



Knox County Health Department

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KCHD recognizes Black Maternal Health Week

Knoxville, Tenn. – The Knox County Health Department is celebrating Black Maternal Health Week, in partnership with the Knox Birth Equity Alliance.

Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women and Black babies have an infant mortality rate almost double compared to the U.S. average.

“Multiple factors contribute to these disparities, which unfortunately have only increased since the pandemic,” said Adrien Jones, Public Health Educator at KCHD. “By offering opportunities for our community to learn more about Black maternal health, we’re raising awareness of the issue and working towards addressing these disparities.”

On April 12, a Taste & Paint event, centered around Black Maternal Health Week, will be held at the Cansler YMCA from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The event will feature food from a Black-owned business and painting will be facilitated by a regional artist. Registration is required as space is limited.

The 2023 Black Maternal Health Showcase will take place on April 13 at 5:30 p.m. at UT’s Frieson Black Cultural Center and will feature a panel of speakers, including local researchers, business owners, and health professionals who are working to improve Black maternal health in the community. Food and drink will be served. Registration is requested.

On April 15, the 2nd Annual Community Baby Shower will take place at Overcoming Believers Church from 12-2 p.m. Participants will enjoy a shower of baby essentials, birthing and postpartum resources, and more. Registration through Gennisi Charitable Birth Services is required. Space is limited.

Those interested in participating in any of these free events, please visit KCHD’s [website](#) to register.

About Knox County Health Department

The first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.

