April is National Minority Health Month (NMHM), a time to raise awareness and address health disparities affecting racial and ethnic minority groups across the United States.

This past week marked the fifth year anniversary of Black Maternal Health Week (BMHW), founded by the Black Mama’s Matter Alliance. BMHW is purposefully situated during NMHM to deepen the conversation about Black maternal health in the United States.

In Wisconsin, the maternal mortality disparity between Black women and non-Hispanic white women is higher than the national average. The infant mortality disparity between Black newborns and non-Hispanic white newborns is also one of the highest in the nation. Due to these stark racial disparities and the impact of the social determinants of health, it is important to make sure women who are pregnant, and especially those with at-risk pregnancies, are informed of the W-2 services available to them.

Beyond W-2 services, the Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is also available to eligible women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, postpartum, or have an infant or children under 5 years old. WIC is a DHS assistance program that provides supplemental foods, breastfeeding and nutrition education, and referrals to doctors, dentists, and other public assistance programs.

You can find more information and resources below:

The Foundation for Black Women’s Wellness is a Wisconsin based non-profit organization committed to mobilizing African American women to pursue and sustain mind-body-spirit wellness, and to raise the visibility and support of Black women’s health as a community and public health priority.

Black Mama’s Matter Alliance - Resources & Events

Wisconsin’s Newborn Screening Program, administered by the Department of Health Services, helps parents find out if their baby has certain health needs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has steps women can take for healthier babies during pregnancy.

Children’s Wisconsin, is a private, independent, not-for-profit health care system dedicated
solely to the health and well-being of children.

Please be aware of these 24/7 mental health crisis response resources:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Helpline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 to connect with a Crisis Counselor
See Mental Health America's Immediate and Crisis Response for more resources.

If you are looking for information on mental health services available in your community, call 2-1-1.

This email will be posted to the BWF Work Programs Help Desk Home Page