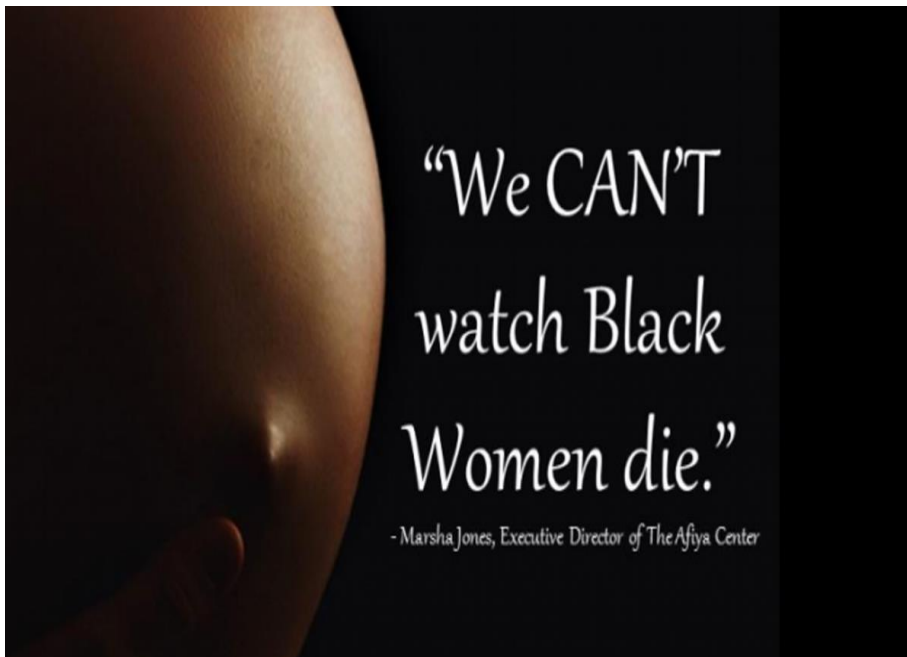


# Understanding Reproductive Justice

By. Cierra White

Hello readers! I hope you all have been enjoying my series of blog post this far on Understand Reproductive Justice. I am saddened to say this this will be my final blog post as I will just be explaining the extent of what I have learn throughout this semester and the topic of my final project. I hope you all enjoy this post! Happy reading!

Throughout this whole semester my understanding of reproductive justice has evolved to



understand how social patterns are associated at a macro-level. This has also allowed me to relate the issues of reproductive justice and the structural disadvantages that contribute to poverty. The affects of parenting in poverty are linked to higher increases of maternal and fetal mortality. This project has allowed me to understand the social causes of why African American women are dying at a rate three to four times higher than that of white women both during and after

pregnancy. African American women in the united states are more prone to complications during pregnancy and childbirth because the united states has the highest rates of chronic illness, greater financial burden for health care costs, no insurance so often missed health care appointments, and African American women are least likely to have competence and trust in their health care professionals. Also, this project has allowed me to learn more about the Black Maternal Mortality Crisis. The Black Maternal Mortality crisis is associated with poor women that are left without access to obstetric care systems which can be detrimental especially for black women in the United States that face compounded oppression.

This project helped me understand the structural disadvantages of African American mothers parenting in poverty and the effects this has on increases on maternal and fetal mortality. The project gave me an in-depth look of the history of discrimination, systemic racism, and

oppression that African American mothers have continued to face throughout generations. For my podcast I chose to study how the effects of African American women parenting in poverty increase the risks of maternal and fetal mortality in Suffolk, Virginia. I decided on the topic because it takes both sociological and historical approach to reproductive justice. I was able to analyze the structural factors that lead to poverty that increases the likelihood of maternal and fetal mortality. For example, the effects of racialized trauma, societal trauma, systemic racism, and toxic physiological stress is known as weathering. Weathering has a detrimental effect on the human body as heightened stress levels for black women due to long term experiences of racism, discrimination, and bias continues to increase the risks of complications and death during and after pregnancy. The structural factors that lead to higher rates of maternal and fetal mortality that affects Suffolk, Virginia due to inadequate health care resources, chronic stress/discrimination, and the legacy of reproductive oppression that has created distrust in health care services.



I also created a word bubble as a conceptual map of what I have learned and the skills I have acquired through this class this semester. I put Reproductive Justice in the center of the word bubble because this connects to everything, I have learned this semester. Also, the words Justice, choice, freedom, and liberty relate to the main three components of reproductive justice. The three main components of reproductive Justice are the right to have a child, the right to not have a child, and the right to parent that child in a safe and loving environment. Reproductive Justice is the fight for social change so that women of all different races, creed, sexual orientation, and social status can receive adequate health care services that is why I have provided the words abortion and birth control. However, the government and other policy makers try to influence what a woman can or cannot do with her body. Therefore, I use the word barriers in my word bubble because there are many barriers to reproductive justice such as health insurance, obstructed care, sterilization, federal laws about abortion, poverty, discrimination, money, and transportation. This word bubble incorporates the main topics of our class and the effects of obstructed care on women's health in terms of reproductive justice.



I encourage you all to follow social media accounts that provide information about current reproductive justice rights. I have provided the link to a current social media platform that has been following racial disparities in health care services. This social media account also provides information about the black maternal mortality crisis. [Black Maternal Health](#)

Word Count: 757