

# The Photovoice Project: Black mothers in California share their stories

## Presenter:

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## Presentation Objectives

- Present an overview of a Photovoice project designed for women in California's Black Infant Health Program (BIH)
- Present examples of participants' photos and stories and share preliminary evaluation data
- Provide practical guidance to other MCH programs interested in implementing Photovoice

## Highlights

### Background

- California's Black Infant Health Program (BIH) offers group-based services to pregnant and parenting Black women at 15 health jurisdictions statewide.
- The Photovoice methodology engages the community in social action through photography, storytelling, and critical dialogue. This Photovoice project is designed to build on BIH's work to increase social support, reduce stress, and enhance participants' life skills.

### Project Description

- Photovoice comprises 6 weekly group sessions as well as a public community event where participants share their selected photos and stories. Each series includes up to 10 participants, and trained BIH staff facilitate all sessions.
- Curriculum topics include: camera and photography basics, information about famous Black women photographers, supported development of narratives to accompany photos, and planning for the community event.
- Photos from the project have explored a broad range of themes, including: motherhood, overcoming challenges, generational continuity, drawing on others for support, and pride in Black identity and community. Participants reported that were highly satisfied with their experiences in the project and felt like stronger advocates for themselves, their families, and their communities.

## Resources

- Questions? Please contact presenter Hannah Emple at [hannah.emple@ucsf.edu](mailto:hannah.emple@ucsf.edu) or Project Coordinator Mercedes Dekker at [mercedes.dekker@ucsf.edu](mailto:mercedes.dekker@ucsf.edu).