TYPES OF RACISM
Institutionalized: Differential access to the goods, services, and opportunities of society by race.
Personally Mediated: Prejudice and discrimination, where prejudice means differential assumptions about the abilities, motives, and intentions of others according to their race, and discrimination means differential actions toward others according to their race.
Internalized: Acceptance by members of the stigmatized race(s) of negative messages about their own abilities and intrinsic worth.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
The human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent children in safe and sustainable communities as defined by SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective.

IMPACTS
Health Care Providers are Less Likely to Respond to the Concerns of Black Women
Between 2011-2015, Black women had the highest pregnancy-related mortality ratios.

Black Women Face Barriers to Accessing their Preferred Method of Contraception
Black women report experiences of race-based discrimination and restrictive counseling when seeking family planning services.

STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME RACISM’S IMPACT ON PREGNANCY OUTCOMES
Confront Your Own Racism and Act Against Personal Biases
A survey of maternal-fetal medicine subspecialists revealed
84% agree that disparities impact their practice, but only
29% believe personal biases affect how they care for patients.

Offer Implicit Bias and Anti-Racism Training for Health Care Professionals
Self-assessments are available online.

Expand or Extend Medicaid
In states that expanded Medicaid between 2011-2016, Black-white disparities in key birth outcomes (preterm birth and low birth weight) significantly decreased.

Increase Access to Quality, Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care
If Black women delivered at the same hospitals as white women, nearly 1,000 Black women each year could avoid severe morbidity events during their delivery hospitalizations.

Commit to Diversifying the Health Care Workforce & Leadership
Relationships between patients and clinicians of the same racial or ethnic background are characterized by higher levels of trust and respect.

BLACK INFANTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO DIE BEFORE THEIR FIRST BIRTHDAY
The rate at which Black infants die within their first year of life is more than twice the rate of white infants.

BLACK INFANTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE BORN EARLY
Black women who live in the most segregated neighborhoods have an increased risk for poor birth outcomes as compared to Black women in less segregated neighborhoods.

BLACK WOMEN FACE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING THEIR PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTRACEPTION
Black women report experiences of race-based discrimination and restrictive counseling when seeking family planning services.

IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING METHODS, including collecting data and expanding the evidence surrounding experiences of race-based discrimination in the health care system.

For more information, visit SMFM.org/equity.