

# Black Maternal Health

The health of Black women not only affects their pregnancy outcome but also their risk of surviving pregnancy and the risk of their fetus or infant dying. Black women make up a disproportionately high number of MMR and FIMR cases compared to the rates of their giving birth in Delaware overall.



FIMR and MMR committees are delving deeper into the contributing factors in the deaths of Black women and Black babies and actionable ways to reduce this glaring disparity.

## Case Review

- **Discrimination**  
Treating someone less or more favorably based on the group they belong to resulting from biases, prejudices and stereotyping
- **Interpersonal racism**  
Differential assumptions about the abilities, motives and intentions of others that results in differential actions toward others based on their race
- **Structural racism**  
Systems of power based on historical injustices and contemporary social factors that systematically disadvantage people of color and advantage white people

Following guidance from the CDC, Delaware MMR is discussing issues of discrimination and racism that may impact the care that Black women are receiving. These conversations are sometimes difficult but are very necessary if we are to change our systems and ourselves.

## Action Steps

The CDRC will implement its equity statement and increase representation of communities of color in its review committees

The CDRC and DPQC hosted trainings on implicit bias and "strategies for successful care of pregnant and postpartum women of color" with nationally recognized experts Drs. Mahzarin Banaji and Joia Crear-Perry

The DPQC is implementing clinical care standards for the management of obstetric hemorrhage and hypertensive disorders, complications that contribute to maternal morbidity and pregnancy-related mortality

