



**2024 BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH
CONFERENCE AND TRAINING INSTITUTE™**
SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2024 | ATLANTA, GA

BMHC24

Impact Report



BMMA
BLACK MAMAS MATTER ALLIANCE

WWW.BLACKMATERNALHEALTHCONFERENCE.COM

About **BMHC24**

Founded and led by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Inc. (BMMA), the 2024 **Black Maternal Health Conference and Training Institute™** (BMHC24) is the premiere, global assembly for Black Mamas, clinicians, professionals, advocates, and other stakeholders working to improve maternal health using the birth justice, reproductive justice, and human rights frameworks. This year's hybrid conference (*virtual and in-person*) offered a space for learning, rich discussions, and mobilization to transform Black Maternal Health, rights, and justice.

BMHC24 continues to be a unique opportunity for clinicians, advocates, professionals, and practitioners from all over the world to come together to learn, share, and collaborate. At this conference, we celebrated the ***work that amplifies birth and reproductive justice, respectful maternity care, and the scholarship of Black feminists and womanist providers***. As we navigate the complexities of maternal and reproductive health, we honored the incredible contributions of Black people leading the charge in transforming care, research, culture, and policy.

This year's theme, ***"Our Bodies STILL Belong to Us: Reproductive Justice NOW!"***, reflects the urgency of addressing the systemic inequities and harmful policies that disproportionately affect Black women and birthing people, especially in the United States. The ongoing restrictions on abortion care access and the criminalization of pregnancy loss have deepened the maternal health care crisis, particularly in states with the most restrictive bans and the poorest maternal and child health outcomes. BMHC24 was a space to discuss these realities and share solutions to bring about equitable change and to appreciate the 30th anniversary of the Reproductive Justice movement. This year's **#BMHC24** conference was segmented into four tracks: Holistic Care & Clinical Innovation, Policy/Advocacy, Research/Evaluation, and Culture Shift/Creative.

Overall, **BMHC24 attracted well over 1,200 conference attendees**, (over 1,100 in person and 82 virtual), successfully executing more than 45 breakout sessions over the course of three days across such topics as *Black Mamas and Doulas collaborating to close the maternal care gap, hospital based clinicians and perinatal health workers piloting maternal health programs, research findings showcasing the effectiveness of Black midwifery training programs, local policy initiatives driving systems-level accountability changes*, and many more topics. Additionally, **we were thrilled to offer continuing education credits** (LCSW, CHES/MCHES, RN, IBCLC, LMFT) with PAC-LAC being our joint agency for CE/CEUS. Thanks to our sponsors, BMMA was also able to award 19 in-person and virtual scholarships.



BMHC Programming

DAY 1: PLENARY PANEL

Advancing Black Maternal Health and Justice within the Fight for Reproductive Autonomy

A cornerstone of our conference was a panel discussion that delved into the urgent issues of Black Maternal Health, abortion access and care, policies, midwifery care, and systemic barriers. Our esteemed speakers, Breana Lipscomb, with Center for Reproductive Rights, Nia Mitchell, a Mixed Methods Research and Evaluation Methodologist, Pilar Herrero with Center for Reproductive Rights, Kwajelyn Jackson, with Feminist Center, and Jamarah Amani with Southern Birth Justice Network, provided invaluable insights into these critical areas.

Through their expert knowledge, work, and lived experiences, the speakers highlighted the interconnected nature of these issues and the urgent need for policy reforms and systemic change.

“[The] Law has been one of the primary tools used to **suppress midwifery care** in the United States and **to push Black and Indigenous midwives out of practice**. In many ways, this is very similar to abortion care, one of the ways that politicians obstruct access to abortion care, is by passing laws that excessively regulate abortion providers, and often do it in the name of health and safety”

– **Pilar Herrero, CRR**



DAY 2: SPECIAL GUESTS PLENARY PANEL

Championing Black Maternal Health for the Culture!

Day 2 of BMHC24 started with powerful opening remarks from Kyesha Lindberg with Georgia Health Initiative and Dr. Natalie Hernandez of the Morehouse School of Medicine, Center for Maternal Health Equity. Their insights on the importance of community engagement and maternal health equity reminded us why this work is so crucial for Black Mamas and birthing people.

Our conference was honored to host Tatyana Ali, actress, singer, writer, producer, activist, award winner, and Harvard graduate; and Sanya Richards-Ross, a 4-time Olympic gold medalist, world-renowned athlete, dedicated mother, wife, brand ambassador, TV personality, author and entrepreneur - two influential figures who shared their personal stories and unwavering commitment to Black Maternal Health. Their presence at the conference served as a catalyst for action, encouraging attendees to use their own platforms to drive systemic change by engaging in the civic duty of voting!



“What allies need to do is listen, listen, listen, no one can tell our stories better than we can, and I think what happens a lot of times, many of the rooms we are in we don’t feel like the people there are truly listening to us, and truly have our best interest at heart to advocate for us, true allyship means listening to the stakeholders, understanding the needs Black mothers, and figuring what resources you have to help”
- Sanya Richards-Ross



Dr. Nikia Grayson



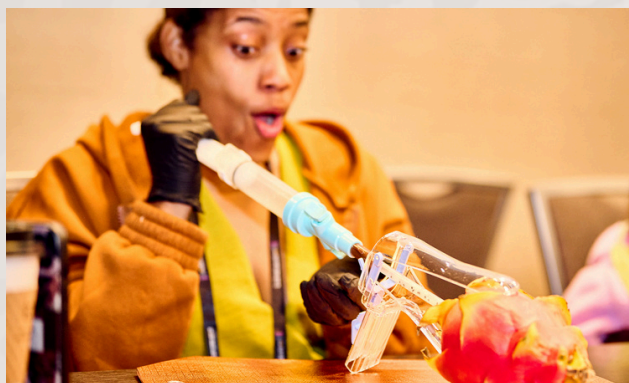
Dr. Zsakeba Henderson

The BMHC24 Awards Dinner, held on the last day of the conference, attracting nearly 300 attendees, recognized the exceptional contributions of Black women, people, and community elders to the maternal health field. We were honored to present **Dr. Nikia Grayson** with the 2024 Mama Umm Salaamah "Sondra" Abdullah-Zaimah **Birth Worker Award** and **Dr. Zsakeba Henderson** with the 2024 Jackson, Rowley, Hogan **Excellence in Black Maternal Health Scholarship Award**. The awards highlighted the importance of recognizing and celebrating the achievements of these individuals and their commitment to maternal health justice.

TRAINING INSTITUTE

The BMHC24 Training Institute kicked off the conference with a dynamic and informative series of workshops. **Seven expert trainers** shared their knowledge and experience on a variety of topics, including culturally responsive focus groups, pre-eclampsia awareness, trauma-informed care, and first-trimester abortion skills.

The Training Institute was a resounding success, **attracting 170 eager attendees** to learn and grow. The trainers' expertise and engaging skill-building workshops created a stimulating and inspiring learning environment. The Training Institute set the stage for a productive and impactful conference, providing attendees with the tools and knowledge they need to make a difference in Black Maternal Health.



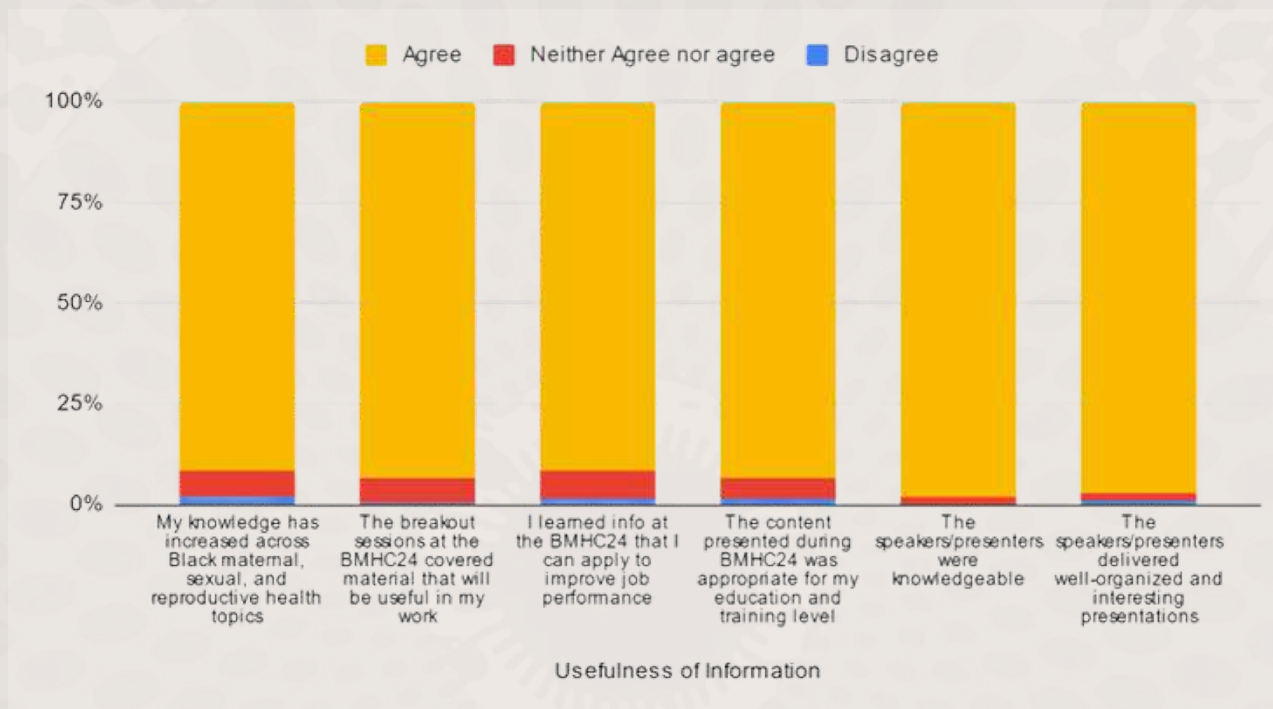


Sentiments and Reach

ATTENDEE EVALUATION

BMHC24 was a success, which can be seen in the numbers. We had well over **1200 registrants**, drawing over **900 in-person attendees** from more than **40 states and 15 countries**. The conference featured **nine guest speakers**, **46 breakout sessions**, over **170 presenters** and **17 poster presentations**. Attendees reported high satisfaction with the content, networking opportunities, and overall experience.

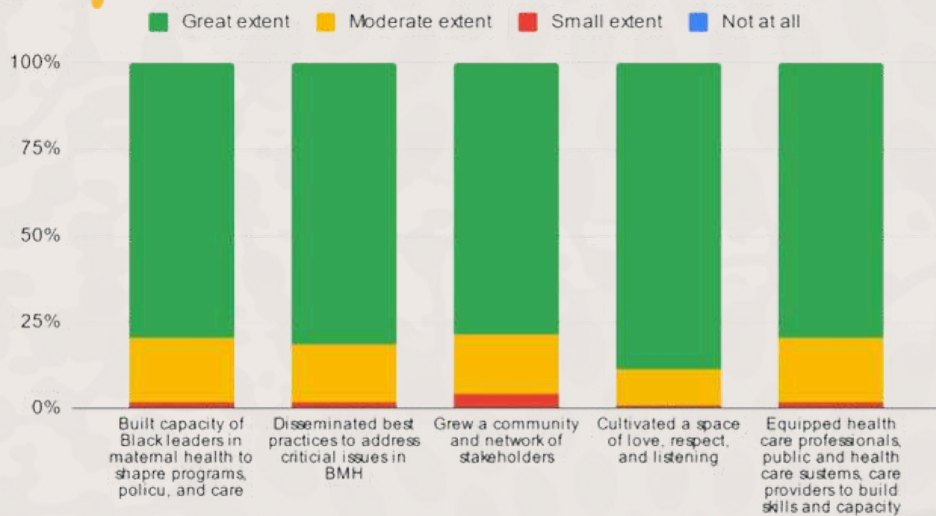
More than **90%** of conference & Training Institute evaluation respondents noted that their **knowledge has increased** across Black maternal, sexual, and reproductive health topics, and that they **were satisfied** with the breakout sessions content and skills building workshops.



Additionally, most respondents agreed that the breakout sessions covered material useful for their work; learned information that can be applied to improve job performance; content was appropriate for education and training level; speakers/presenters were knowledgeable; and the speakers/presenters delivered well-organized interesting presentations.

IN-PERSON ATTENDEE FEEDBACK

About **90%** of conference evaluation respondents said BMHC4 cultivated a space of **love, respect, and listening to a great extent**.



Conference objectives

"As a member of the deaf/hard-of-hearing community, I really appreciated the accommodations that were in place to meet my communication needs. **You created a very inclusive environment.** Thank you!"

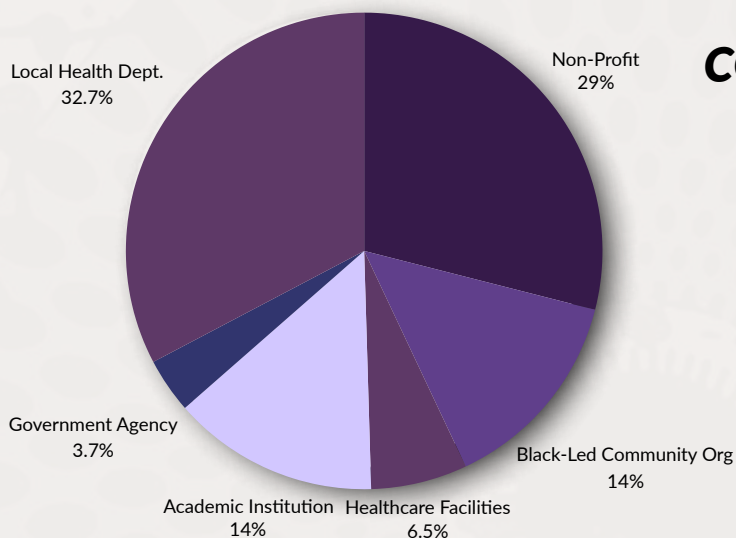
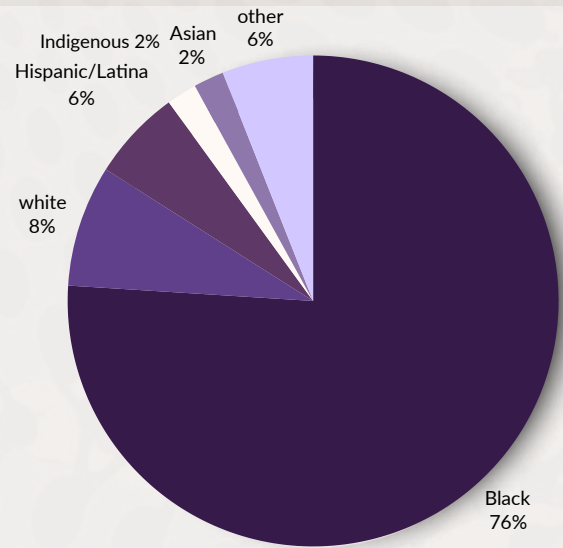
"It was the first time I attended the conference and it was **by far, the best conference** I have attended, ever. There was a lot of love in the environment and I met some wonderful people. The information shared by the presenters and in some cases the audience was wonderful. I really enjoyed learning from the audience as well as the presenters. I look forward to attending next year!"

"It was **wonderful, welcoming, very well decorated**, and the staff at the venue was super nice!"

BMHC24 DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE

The racial demographics of BMHC24 registrants showed a strong representation of Black registrants, comprising **76%** of attendees. This was followed by White registrants at **8%**, Hispanic/Latina at **6%**, and smaller representations of Indigenous American, American Indian, and Alaska Native (**2%**), and Asian (**2%**) attendees.

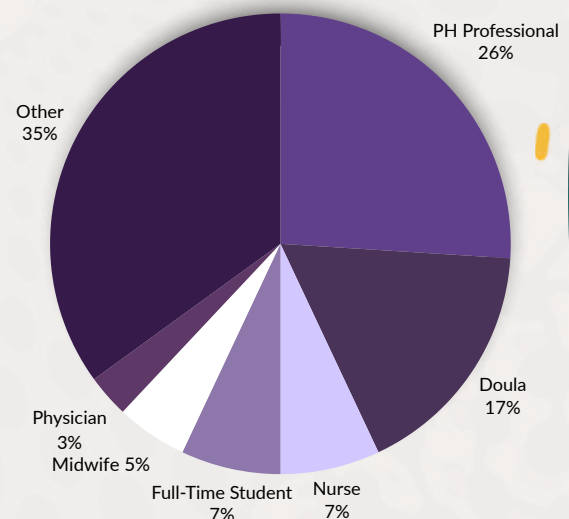


COMPANY/ORGANIZATIONS OF REGISTRANTS

Conference attendees came from a variety of entities, including local health depts. (**33%**), non-profits (**29%**), Black-led community orgs (**14%**), healthcare facilities (**7%**), universities/academic institutions (**14%**), and govt. agencies (**4%**).

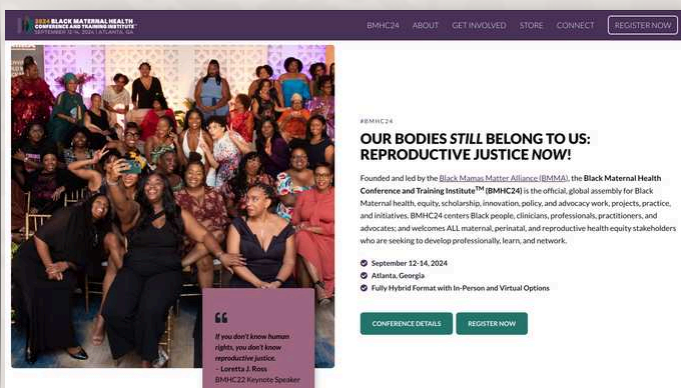
OCCUPATION

Attendees' occupations highlighted the conference's focus, with public health professionals comprising the largest group (**26%**), followed by Doulas (**17%**), Nurses (**7%**), full-time students (**7%**), midwives (**5%**), and physicians (**3%**), indicating a strong presence of those directly involved in maternity care.



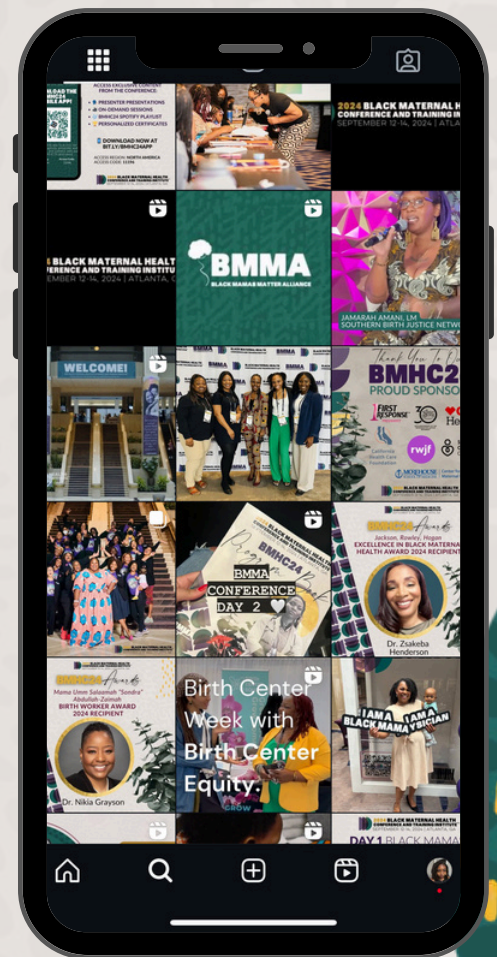
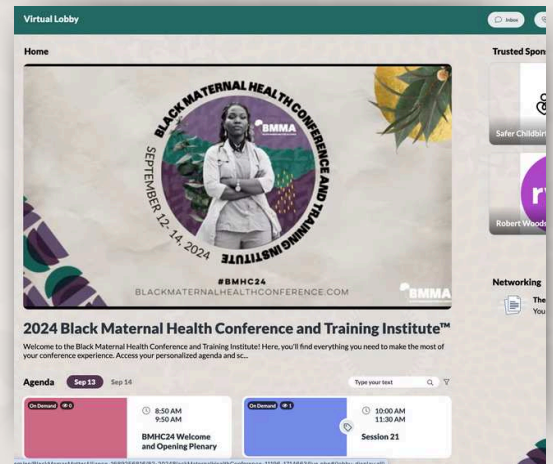
HYBRID EXPERIENCE: A SUCCESSFUL BLEND OF IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

BMHC24 successfully leveraged a hybrid format, providing a sufficient experience for both in-person and virtual attendees. The dedicated **conference website**, **launched** for the first time this year, was a central hub for information and registration. We witnessed a **significant spike** in website traffic, demonstrating the platform's effectiveness in reaching a wider audience.



Additionally, our active Instagram page garnered increased attention, with a notable **surge in followers**. This online presence allowed us to connect with attendees beyond the conference venue and share updates, highlights, and engaging content.

The hybrid format also enabled us to gather valuable feedback from both in-person and virtual attendees. We received positive comments on the user experience, including the ease of navigation on the website, the quality of the live stream, and the interactive features that facilitated engagement. Most virtual respondents were satisfied with the **technology used** to present the virtual BMHC24. Furthermore, we collected feedback on the technology used and **identified areas for improvement** to ensure a smoother experience for future events.



VIRTUAL PLATFORM: FEEDBACK AND ANALYTICS

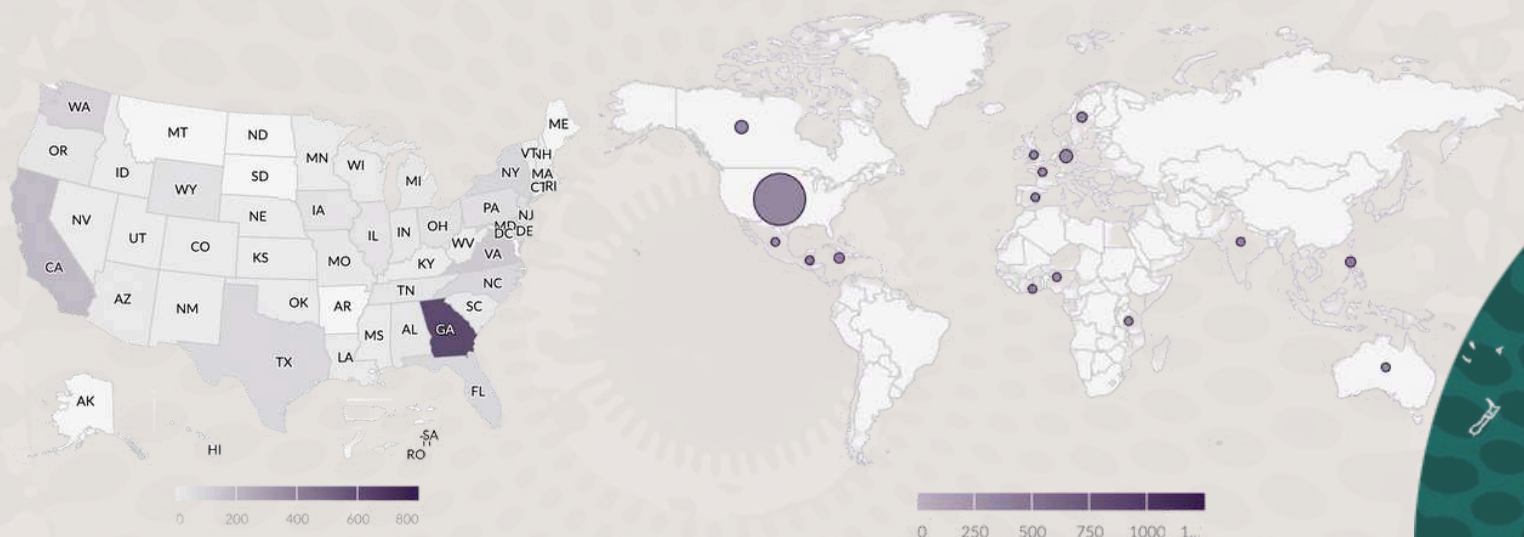
There were **594** conference app downloads. **49% (360)** overall, total interactions performed on the Conference platform by the attendees.



"This information has been **priceless!** I am so happy to have been in this community with you all"

"Thank you! To you and your team, this conference was very informative and eye opening. Appreciate you all putting this together" 🙏

"This has been amazing! Thank you BMMA!"



BMHC24 had attendees from **44 out of the 50 states** and **15 countries** who accessed our conference platform during the conference.

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

BMHC24 also garnered positive attention across social media, with speakers and attendees alike encouraged to post about their experiences throughout the conference.

Moms Clean Air Force  
@CleanAirMoms

ICYMI: Moms Clean Air Force's Almeta Cooper and Stephanie Reese spoke on a panel w/ Dr. Ericka Gibson on the intersection of [#ClimateChange](#) and maternal and infant health at this weekend's Black Maternal Health Conference in Atlanta. [#BMHC24](#) [#BlackMamasMatter](#)



Almeta Cooper, National Manager for Health Equity
10:54 AM · 17 Sep 24 · 233 Views

tatyanali  3d
How you feel when you're on your way to see your people. GIDDY.
[@blackmamasmatter](#) [#BMHC24](#) Here I come!




494 10 9

NBCA  @StopTheClot · 2d
PE is the 3rd leading cause of Black maternal mortality in the U.S. w/ many deaths linked to C-sections. Black moms have more C-sections than any other group. We stand w/ [@BlkMamasMatter](#) to expose these inequities. Clots & pregnancy risk: ow.ly/geZn50Tl4mx
[#BMHC24](#)

Omar Young MD (he/him/his) @Do... · 38m
So great to see [@UNC_SOM](#) student [@ChristinaToval](#) presenting our work on interventions to mitigate [#Black](#) maternal morbidity and mortality. Also proud of the rest of our [@UNCOBGYN](#) team, Jaime Conklin and Drs. Shilpa Darivemula and Dr. [@TenishaDWilson1](#)! [#Mentorship](#) [#bmhc24](#)

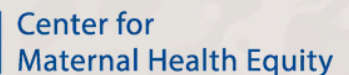


 **Reproductive Health National Traini...** · 2h
Are you attending [#BMHC24](#) this weekend? Join RHNTC staff Oyegbemisola Owuru on 9/14 at 2pm for a presentation exploring how partnerships at multiple levels are needed to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in maternal morbidity and mortality.
[#BlackMamasMatter](#) [#MaternalHealth](#)

SPONSORS: IMPACTFUL SUPPORT

We were thrilled to have the support of our generous sponsors for BMHC24. Their contributions were instrumental in making the conference a success. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, California Health Care Foundation, First Response Pregnancy, CVS Health, Merck for Mothers Safer Childbirth Cities Initiative, Morehouse School of Medicine: Center for Maternal Health Equity, SisterSong, Inc., and the Georgia Health Initiative provided invaluable support to the event.

Two of our sponsors created thoughtful activations that enhanced the attendee experience. The **Mamas Den Chest/Breast Feeding Station**, sponsored by CVS Health, offered a comfortable and private space for infant feeding parents. The **Mamas Relaxation Room**, sponsored by First Response Pregnancy, provided a tranquil retreat for attendees to unwind and recharge.



Additionally, the **Wellness Area**, sponsored by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, offered essential health and safety items, such as face masks, COVID-19 testing kits, and hand sanitizers. These activations positively impacted attendee experiences and contributed to the overall BMHC24 outcomes.



EXHIBITORS & MERCHANTS

Thank you to our **3 merchants** and **14 exhibitors** who provided a myriad of opportunities for our attendees to learn, shop and connect. The tables were buzzing with conversations, excitement and connection. You all were an invaluable part of the BMHC24 experience!



Thank You

On behalf of all of us at BMMA, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support of the 2024 Black Maternal Health Conference & Training Institute™ (BMHC24). Your generous contributions have been instrumental in making this year's event a resounding success!

Thanks to your support and participation, BMHC24 attracted over 1200 attendees worldwide, fostering opportunities for deep collaboration and knowledge-sharing. We successfully executed poster presentations, training workshops and 46 breakout sessions over the three-day conference experience. Furthermore, through sponsorships, we were able to offer continuing education credits through Breastfeed LA and PAC-LAC, as well as provide several - in-person and virtual scholarships, making the conference more accessible to a diverse range of participants.

As we reflect on the success of BMHC24, we are filled with joy and gratitude. We are deeply appreciative of your commitment to educating, celebrating, and providing safe spaces that center Black clinicians, professionals, advocates and all stakeholders working across the maternal and reproductive health sector.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue our collaboration as we begin planning for the next conference, which we're proud to share will return to Atlanta, Georgia in September 2026, by God's Grace! Your ongoing support will be crucial in maintaining the momentum we've built and furthering our shared goals.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and dedication to improving Black maternal health. Together, we are making significant strides towards cultivating a highly skilled maternity care workforce that's ready to improve health outcomes.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Angela D. Aina

Angela D. Aina, MPH
Co-Founder & Executive Director



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Save The Date!
BMHC26

SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2026

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