



NORTH CAROLINA
BLACK
Alliance

We believe every American should have access to health care in time of injury or illness. We believe it is a travesty that millions of Americans are without coverage and proper medical care because of a lack of personal resources. We commit ourselves to the adoption of universal access to health care for all Americans and for improving the quality of care and availability of healthcare professionals in low wealth communities, especially those communities of color.

Access to Maternal Healthcare in North Carolina

It is a moral and policy failure that **Black women are 3-4 times more likely than white women to die** from pregnancy-related complications in our state, and these numbers have not improved over the last 60 years. **North Carolina ranks No. 30 among the 50 U.S. states with regard to maternal mortality rates.**

Preterm births are more likely to occur in communities of color. Black women have a preterm birth rate that is **48% higher** than other women in the state. The infant mortality rate for Black babies is almost **3 times** that for white women's infants in North Carolina.

Women who do not have prenatal care are **3-4 times more likely** to experience pregnancy-related complications than women who receive prenatal care. Many women who live in rural communities across the state also live in Maternity Care Deserts, where only one or no birthing centers provide obstetric care. Additionally, in these same counties, **10-20% of women** between the ages of 18-64 do not have health insurance. Counties with the greatest percentage of uninsured women include Bladen, Duplin, Greene, Robeson, Sampson, and Tyrell. As a result, many of these women do not have anywhere to go for maternity care, which impacts the health of the mother and her baby.

Medicaid expansion has allowed other states to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates. Access to quality maternal care is a critical component of overall maternal health and producing positive birth outcomes. If a woman's finances improve, her coverage can be revoked, which often occurs during the redetermination process. Medicaid expansion would ensure women in North Carolina of reproductive age have ongoing health coverage and do not fall within the coverage gap during redetermination.

A lack of access to affordable and culturally competent care is necessary to protect the lives of Black mothers and their babies. A system that provides access to affordable healthcare for women of color is a system that benefits us all. All women should have access to patient education during the prenatal period and better-quality care that centers their humanity and their families in an equitable way.

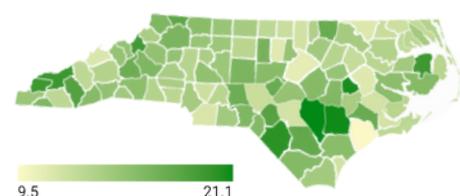
3-4x
MORE LIKELY TO DIE DURING
CHILDBIRTH IN NC

48%
PRETERM BIRTH RATE FOR
BLACK WOMEN IN NC

41%
MEDICAID COVERED BIRTHS IN NC

15.9%
UNINSURED BLACK WOMEN OF
CHILDBEARING AGE IN NC

9%
UNINSURED BLACK WOMEN OF
CHILDBEARING AGE IN
MEDICAID EXPANSION STATES



**UNINSURED WOMEN BETWEEN
AGES 18-64 IN NC**