

## Concerns Regarding Racist Treatment in Maternity Care

CAHN and SoAC @SoAC\_Midwives were deeply concerned to read about an incident where an NHS midwife reportedly told a Black woman experiencing a miscarriage, “You people have a high pain threshold.” This statement is both insensitive, unacceptable and continues to be an everyday occurrence in care delivery. We cannot standby and remain silent.

The article highlights **numerous instances of ethnic minority women suffering racist treatment** by maternity staff. The MBRRACE-UK Perinatal Confidential Enquiry report continues to show the disparities in care received by Black and other ethnic minorities group. It is imperative that standards and accountability measures are put in place in improving outcomes in care and experiences.

This report follows previous evidence from **MBRRACE-UK Perinatal Confidential Enquiry report**, which highlighted the care Black women that have experienced stillbirths or neonatal deaths received. This report was updated on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

1. **Improvements in Care:** For 42% of Black women, improvements in care could have made a difference to the baby’s outcome. Similarly, 61% of Black women could have benefited from better care for the mother.
2. **Antenatal Care Issues:** Major or significant issues were found in antenatal care provision for 83% of Black women.
3. **Postnatal and Bereavement Care:** During postnatal and bereavement care, 33% of Black women faced major or significant care issues.
4. **Pathology Concerns:** Pathology issues affected 67% of Black mothers and babies.
5. **Follow-Up and Review:** At follow-up or during care reviews, 75% of Black parents had major or significant issues identified.

CAHN and SoAC want to work with the NHS to address these disparities and ensure equitable and compassionate care for all women.

We will be writing to the next Government with our **Health Improvement Framework** that sits behind the Black Health Manifesto which gives a comprehensive review of health inequality for Black people in the UK and what matters to them.