



# DID YOU KNOW?

Prematurity or low birth weight is the number one cause of death for Black infants in Kansas.

A premature birth is a birth that occurs before the start of the 37th week of pregnancy. Premature babies, especially those born very early, often have complicated medical problems and they are at increased risk for death in the first year of life.<sup>1</sup>

## DISPARITIES IN PRETERM BIRTH

Non-Hispanic Black women (14.8%) were **1½ times** more likely to experience preterm birth compared to non-Hispanic white women (9.6%).<sup>2</sup>



**9.6%**

Preterm Birth



**14.8%**

Preterm Birth

## REDUCING DISPARITIES IN PRETERM BIRTH:



### Acknowledge the problem:

Promote public education, targeting pregnant women, about preterm birth as a public health crisis with a disproportionate burden on certain racial and ethnic groups, including Black women.



### Improve the quality of care provided to pregnant women:

Educate and train providers to address [racism](#) and build a more diverse [health care](#) workforce. Educate and train providers on explicit and implicit [bias](#) and the effect the health system can have on preterm birth.



### Improve access to critical services:

Fund and promote services that include: [family planning](#) ([pre/interconception](#) care) and pregnancy intention screening ([One Key Question](#)); reproductive wellness; mental health services; and preventive well-woman visits, including paid services for women who are uninsured.



### Enhance support for families before and after birth:

Support and promote public health resources available to support families such as [breastfeeding](#) support, [WIC](#) (women, infants and children nutrition program), [early intervention services](#) (Part C/tinyk), [home visiting services](#), and [prenatal care and education](#).