

Self-Advocacy, Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and Pregnant Black Women

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Motivation

- Black women are 3-4 times more likely to die during the birthing and postpartum periods than other ethnic and racial groups.
- Sixty percent or more of maternal deaths are preventable.
- Black women are also more likely to have a severe maternal morbidity event (e.g., blood transfusion, infection).
- The need for programs that lead to a reduction in the maternal death rate is critical.

Project Description

- Black pregnant women and Black women who have delivered during the past six months will answer questions on the Self-Advocacy Pregnancy Survey (SAPS) about:

1. Informed decision making.
2. Communication with their healthcare providers.
3. Strengths gained through the birthing and postpartum experiences.

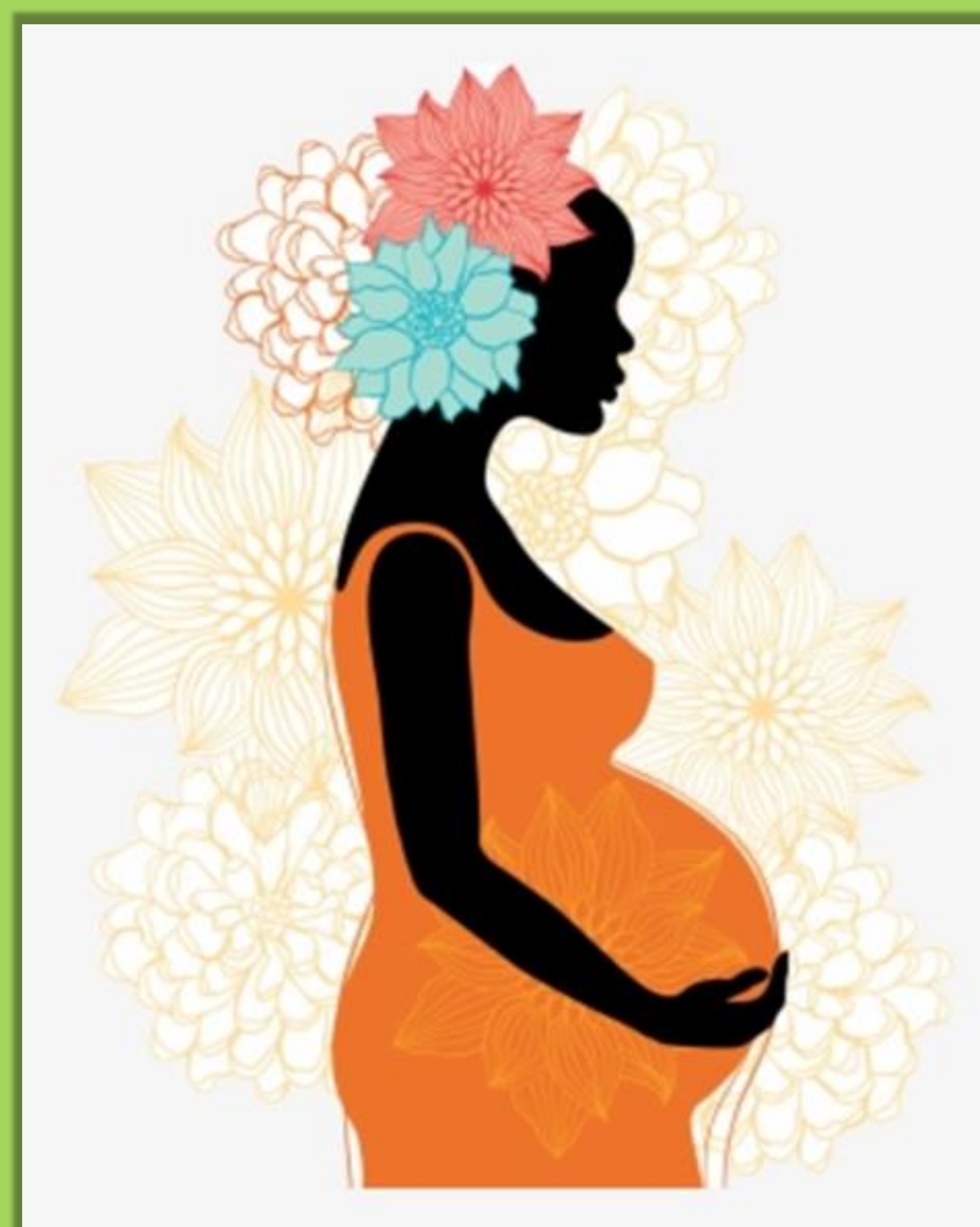
- The women will also answer questions focused on problems they experienced during pregnancy or the postpartum period, and information healthcare providers shared with them.

Context

- Maternal mortality is a complex and multifactorial problem.
- Studies are now beginning to look at how Black women express their concerns during pregnancy and postpartum or how they self-advocate.
- The inclusion of self-advocacy activities in programs will help healthcare providers more effectively address problems and needs throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period leading to a reduction in the maternal mortality rate among pregnant Black women.



The goal is to examine the usefulness of a **self-advocacy survey to reduce maternal mortality among pregnant Black women.**



Project Deliverables

- The success of the project will be measured by:
- Meeting recruitment goals of 50 women in months 1-5 of the study and 50 additional women in months 6-10 of the study.
- The development of a practical measure to assess the self-advocacy of pregnant and postpartum Black women by the end of the study.
- Based on the findings from the study begin to develop pregnancy self-advocacy interventions with funding from organizations targeting women's health.

Potential Impact

- The study will provide a promising pathway to view the communication between Black pregnant and postpartum women and their providers.
- Limited information suggests that Black women are less likely to share information with healthcare providers compared to other ethnic/racial groups.
- The need for pregnant Black women to self-advocate is important and is a factor that warrants examining in order to reduce maternal mortality/morbidity

References

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