



HOPE and BWOPA Release New Report Examining Maternal Health Equity for Black Women and Latinas in California

SACRAMENTO, CA (April 17, 2025) – Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) and Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA-TILE) today released the *2025 California Equity in Maternal Health Report*, an innovative study that centers the voices of more than 800 Black women and Latinas across California on their maternal health experiences. This report builds on work initiated in 2023, when HOPE and BWOPA jointly explored mental healthcare equity for Black women and Latinas and continues the effort to elevate the lived experiences of two groups who face some of the most severe maternal health disparities in the state and nation.

While many studies have looked at maternal health disparities, few have examined the unique and overlapping challenges faced by Black women and Latinas side by side. By bringing these two communities together in the research, this report shines a light on the systemic inequities that impact them both and outlines solutions driven by their voices and priorities.

"This report is a call to action," said Helen Iris Torres, CEO of HOPE. "Black women and Latinas are telling us loud and clear that the system is not working for them. By investing in holistic, whole-family care, increasing representation in the maternal healthcare workforce, and advancing policies that support women and all individuals who can become pregnant—before, during, and after pregnancy—we will not only improve outcomes for Black women and Latinas, we will strengthen the health and wellbeing of entire communities and families."

"Maternal health inequities are not just statistics; they are lived realities deeply embedded in the everyday experiences of Black women and Latinas across California," said LaNiece Jones, State Executive Director of BWOPA-TILE. "Behind each data point is a mother, a family, and a story of navigating a healthcare system that too often fails to listen, support, or protect. This report is about giving those women a platform, amplifying their voices, and ensuring that their experiences drive long-overdue systemic change. We cannot continue to allow structural racism and cultural disregard to shape maternal health outcomes. It's time to honor the truth these women have shared and use it to transform care, policy, and practice for future generations."

Key findings from the report include:

- One in four Black women and Latinas find it difficult to access obstetric and gynecological care, and nearly one-third report difficulty accessing routine healthcare services.

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- A majority (57%) report experiencing unfair or adverse treatment during pregnancy or birth, yet nearly 60% do not know how to file a complaint when discrimination occurs.
- Confidence in California's birthing health systems is alarmingly low: 60% of respondents either don't know how often they can trust the system, say it can "never" be trusted, or only trust it "some of the time."
- Economic insecurity and health concerns weigh heavily in decisions about childbearing, with 74% citing these factors as part of their decision-making process.
- Depression (55%) and anxiety (43%) are common experiences during pregnancy and postpartum, yet nearly half did not receive mental health screening.

Black women and Latinas have a clear vision for how to advance equity in maternal health and address health disparities, including placing a priority on increasing the number of Black and Latina maternal care providers, expanding paid family leave, and investing in support services like mental health care, nutrition counseling, and childcare.

The *2025 California Equity in Maternal Health Report* is based on qualitative and quantitative research, including two online focus groups and an online survey of 800 Black women and Latinas between the ages of 18-49, conducted in September 2024 by EVITARUS, a public opinion research and strategic consulting firm. It is the latest effort in a multi-year project led by HOPE and BWOPA to address healthcare inequities for Black women and Latinas. The project is supported by Kaiser Permanente.

The full report is available at <http://latinas.org/maternalhealth>.

ABOUT HOPE: Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) - HOPE® is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to ensuring political and economic parity for Latinas through leadership development, advocacy, and education—strengthening all communities and advancing the status of women. For over 35 years, HOPE has worked to ensure Latinas are informed, equipped, and engaged in public life, highlighting the vital contributions Latinas make to their communities and to the nation. To date, HOPE's innovative programs have served over 65,000 Latinas and positively impacted thousands of individuals of all backgrounds through statewide and national advocacy that benefits society as a whole. Learn more at Latinas.org or follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [BlueSky](#).

ABOUT BWOPA-TILE: Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) mission is to activate, motivate, promote, support, and educate African-American women about the political process, encourage involvement, and to affirm our commitment to, and solving of, those problems affecting the African-American community. Committed to the recruitment, training and skills building, TILE provides programs to develop and incubate a generation of African-American women leaders, so that these women are represented at local and national decision-making tables. Learn more at www.bwopatitleads.org.

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Lorena Alamillo, HOPE
(626) 224-0778
lorena@vpepr.com

LaNiece Jones, BWOPA
(510) 568-5563
LaNiece@lajonesmedia.com