

Dalila Grant

Prof.Brown

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Connections Between Race and Neglected Women

Racial disparities found as the leading cause of death with pregnancy by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (C.D.C) have shocked society, as seen in the article, Huge Racial Disparities Found in Deaths Linked to Pregnancy by Roni Caryn Rabin, published in 2019. Studies have shown that women of color are more likely to die during or after labor than white women (Rabin, 2019). After giving birth, women are often told to come back after six weeks for their checkup, but within those six weeks, it is more common for women to die from strokes and cardiovascular disease (Rabin, 2019). In many cases surrounding black women, they begin developing cardiac disease during pregnancy. As a result, if their heart disease continues to develop and goes undetected after the baby is delivered, it may rupture, leading to death in severe cases. Due to the discovery of these events, many Obstetricians/Gynecologists believe that women need to now schedule their postpartum checkup three weeks after delivery and detailed visit no later than twelve weeks after birth (Rabin, 2019). The rise in death rates linked to pregnancy surrounding women of color has caused intensive studies by the C.D.C., leading to the development of a new federal law called the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act (Rabin, 2019). This law allows for investigating pregnancy-related deaths up to 365 days after birth. It has been decided that the multitude of black women that have died due to pregnancy-related deaths could

have been easily avoided because the symptoms presented by the women should have been flagged during their monthly pregnancy and postpartum visits.

Reading this article allows the reader to understand the unfortunate circumstance of race being tied to pregnancy-related deaths through studies done by the C.D.C. Rabin intended to inform Obstetrics/Gynecologists and people of color women who may be interested in bearing children in the United States about the studies surrounding pregnancy deaths. The author effectively presents the information in a manner of non-bias because she presents information with facts and evidence to back up the claims. Additionally, the presentation of the evidence followed the claims without making it seem like facts were being thrown at the reader. Concerning Obstetrics/Gynecologists, the article informs them of ways to be more attentive to their patients during and after their pregnancy so they can be of the best assistance.

Overall, the article effectively gets the point across of women getting thorough evaluations before and after birth regardless of race because the many causes that lead to postpartum death can be easily identified. The author presents claims with evidence to back them up to negate the possible bias that a reader could assume.

Works Cited

Rabin RC. 2019 May 7. Huge Racial Disparities Found in Deaths Linked to Pregnancy. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/07/health/pregnancy-deaths-.html>.