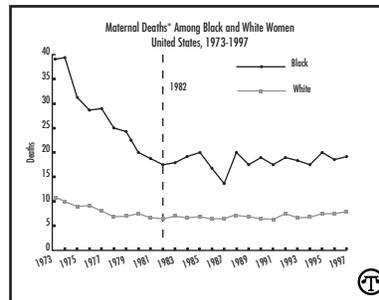


WOMEN'S HEALTH TRENDS

More Black Women At Risk During Pregnancy

(NAPSA)—If you are a black woman in the United States, you are three times more likely than a white woman to die from pregnancy-related complications and childbirth. To reduce these high mortality risks, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) is emphasizing the importance of increased research efforts.



Each year four million women in the United States give birth. Black women have the highest rate of pregnancy complications.

Why are more black women at risk? Efforts to identify the reasons for the drastic racial disparity have not produced clear answers. "Some medical conditions, such as hypertensive disorders, are responsible for the racial disparity in mortality because they are simply more common in certain races," said Dr. Haywood Brown, maternal-fetal specialist and president-elect of SMFM.

Brown recommends focusing research efforts on epidemiology to reduce racial disparity. "Epidemiologists study the causes, distribution and control of disease in populations," Brown said. "Because this issue goes beyond a purely 'medical' realm, epidemiology is necessary to understand the effect of cultural factors."

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine is a not-for-profit organization of approximately 2,000 members dedicated to improving the health care of pregnant women and their infants.