



# EXPLORING FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO RACIAL DISPARITIES IN MATERNAL

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## HEALTH

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### Background

Black maternal mortality is a major issue in the United States that needs to be addressed. Although 60% of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable, the rates at which maternal deaths occur continue to rise, especially for Black women (Building U.S. Capacity to Review and Prevent Maternal Deaths, 2018). In recent years, the maternal mortality rate for Black women has been around three times the rate for White women (Hoyert, 2021). According to some research, this may be because people believe Black people are biologically different and can handle pain on a higher level, or because certain healthcare professionals lack empathy (Hoffman, 2016; Drwecki, 2011). This study will explore the influence of implicit bias on pain ratings for Black women and people's thoughts about Black maternal mortality.

### Hypothesis

It is hypothesized that participants who read a scenario of a Black female giving birth will report lower pain sensitivity scores and rate her as being less than human as compared to participants who read a scenario about a White female giving birth.

### Methods

- Participants: 500 participants from Amazon MTurk
- Measures:
  - o Beliefs about Biological Differences Between Blacks and Whites
  - o Toronto Empathy Questionnaire
  - o Social Dominance Orientation
  - o The Humanity Inventory
- Procedure: Participants answered the scales via Qualtrics
- Data Analysis: SPSS

### Results

To be added

### Discussion

To be added

### Main Findings

To be added

### References

Building U.S. Capacity to Review and Prevent Maternal Deaths. (2018). Report from nine maternal mortality review committees. Retrieved from [http://reviewtoaction.org/Report\\_from\\_Nine\\_MMRCs](http://reviewtoaction.org/Report_from_Nine_MMRCs)

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