



Center for

**Black**

Maternal Health  
& Reproductive Justice

TUFTS UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Annual Report **2023**



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# INTRODUCTION



# Letter From Leadership

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride for the strides we have collectively made in advancing Black maternal health issues, and bringing it mainstream. In the spirit of leveraging our collective power, I am thrilled to present the Annual Report for 2023—a testament to the dedication and unwavering commitment of our community.

This year has been marked by our participation and work in impactful initiatives and programs. From community outreach to research advancements, every endeavor has been a step towards a healthier, more equitable future for black mothers.

Crowning achievements, which you'll read more about in this report, include receipt of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Maternal Health Equity Grant, publishing several research papers on Maternal health outcomes, participation in the NAACP National Convention, and the creation of the MIRAH Fellowship which is aimed at increasing and sustaining the representation of Black and Brown students of color, and growing the number of public health, nursing, medicine, midwifery, and policy researchers, scholar-activists, and future leaders.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: The work of addressing inequities in maternal health is complicated yet so simple! It's complicated because we are grappling with implicit biases within the health system. It's simple because when we center Black women, all women win.

Looking forward, as we usher in a new year, the possibilities are limitless. Our achievements this year fuel our determination to do even more. Let us carry the momentum of 2023 into the future, united in our mission, and driven by the conviction that every mother deserves the opportunity to experience a safe and joyful pregnancy.

I extend my deepest gratitude to every member of our community—your passion, dedication, and tireless efforts are the driving force behind our success. Together, we are making a difference, and together, we will continue to champion the cause of equitable black maternal health and reproductive justice.

I hope that this impact report inspires you, our incredible supporters, to continue this journey with us, because it wouldn't be possible without you. We look forward to charging into the future together, working to ensure every pregnancy is met with compassion, quality care, and the assurance that every mother's journey is valued.

With gratitude,

*Nbidi Umatah*



## Our Vision

Protect the Black birthing experience by advocating for quality, equitable, and respectful care in childbirth. The center seeks to create a world where Black women can safely, efficiently, and comfortably receive equitable access to healthcare services without having to navigate through racism and/or discrimination in medical settings. The CBMHRJ envisions that the interdisciplinary research center will be integrated with faculty from all Tufts schools.

## Our Mission

The main goal of the center is to foster maternal health research at Tufts University School of Medicine, with a particular focus on improving the health of Black birthing persons and their babies by reducing maternal health disparities.

*“If not us,  
then who?  
  
If not now,  
then when?”*



# Unit Leads

## THE INCREDIBLE PEOPLE BEHIND OUR CENTER UNITS

Each unit is led by internal members acting as Unit Leads at Tufts University



**NINA ASHFORD**  
**DRPH, MPH**  
Maternal and Child Health Policy  
Unit Lead



**LINDA HUDSON**  
**SCD, MSPH, SCM**  
Community Engaged Research  
Unit Lead



**SUNDE DANIELS**  
**MBA**  
Education & Training Unit Lead  
& Center Manager



**SHIKHAR SHRESTHA**  
**PHD**  
Maternal and Child Health  
Epidemiological Data Unit Lead



**CANDACE STEWART**  
**MPH**  
MOTHER Lab  
Unit Lead

# Center Unit Overviews

## MOTHER Lab

The MOTHERLab unit embraces professionals, clinicians, local community members, students, faculty, and other stakeholders with interest in reducing maternal health disparities experienced by Black birthing people. This unit works as one unit for early career MCH scholars while also providing support for the center units.

## Community Engaged Research Unit

The Community Engaged Research Unit supports collaborative partnerships within the community to ensure optimal maternal health outcomes. These collaborative partnerships include birthing families, doulas, hospital staff, healthcare professionals, and other academics from research institutions whose interests align with the Center.

## Epidemiology and Data Synthesis Unit

The Epidemiology and Data Synthesis Unit focuses on operationalizing the skill-building objective through an initial springboard grant application for educational activities within The Center. The unit researches birth outcomes using a nationally representative database.

## Research Development and Grants Unit

The Research Development and Grants Unit focuses on research and development strategies by prioritizing research agendas, grants and scientific developments for all units within the organization.

## Maternal and Child Health Policy Unit

The Maternal and Child Health Policy Unit encourages the evaluation of Maternal and Child Health Laws and policies to challenge and eradicate health disparities in Black Maternal Healthcare. This unit aims to analyze policy initiative and annually propose new policies that support Black birthing during pre-birth, birth, and postpartum periods. This unit also builds and maintains alliances with strategic health policy leaders at local, state, and national levels.

## Education & Training Unit

The Education and Training unit serves as a workforce training experience for students, public health professionals, doulas, and clinicians with a passion for addressing inequities in Black Maternal Health. The primary focus is facilitating education and training on diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism for developing health practitioners and students. This unit is also responsible for establishing a general course on antiracism, medicine, and more specific content on maternal health that centers around methods of addressing racism in healthcare and the impact of maternal health disparities on reproductive health across the lifespan.



# Meet Our Core Team



**JUDITH JEANTY  
MPH**

Event Coordinator/  
Project Manager



**ALYSHA NOEL**

Senior Administrative  
Coordinator



**JENNIFER CHAPPLE  
INGRAM**

Communications  
Specialist



**FARIDA N. YADA  
PHD, MPH**

Research  
Assistant

A large, vertical background image on the right side of the page. It shows a close-up of a Black woman with curly hair looking down at a young child with curly hair. The image has a purple and blue color overlay.

# CENTER HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS



# Maternal and Child Health Policy Unit



Co-sponsorship of Birth Equity and Justice Massachusetts, a statewide coalition advocating for maternal health issues and policy. The organization started in 2020 as the Massachusetts COVID-19 Maternal Equity Coalition, a group of leading health experts making policy recommendations to then-Governor Charlie Baker about how to protect pregnant and postpartum people during the pandemic.



Developed and presented testimony at the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public Health regarding S.1415, An Act Relative to Birthing Justice in the Commonwealth, sponsored by Senator Liz Miranda.



Reviewed the Massachusetts Address Confidentiality Program Relations.

Reviewed and provided feedback/ recommendations for Senator Markey's Green New Deal for Health Legislation (federal level).

Submitted language for the Fatherhood Commission for S.1415 AN Act relative to birthing justice in the Commonwealth, also known as the Momnibus. Enhanced legislated language in the act to support Incarcerated mothers.

Convenings and meetings with stakeholders including the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, Baystate Birth Collaborative, Boston Mayor's Office of Women's Health, City Council-At-Large Kristen Strezo, and Senator Liz Miranda's Office.



# Epidemiology and Data Synthesis Unit



The Epidemiology and Data Synthesis Unit focused on publishing several research papers on maternal health outcomes.

## Published

Investigating Maternal Stress, Depression, and Breastfeeding: A Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (2016–2019) Analysis. Healthcare 2023, 11, 1691. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare11121691>

Dhaurali, S.; Dugat, V.; Whittler, T.; Shrestha, S.; Kiani, M.; Ruiz, M.G.; Ali, I.; Enge, C.; Amutah-Onukagha, N.

## Currently Under Review/Revision

Psychosocial Stressors and Postpartum Depressive Symptoms are Linked to Postpartum Contraceptive Use

## Under Preparation

The Role of Nurses, Midwives, and Doulas on Breastfeeding Education and Rates: Changes During the COVID-19 Pandemic. For submission to The Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing

## Abstract and Poster Presentation

Podium Presentation at The American Public Health Association (APHA) - Session 4147: Reproductive health is maternal health: Investigating the association of maternal stress and depression with postpartum contraception use - Shubhecchha Dhaurali, Dr. Andrea Acevedo, Dr. Leah Abrams, & Dr. Shikhar Shrestha





# Community Engagement and Research Unit

Presentation at the National NAACP Annual Convention in the panel on Racial Disparities in Black Maternal Health, designed to promote engagement in developing leadership among young scholars and program directors in addressing the epidemic of death and disability being experienced among black women in the United States.



Presentation and panel discussion on “Centering the Margins: Fight for Reproductive Justice and Body Sovereignty”, co-sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Included social justice and reproductive rights organizations with representatives from Fenway Health (Boston), Indigenous Women Rising (New Mexico), and local activists.

Co-developed the Greater Boston Birth Equity Coalition designed to promote equitable maternal health in Greater Boston.



The unit has begun the active recruitment of members to the Community Advisory Board for the Center consisting of maternal health program leaders, members of the birthing workforce, birthing people, and providers.

# The Center—Growing as an Organization

The Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice hosted a 3-part internal retreat and strategic planning session. Participants engaged in team-building exercises and gained a deeper understanding of their roles and how they fit into the Center’s mission, vision, and values. They also developed individual and unit goals and strategies.



## Outcomes

The creation of new Strategic Goals and Revamped Mission/Vision/Purpose Statements— to be released and branded in 2024.



## March of Dimes 2023 Humanitarian of the Year

Each year, March of Dimes honors members of the community who show an exceptional commitment to the health of all moms, birthing persons, and babies with our Franklin Delano Roosevelt Humanitarian Award. This year’s honoree, Dr. Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha, is a powerhouse in the field of Black Maternal Health and a fierce advocate for the March of Dimes.





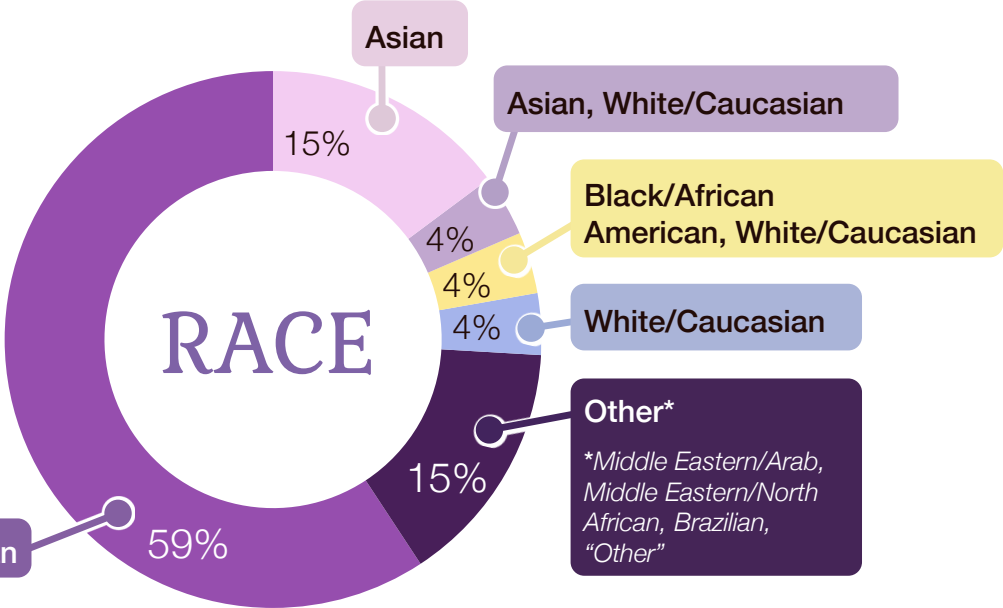
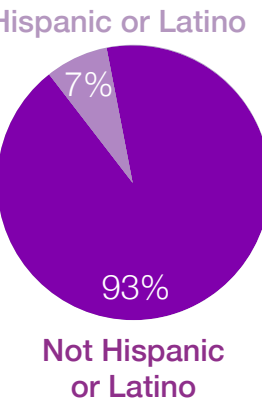


# MOTHER Lab Unit

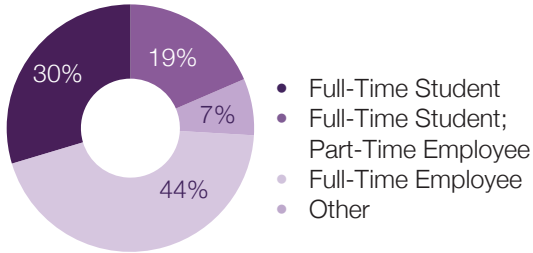
MOTHER Lab houses a culturally diverse, experienced group of fellows, students, alumni, and volunteers. The goal of the unit is to address and eradicate inequities that Black women face through research, advocacy, and mentorship.

## MOTHER Lab Student Demographics

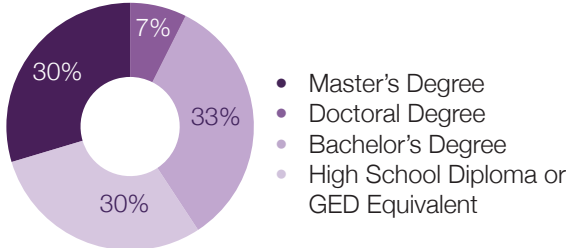
### ETHNICITY



### STUDENT STATUS



### HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION



The MOTHERLab unit published several research papers on maternal health outcomes, including:



### Investigating the Role of Race and Stressful Life Events on the Smoking Patterns of Pregnant and Postpartum Women in the United States: A Multistate Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System Phase 8 (2016-2018) Analysis

*Maternal and Child Health Journal, December 2023*

Authors: Rauta Aver Yakubu, Kobi V Ajayi, Shubhecchha Dhaurali, Keri Carvalho, Anna Kheyfets, Blessing Chidiuto Lawrence, Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha



### The Impact of Hostile Abortion Legislation on the United States Maternal Mortality Crisis: A Call for Increased Abortion Education

*Frontiers in Public Health, December 2023*

Authors: Anna Kheyfets, Shubhecchha Dhaurali, Paige Feyock, Farinaz Khan, April Lockley, Brenna Miller, Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha



### The Role of Health Systems in Black Maternal Mental Health Care Delivery: a Socio-Ecological Framework

*Current Treatment Options in Psychiatry, October 2023*

Authors: Siwaar Abouhala, Rauta Aver Yakubu MHA, MPH, Lily Snape, Shubhecchha Dhaurali, Felicity Welch LMSW, MPH, Courtney Enge MBA, MPH, and Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha PhD, MPH



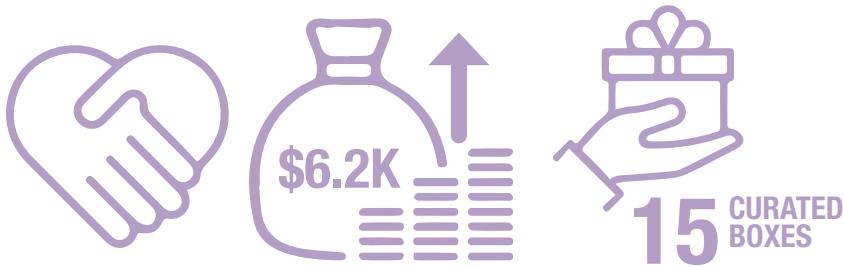
### Efficacy of Provider-Based Prenatal Interventions to Reduce Maternal Stress

*Women's Health Issues, May 2023*

Authors: Nichole Moore, Siwaar Abouhala, Pegah Maleki, MSW, MPH, Anna Kheyfets, BA, Keri Carvalho, PhD, and Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha, PhD, MPH

## Nurture Kits Initiative

MOTHER Lab created the Nurture Kits initiative that provides post-partum and early childcare resources, supplies, and essentials for low-income expectant birthers and their families. Launched in May, and again in November as part of our Giving Tuesday campaign, the initiative has raised nearly \$6,200, which will provide approximately 15 curated boxes.





# GRANTS





# Massachusetts Attorney General Maternal Health Equity Grant

In anticipation of MassHealth’s plan to cover doula services by the beginning of 2024, the Center will use grant funding to create an interactive toolkit to support doulas and enrolled MassHealth members in achieving equitable doula care.

This toolkit will be designed with a Black maternal health community engagement framework to ensure Black and Brown birthing individuals and doulas have increased access to care and pay, respectively.

**This effort will ensure there is an adequate pool of doulas available and enrolled in MassHealth, so that clients will have both access to and a choice of providers.**



# A SomerBaby-Tufts University Partnership

The Improving Somerville Parent & Newborn Health: A SomerBaby-Tufts University Partnership project is a collaborative effort with the SomerBaby program, the Maternal Advocacy & Research for Community Health (MARCH), and the Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice (CBMHRJ). The study uses a participatory community framework to learn about the experiences, needs, and challenges of moms, dads, or caretakers when taking care of their kids’ health in Somerville, Massachusetts.

The project consists of three phases: survey creation, Somerville Family Day planning & facilitation, and Nurture Kit & survey dissemination. Our research will provide essential data on the needs of the communities SomerBaby serves and will focus on a rights-based approach in which the community has complete autonomy over the proposed research.



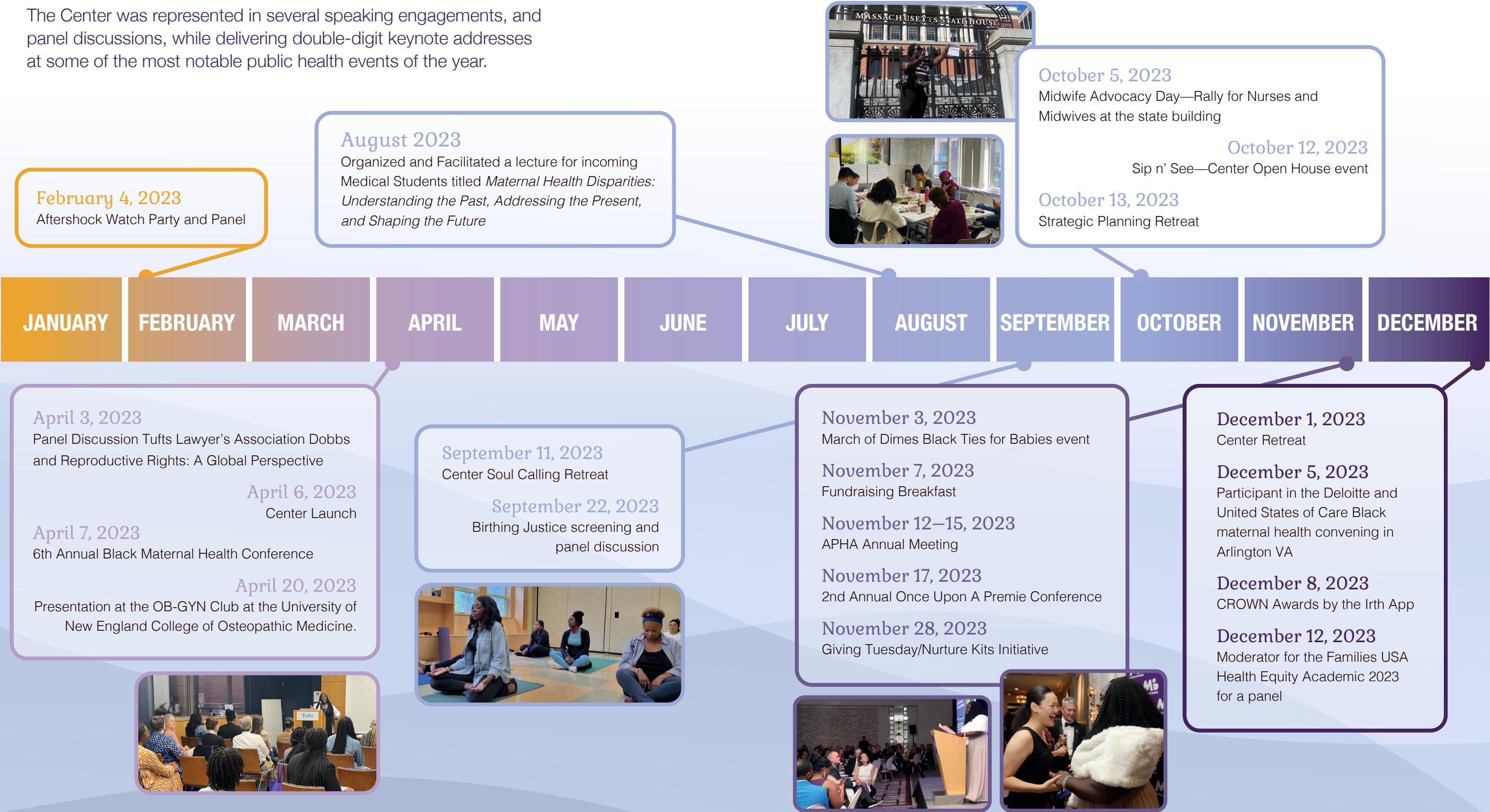




# CENTER ON THE MOVE



The Center was represented in several speaking engagements, and panel discussions, while delivering double-digit keynote addresses at some of the most notable public health events of the year.





A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and large headphones, is sitting at a wooden desk in a radio studio. She is looking slightly to her left with a thoughtful expression. In front of her is a professional microphone on a stand with a pop filter. Her right hand is resting near the pop filter. On the desk to her left is a spiral notebook and a small electronic device. The background is blurred, showing shelves with various items. The entire image has a purple color overlay.

# CENTER IN THE NEWS



# The Boston Globe

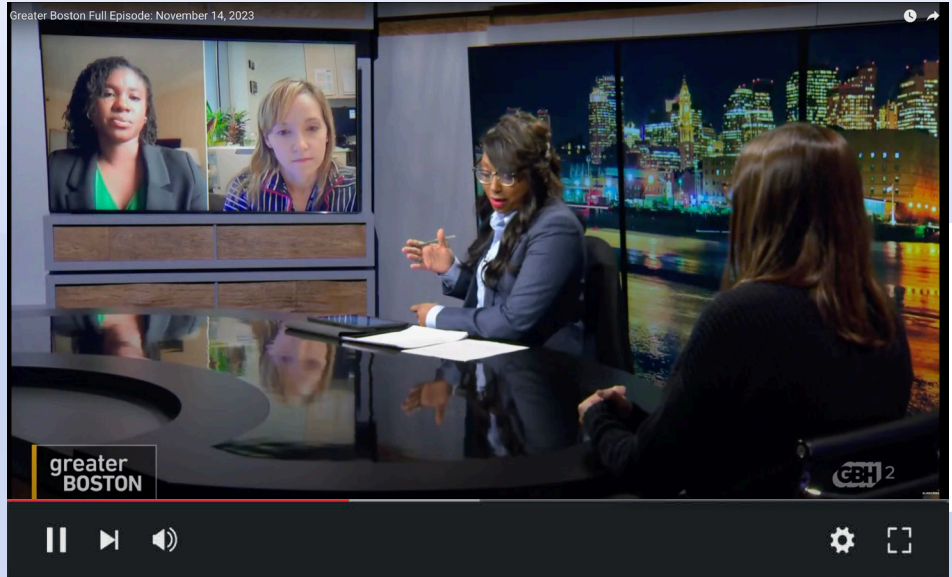
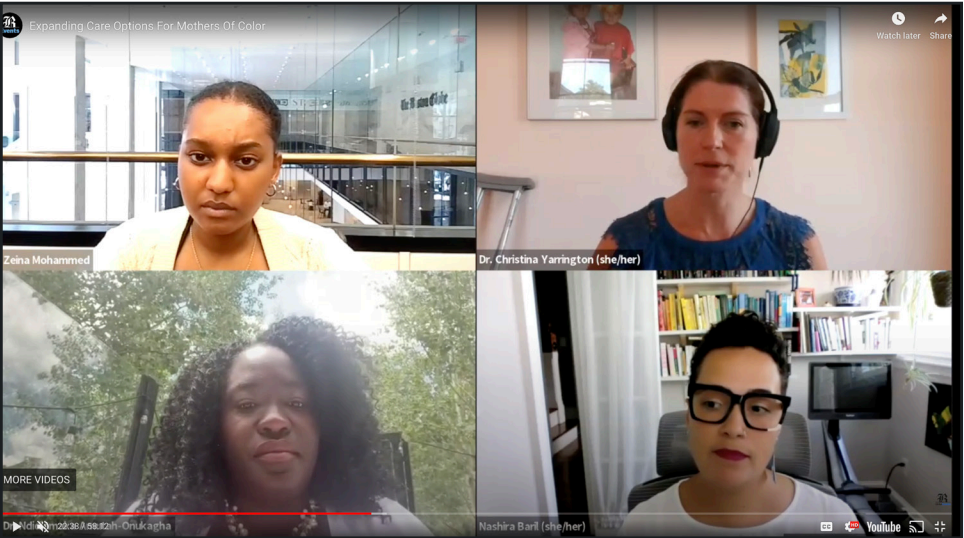
***“To Save Mothers’ Lives,  
Reduce Racism In Obstetrical Care”***

[Read the full article ↗](#)

# The Boston Globe

**Speaker Series**

[Watch the Video ↗](#)



**Greater Boston**

[Watch the Video ↗](#)

***“America Already Knows How  
to Make Childbirth Safer”***

[Read the full article ↗](#)

***“Three Days That Changed  
the Thinking about Black  
Women’s Health”***

[Read the full article ↗](#)

# The New York Times

# USA TODAY

***“The rate of women dying in childbirth  
surged by 40%. These deaths are preventable.”***

[Read the full article ↗](#)



# Press Release:

**Study Reveals the Need to Expand  
Maternal Mortality Categorization  
Beyond Pregnancy-Related Deaths**

[Read the full Press Release ↗](#)



| DATE | TITLE                                                                                                                           | PUBLISHED BY                                                                                                     |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JAN  | South Shore Health OBGYN Grand Rounds: Black Women and Maternal Health Inequities: Addressing the Role of Racism                | South Shore Health                                                                                               |
|      | Annual Maternal Health Awareness Day                                                                                            | Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School                                                                       |
|      | Chair's Initiative roundtable (Los Angeles)                                                                                     | <a href="#">National Governor's Association</a>                                                                  |
|      | Maternal and Infant Health: Improving and Utilizing Maternal and Infant Health Data panel                                       |                                                                                                                  |
|      | Black Mom Uncensored Podcast                                                                                                    | Dr Shalon's Maternal Action Project                                                                              |
| FEB  | <a href="#">Governors' Convening Highlights Ways Data Can Impact Maternal And Infant Health</a>                                 | <a href="#">National Governor's Association</a>                                                                  |
|      | The Impact of Racism on Black Maternal Health Inequities                                                                        | Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated                                                                             |
| MAR  | 2023 WOMEN'S AND MATERNAL HEALTH SUMMIT                                                                                         | Kaiser Permanente                                                                                                |
|      | Maternal and Infant Health: Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (MIH ECHO) Education Series                             | Wayside Recovery Center                                                                                          |
|      | <a href="#">The rate of women dying in childbirth surged by 40%. These deaths are preventable.</a>                              | <a href="#">USA Today</a>                                                                                        |
|      | The Maternal Health and Safety Symposium                                                                                        | Partnership for Maternal and Child Health                                                                        |
|      | Tufts Policy & Equity Seminar                                                                                                   | Tufts University School of Medicine                                                                              |
| APR  | For Us: The Black Maternal and Child Health (BMCH) Podcast                                                                      | For Us: The Black Maternal and Child Health (BMCH) Podcast                                                       |
|      | Dobbs and Reproductive Rights: A Global Perspective                                                                             | Tufts Lawyers Association, Inc.                                                                                  |
|      | Lecture to Address Role of Racism in Black Women's Maternal Health                                                              | University of Massachuettas Amherst University News                                                              |
|      | Black Maternal Health Stories Panel                                                                                             | National Society of Black Women in Medicine (NSBWM)                                                              |
|      | BIWOC Symposium                                                                                                                 | National Society of Black Women in Medicine (NSBWM)                                                              |
|      | Black Maternal Health + Abortion Panel                                                                                          | Reproductive Freedom Fund of New Hampshire                                                                       |
|      | Health Studies Annual Lecture                                                                                                   | Health Studies Program, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, College of the Holy Cross                          |
|      | Black Maternal Health                                                                                                           | UNECOM's OBGYN Club and AMWA                                                                                     |
| MAY  | Maine Medical Center OBGYN Grand Rounds                                                                                         | Maine Medical Center                                                                                             |
|      | Connecticut Area Health Education Center Network Population and Community Improvement through Public Health Keynote             |                                                                                                                  |
|      | Our Bodies, Our Voices, Our Choices: Black Women and Health Justice                                                             | Brandeis Organization                                                                                            |
|      | SEEKING FUNDING IN ACADEMIC MEDICINE                                                                                            | TUSM Lead Scholars Program                                                                                       |
|      | "Moving from Illness to Wellness: Caring for Our Community and Ourselves"                                                       | New England Black Nurses Association                                                                             |
|      | Social Justice, Gender, and Mental Health                                                                                       | Harvard Radcliffe Institute                                                                                      |
|      | Black Women and Maternal Health Inequities: Addressing the Role of Racism                                                       | University of Massachuettas Amherst Center for Research on Families                                              |
|      | Research Town Hall                                                                                                              | Tufts University School of Medicine                                                                              |
| JUNE | Roxbury International Film Festival Panel: Aftershock                                                                           |                                                                                                                  |
|      | <a href="#">Black Mothers in Crisis</a>                                                                                         | <a href="#">TuftsNow</a>                                                                                         |
|      | <a href="#">Successes and Opportunities for Leadership in State Health Departments for Public Health Professionals of Color</a> | <a href="#">Journal of Public Health Management and Practice (JPHMP) Direct</a>                                  |
|      | PH 278: Current Topics in Public Health                                                                                         | Tufts University School of Medicine                                                                              |
|      | REIDS Institute Workshop                                                                                                        | Yale University                                                                                                  |
|      | WISDM Maternal Health Disparities Presentation                                                                                  | Moderna                                                                                                          |
|      | Birth Equity                                                                                                                    | Health Connect One Annual Conference                                                                             |
|      | Improving Maternal Health and Access to Care                                                                                    | Boston Globe Speaker Series                                                                                      |
| JULY | Maternal Health                                                                                                                 | Aspen Health Ideas Festival                                                                                      |
|      | Lancet Voice Podcast                                                                                                            | The Lancet, Race and Health Podcast Series                                                                       |
|      | Dangerous complications are increasing for pregnant patients in Mass., report finds                                             | <a href="#">WBUR</a>                                                                                             |
|      | <a href="#">Scripps News Live - Dr. Ndidiama Amutah-Onukagha</a>                                                                |                                                                                                                  |
| SEP  | <a href="#">To Save Mothers' Lives, Reduce Racism In Obstetrical Care</a>                                                       | <a href="#">The Boston Globe</a>                                                                                 |
|      | <a href="#">America Already Knows How to Make Childbirth Safer</a>                                                              | <a href="#">The New York Times</a>                                                                               |
|      | 2023 NPQIC Summit                                                                                                               | Nebraska Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative                                                             |
| OCT  | War Stories from the Womb                                                                                                       | Dr. Paulette Kamencka                                                                                            |
|      | Advancing Maternal Health with Data Equity                                                                                      | ASTHOConnects                                                                                                    |
|      | Black Women and Maternal Health Inequities: Addressing the Role of Racism                                                       | AIDS Care                                                                                                        |
|      | Public Health Advocacy: Strategies for Improving Black Maternal Health Outcomes                                                 | Student National Medical Association Advocacy Webinar                                                            |
| NOV  | Centering the Margins in Healthcare: Race and Racism                                                                            | Massachusetts Institute of Technology                                                                            |
|      | Gestational Diabetes and the Impact of Race, Societal and Lifestyle Factors on Black Maternal Health Disparities                | American Diabetes Association                                                                                    |
|      | Black Women and Maternal Health Inequities: Addressing the Role of Racism                                                       | Montclair State University: Black Lives Matter Research Symposium                                                |
|      | How Meg Thee Stallion's "Cobra" song shatters expectations of strong Black women everywhere                                     | Reckon Media                                                                                                     |
|      | <a href="#">Three Days That Changed the Thinking about Black Women's Health</a>                                                 | <a href="#">The New York Times</a>                                                                               |
|      | The role of health systems in Black Maternal Mental Health Care Delivery: A Socio-ecological Framework                          | APHA Maternal and Child Health Town Hall - Creating the Healthiest Nation/Overcoming Social & Ethical Challenges |
|      | HIV Treatment for Pregnant People                                                                                               | HRSA: Ryan White HIV/AIDS Programs (RWHAP)                                                                       |
|      | Centering the Margins in Healthcare: Race and Racism speaker series                                                             | UMASS Chan Medical School                                                                                        |
|      | Special closing session on Maternal Health Inequities                                                                           | Once Upon a Premie 2nd Annual Conference                                                                         |



# BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CONFERENCE



# Black Maternal Health Conference

In its 6th year, the 2023 Black Maternal Health Conference, the nation's largest convening focused on global Black maternal health outcomes, with more than 3200 attendees, took place on April 7, 2023. Each year, the Conference is recognized as the kick-off to Black Maternal Health Week, typically observed on April 11–17.

## The goal of the Annual Conference is to:

- **Identify how health professionals can improve the Black maternal health experience.**
- **Understand the role that bias and systemic racism play in causing adverse maternal health outcomes for Black birthing people in the U.S.**
- **Facilitate conversations between health professionals and the community at large on ways to become advocates and improve Black maternal healthcare.**



# 2023 BMHC Impact Report

46

STATES

10

COUNTRIES

THE 6TH ANNUAL BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CONFERENCE STREAMED IN 46 STATES, INCLUDING MASSACHUSETTS, CALIFORNIA, NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY, AND 10 COUNTRIES BELIZE, CANADA, ETHIOPIA, THE NETHERLANDS, NIGERIA, RWANDA, SOUTH AFRICA, UGANDA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THE UNITED STATES.



55k

POST IMPRESSIONS

26k

PAGE & PROFILE  
IMPRESSIONS

3.2k

OVERALL ENROLLED  
ATTENDEES

ADDITIONAL  
SPONSORS



ADVOCATE SPONSOR

5.5k

OVERALL FANS & FOLLOW



868

MOST VIEWED SESSION  
"BEYOND THE BEDSIDE"

704

EXHIBITORS BOOTHS  
VIEWED

565

NEW FANS & FOLLOW

431

CONNECTIONS MADE





**LOOKING  
AHEAD**



# MIRAH Fellowship

## January 2024



The upcoming MOTHER Lab Innovations in Research, Advocacy, Health (MIRAH) Fellowship looks to create an innovative maternal health research and advocacy training program aimed at increasing and sustaining the representation of Black and Brown students of color and growing the number of public health, nursing, medicine, midwifery, and policy researchers, scholar-activists, and future leaders.

In its inaugural launch, the MIRAH Fellowship will provide a pilot training structure for 5 current MOTHER Lab students, and the development of capstone projects that will be funded through a \$25,000 seed grant to the Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice at Tufts University School of Medicine, from Heart of Healthcare.

5

MOTHER Lab Students

Five white line-art icons of graduates wearing caps and gowns, arranged in a 2x3 grid with the bottom-right position empty.

\$25K

Seed Grant

A white line-art icon of a classical building with a dome and columns.

The inaugural cohort begins in January 2024.

# 7th Annual Black Maternal Health Conference

## April 2024

Centered on the role of technology in addressing Black maternal health disparities, this year’s conference will be hosted virtually on April 5, 2024. Public health/medical professionals, community organizers, students, and those within the tech space with an interest in supporting the advancement of Black maternal health, will leave enlightened through research, charged to be a change agent for more inclusive policies, and committed to advocacy through partnering in the community outside their back door.

#BMHC

2024

7th ANNUAL BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

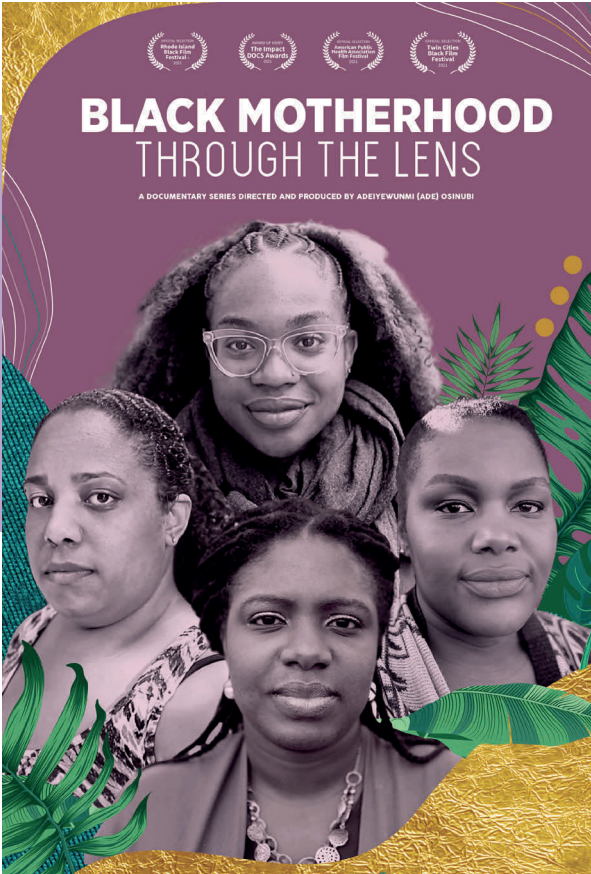
*“Centering the Role of Technology in Addressing Black Maternal Health Disparities”*

Save the Date

Friday, April 5th, 2024

The logo for the Center for Black Maternal Health & Reproductive Justice, featuring a stylized silhouette of a woman and the text "Center for Black Maternal Health & Reproductive Justice".





**Black Motherhood Through the Lens**  
Movie Screening and Panel Discussion  
**April 12th, 2024**



*Funded by grant money from  
Heart of Healthcare.*



Acceptance of our INSPIRE presentation  
at the 2024 ASPPH Annual Meeting for  
Academic Public Health.



Acceptance to submit INSPIRE for  
the Journal of Participatory Research  
Methods “How Communities and  
Research Institutions Work Together  
to Dismantle Structural Racism and  
Advance Health Equity,” Special Issue.





# Make a Difference Today

The Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice is dedicated to improving the health of Black birthing persons, reducing maternal health disparities, and protecting the Black birthing experience by advocating for quality, equitable, and respectful care in childbirth.

## With your help, we can:

- Foster academic and community-engaged research in support of eliminating inequities.
- Influence and inform policymakers to support maternal and child health laws to close the gap on Black maternal and infant health disparities.
- Serve as a workforce development institute for students and public health professionals, facilitating education and training to center diversity, equity, and inclusion for developing health practitioners as well as those currently practicing in the field.
- Engage with community partners and stakeholders to support healthy mothers and healthy babies, locally and nationwide.
- Advocate for Black birthing people in the spaces where their voices are unheard or often not permitted. To tell their stories while creating momentum for changes system-wide.



# Ways to Give



## One-Time Donation

Make a single, impactful contribution today to support our immediate needs.



## Monthly Giving

Join our community of monthly donors, providing stable support for ongoing projects and initiatives.



## In Honor/Memory Of

Dedicate your donation to a loved one, celebrating their legacy or marking a special occasion.

## Online

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**Annual Report 2023**

Center for Black Maternal Health & Reproductive Justice  
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