



NBCDI

National Black Child
Development Institute

STATE OF THE BLACK CHILD REPORT CARD

TEXAS



What's in this Report Card?

The policy recommendations in the 2018 State of the Black Child Report Card for Texas highlight the racial disparities that affect learning outcomes for Black children. The Report Card provides parents, caregivers, advocates, community leaders and policymakers with high-priority policy recommendations to improve education, health and family support systems for Black children and families.



RECOMMENDATION

1

END SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS FOR ALL YOUNG CHILDREN IN TEXAS



NBCDI recommends policymakers take further action to address the suspension and expulsion crisis in Texas. Texas Education Agency, Texas Rising Star and Texas Workforce Commission should create a taskforce with policymakers, parents and community leaders to support implementation of **1)** annual professional development on positive guidance, racial bias and developmentally-appropriate practices for educators in pre-k through second grade and **2)** end suspension and expulsion in public school and private early childhood education programs.

**IN TEXAS SPECIFICALLY,
BLACK PRESCHOOLERS WERE
5X MORE LIKELY THAN THEIR
WHITE PEERS TO RECEIVE
AN OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION
DURING THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**THEY WERE ALSO
2X MORE LIKELY TO RECEIVE
IN-SCHOOL
SUSPENSION.**

(Texans Care for Children, 2018)

RECOMMENDATION

2

IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS AMONG BLACK CHILDREN IN TEXAS



Establish a taskforce to address health and mental health disparities for Black children that will **1)** develop guidance and best practices for early childhood education programs and school districts related to culturally-responsive nutritional and physical education and **2)** create a more supportive mental health environment for Black children by improving the availability of quality mental services and providing professional development related to early childhood mental health.

**BLACK CHILDREN ARE APPROXIMATELY
2X MORE LIKELY
TO LIVE IN LOW-INCOME AND
FOOD-INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS
THAN WHITE CHILDREN IN TEXAS**

(Texas Kids Count)

4TH GRADERS IN TEXAS	HEALTHY/NORMAL WEIGHT	OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE
White	73.1	26.9
Black	55.5	44.5

According to the Center for Public Policy Priorities' State of Texas Children 2015, uninsured kids often miss out on regular check-ups, diagnostic screenings for serious health conditions and critical preventive care. (Institute of Medicine, 2009)

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RECOMMENDATION

3

INCREASE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR BLACK CHILDREN

Increase funding for community-based early childhood education (child care) programs using quality set-aside funds from Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and expand high-quality, full-day pre-K programs. NBCDI recommends increased engagement with Black families in program design as well as policy and funding decisions for pre-K programs. Research has demonstrated that children in high-quality programs perform better on a range of indicators of cognitive and social development.

IN 2016, **54%** OF BLACK 3-4 YEAR OLDS IN HARRIS COUNTY WERE NOT ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL (National Kids Count, 2018)



RECOMMENDATION

4

ADDRESS HIGH RATES OF INFANT MORTALITY FOR BLACK CHILDREN

Increase access to high-quality prenatal care for Black mothers through targeted programming and outreach in Black communities. With Black mothers in Texas being least likely to have access to prenatal care, the state's Task Force on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity should increase representation of Black parents, advocates and community leaders.

ACCORDING TO A 2016 REPORT, TEXAS MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY TASK FORCE FOUND THAT AN

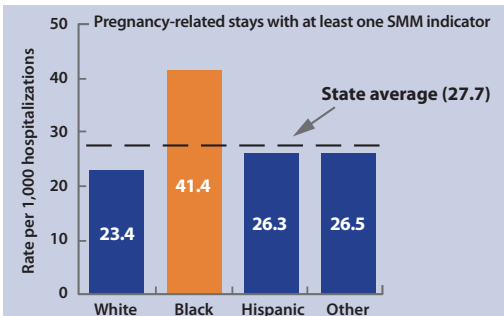
INCREASING NUMBER OF BLACK WOMEN

HAVE DIED OF PREGNANCY-RELATED CAUSES

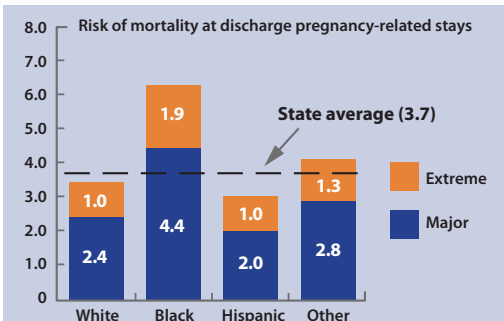
(Texas Tribune, HB 2403, 2017)



Severe maternal morbidity (SMM) during pregnancy-related hospitalization by race/ethnicity, 2012



Mortality risk at discharge from pregnancy-related hospitalization by race/ethnicity, 2012



(Texas Academy of Family Physicians)

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