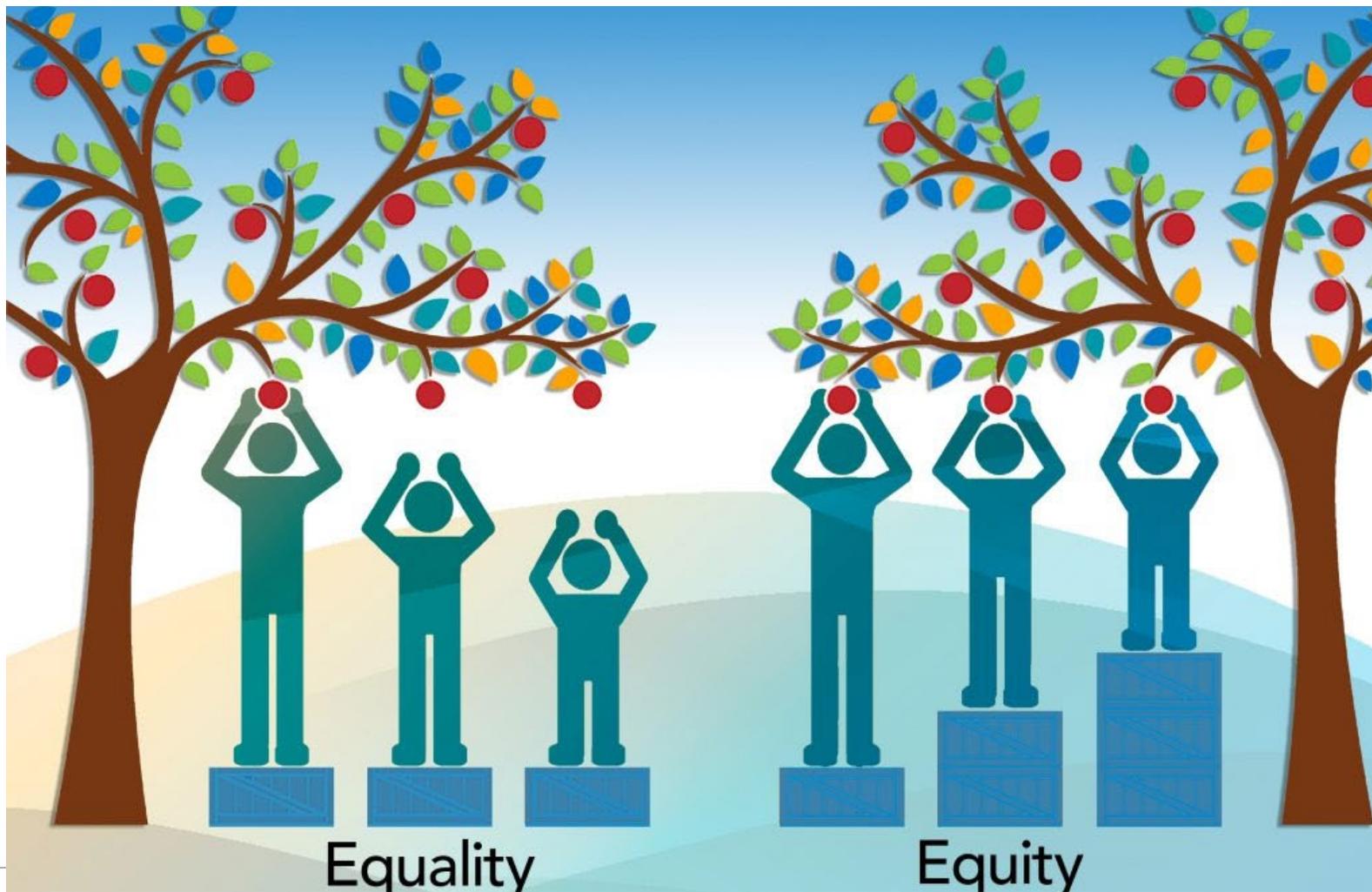
- Quality Education
- Income/Wealth, Safe Housing and Neighborhoods, Recreation, Leisure
- Healthcare, Community Resources
- Protection, Public Safety, Fair and Equal Judicial Representation



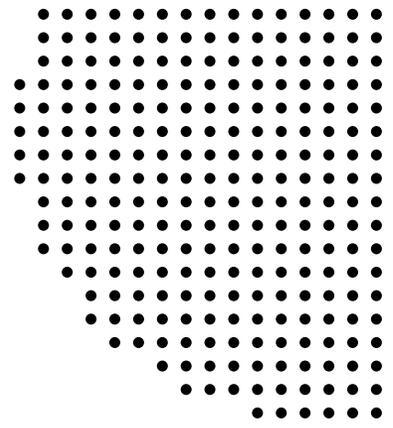
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Empowering Pregnant and Mothering Black Women

Health Equality Vs Health Equity



Why Black Infant Health?



- California's Black Infant Health (BIH) Program was developed in 1989 to provide prenatal and postpartum education, case management, and social support and empowerment activities as methods to improve Black birth outcomes.
- Black birth outcomes may be linked to chronic stress associated with social factors including a history of racial discrimination.

- 30 years of research has shown that increasing access to prenatal care is not “the cure” for Black infant and maternal mortality.
- The BIH model emphasizes social stressors over a woman's life-course as contributing factors when addressing adverse birth outcomes.





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Empowering Pregnant and Mothering Black Women

Our Mission

The California Black Infant Health (BIH) Program aims to improve health among Black mothers and babies by empowering pregnant and mothering Black women to make healthy choices for a brighter future.

Take Care of Your Health:

Reduce Stress - Life Coaching - Connect with Others

Program Eligibility

01

**Identify as a woman
or birthing individual
of Black/African
ancestry**

02

16 years age or older

03

**Pregnant or up to 6
months postpartum**

04

**Living in Fresno, Kings,
Madera or Tulare
County**

The BIH Program focuses exclusively on empowering Black women by connecting them with the care and support needed to promote healthy behaviors during pregnancy and continuing after her baby is born.

BIH Program Services

Intimate Group Sessions for Participants:

10 Prenatal sessions
10 Postpartum sessions

Healthy Meals served at each session

Resources:

diapers, wipes, food, books, etc.

1:1 Support: to help women set goals for the future health and family Support Referrals

Transportation Assistance:

To/from group sessions and all appointments for participants who live within Fresno County

Incentives: gift cards, BIH swag, etc.

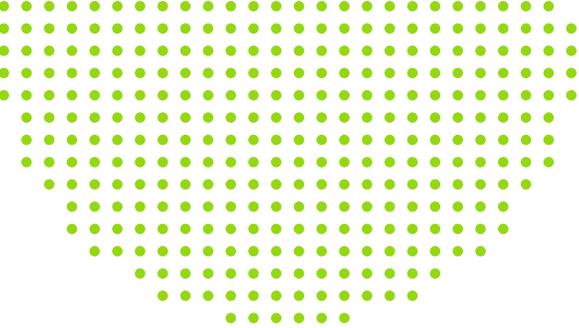
Case Management

Support Services from a **Public Health Nurse** and/or **Mental Health Professional**

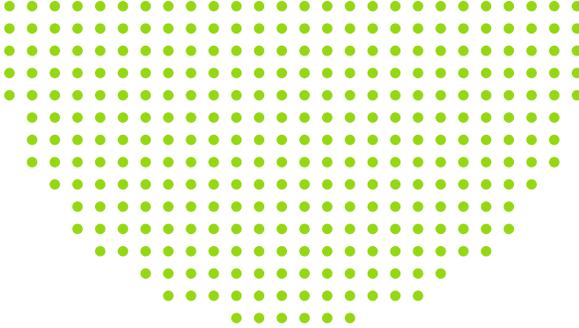


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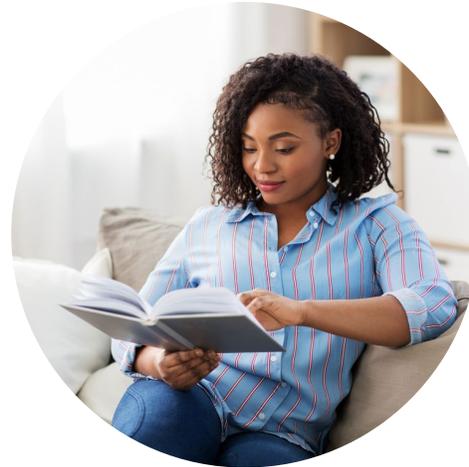
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BIH Group



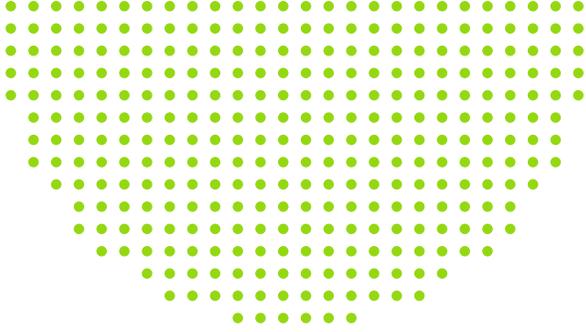
Weekly (2-hour) Group Sessions
10 prenatal +
10 postpartum



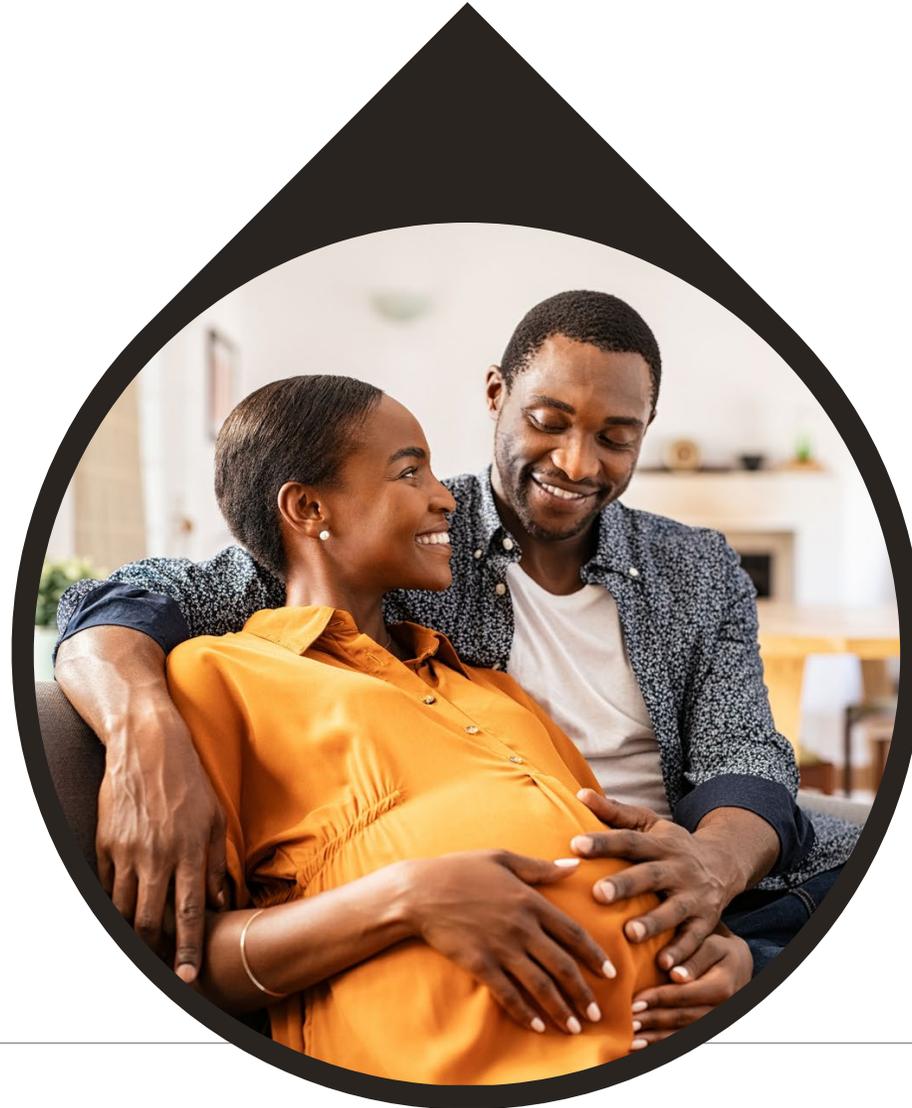
Participants receive handbook
and set a weekly goal



Participant Resource/Referral Services
Weekly Attendance Incentives (items for
mom and baby)

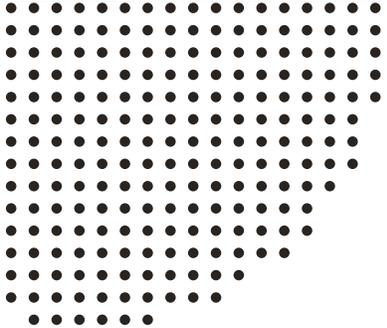


BIH Life Planning



- Monthly One-On-One meetings w/ Family Health Advocate
- Participant Life Plan Development
- Access to support services from a Public Health Nurse and/or Mental Health Professional
- Transportation Assistance

- Participant Data Collection
- Attendance Incentives
- Referrals to Health and Family Support Services (i.e., lactation, child passenger safety, DV/IPV resources, mental health counseling, social services, resources for partners and older children, etc.)



BIH Case Management



- Intake/Enrollment
- Weekly One-on-One Sessions w/Case Manager
- Individualized Case Plan Development



- Screenings to Assess Participant Needs
- Weekly Goal Setting
- Participant Data Collection



- Participant Resource/Referral Services
- Intake, Enrollment and Attendance Incentives



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BIH Recruitment/Incentive Events

- **Intersession Workshops** (self-care, healthy relationships, vision board party, etc.)

- **Program Graduation**
- **Distribution: Diaper, Baby Items, Gift Cards, PPE, Food Staples, Books, Clothing**

- **Holiday Meal/Gift**
- **Community Outreach Events** (Juneteenth, health fairs, back-to-school giveaways, etc.)

- **Partner w/ CalViva Health** (participants receive gift cards and celebration gift for attending/graduating group)



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BIH Public Awareness Campaign

Vision: To operationalize a statewide multi-media public awareness campaign, through the work of key media partners, to promote the following outcomes across Northern and Southern BIH sites:

- Increased Public Awareness of Black Maternal and Infant Health Disparities
- Increased Public Awareness of BIH Program Model and its Mission
- Increased Connections of Eligible Black Women to Statewide BIH Program Sites



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BIH Public Awareness Campaign

BIH Statewide Website:

www.blackinfanthealth.org

BIH Social Media

Facebook: Fresno Black Infant Health/Black Infant Health California

Instagram: blackinfanthealthca

Twitter: @blackinfant_ca

Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@blackinfanthealthcaliforni2470>

BIH Pregnancy App

Under development





Date of Referral:

Reason for Referral: Pregnancy Infant Child Black Infant Health Postpartum

Referral Source Information

Agency Name: Contact Person:

Address: Phone: Fax:

City/State: Zip: CPSP Providers? Yes No Reply requested? Yes No

Mother Information

Last Name: First Name: DOB: Phone:

Address: City: Zip:

Primary Language: Speaks English? Yes No Ethnicity: Hispanic Yes No Hmong Yes No

Race (check all that apply): American/Alaskan Indian White Asian Black/African American Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Unknown

If client is under 18, is parent aware of pregnancy? Yes No

Insurance: Unknown Presumptive Eligibility Private Insurance CCS Medi-Cal: Kaiser Anthem CalViva

| Medical History | Services Requested |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Medical Condition: Asthma/Diabetes/Prediabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Risk Pregnancy: Prior preterm birth, pre-eclampsia, or low birth weight | <input type="checkbox"/> Unstable Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension | <input type="checkbox"/> Linkage to Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Needs; Physical or Developmental | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maternal depression, anxiety, or other mental health challenge. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> | |

PNC: No Prenatal Care (0 to 3 visits) Late (>16 wks) Frequent missed Appointments High Risk Pregnancy

First Time Mother: Yes No Due Date: # of Pregnancies: # of Children Living:

Delivery Date: This client has been notified of this referral & gives consent to be contacted: Yes No

Infant/Child Information

Child's Last Name: Child's First Name: DOB: Sex: Male Female

Address: City: Zip:

Primary Language: Speaks English? Yes No Ethnicity: Hispanic Yes No Hmong Yes No

Race (check all that apply): American/Alaskan Indian White Asian Black/African American Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Unknown

Insurance: Unknown Presumptive Eligibility Private Insurance CCS Medi-Cal: Kaiser Anthem CalViva

Gestation: wks days Birth Weight: lbs. oz. Length: inches HC: cm

Primary Guardian/Caregiver Name: Phone: DOB:

Primary/Guardian Relationship (if not biological mom): Biological Father Grandparent Foster Other:

Additional Information (See Attached)

BIH Referral Information

Want to refer? The following information is needed:

Referral Date

Participant Information:

Participant Name

Date Of Birth

Home Address, Phone Number, E-mail

Due Date

If *already* had baby, their information

First Time Mom? - Yes or No

Reason for Referral: Black Infant Health

Referral Organization:

Contact Name & Phone #

Community Advisory Board (CAB)

The Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) and BIH CAB consists of a cross section of community leaders who give input and support for program activities and develop strategies to improve Black birth outcomes in our targeted area.

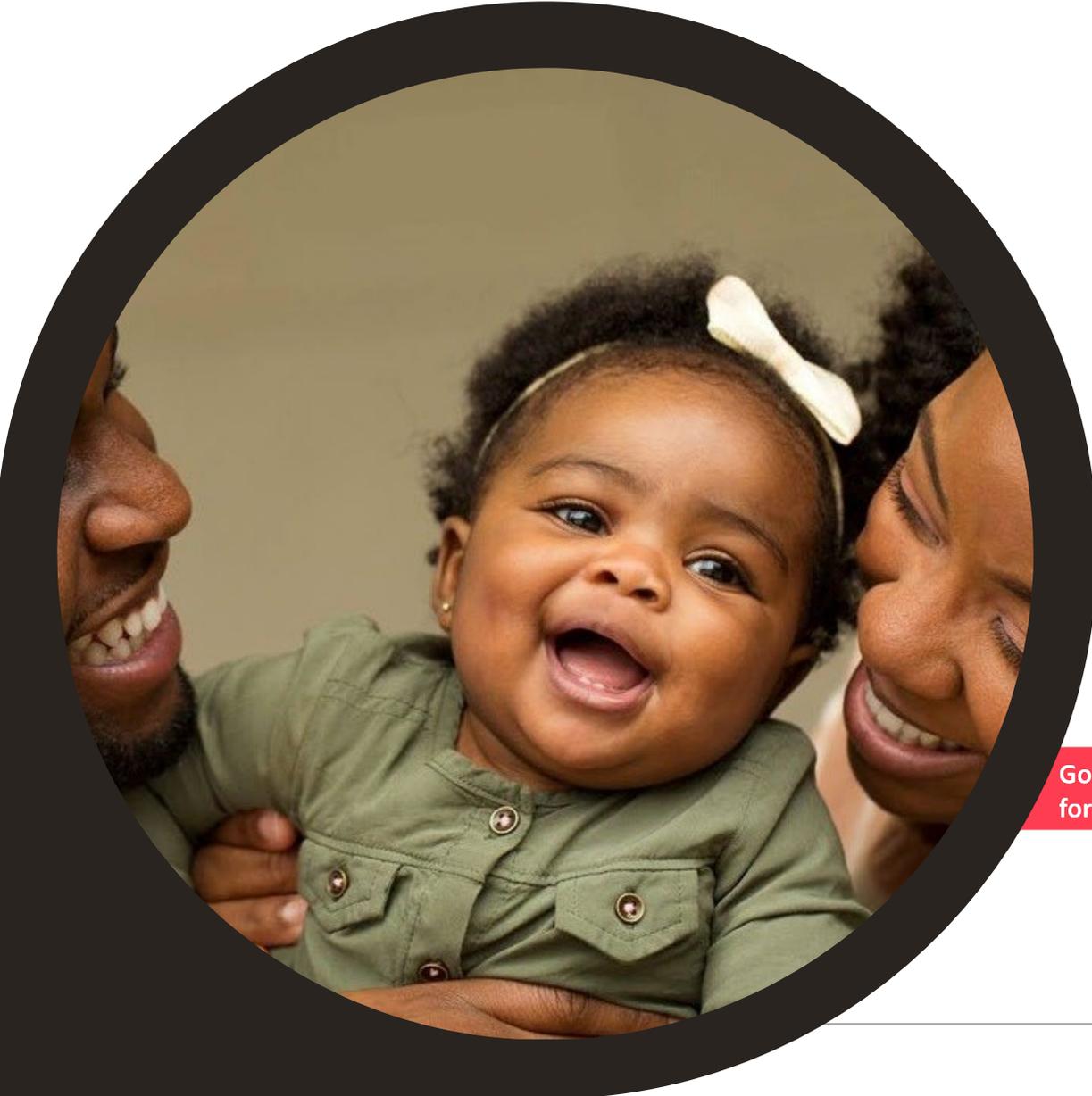
Advisory Board members also represent the interests of the larger community and seek to ensure that the services offered by the BIH Program are effective and responsive to community needs.

If you or someone you know is interested in working with PEI and the BIH Program, please give us a call.



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Our location!

West Fresno Regional Center
142 E. Cesar Chavez Blvd
Fresno, CA 93706

Contact us for more info and to enroll/refer:

Go to the link or scan QR code
for our referral form



(559) 600-1021
bih@fresnocountyca.gov
<https://qrco.de/beXsvu>

(Fill out the digital form and select Fresno as the BIH location near you and the BIH Community Outreach Liaison will contact you.)

Our BIH Fresno Team

Susie Rico-Vasquez | Program Coordinator

Janel Claybon | Public Health Nurse

Sheryl Brown-Bowden | Medical Social Worker

Denise Simone | Family Health Advocate/Group Facilitator

Cherika Gamble | Family Health Advocate/ Group
Facilitator

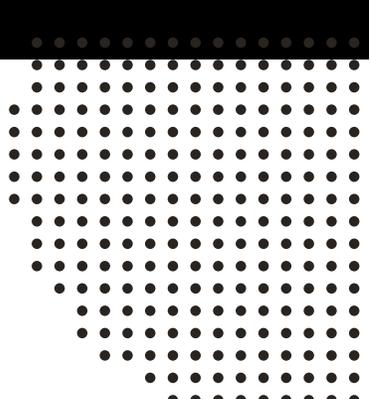
Zulema Garcia | Community Outreach Liaison

Mercury Mounsithirath | Data Lead



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Citation

**Social determinants of health. (2025, September 26). https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health#tab=tab_1
In-Text Citation: (Social Determinants of Health, 2025)**

Dashboards Home. (n.d.). <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/surveillance/Pages/default.aspx#backtoTop>

Black Infant Health – Empowering Pregnant and Mothering Black Women. (n.d.). <https://blackinfanthealth.org/>

CDC - Social Determinants of Health - STLT Gateway. (n.d.). <https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/sdoh/index.html>

Thank you!

