



Learning Sessions for Alliance's Annual
Conference
<https://www.allianceon.org/conference2024>



Poster Board 12:

"I Have Two Strikes Against Me; I Am Black, and I Am Young" - Experiences and Needs of Young Black Mothers in Toronto

Presenters:

• Amna Iqbal	Research and Policy Analyst	TAIBU CHC
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Description:

Currently, there is no dedicated program for young Black mothers in the GTA, despite research indicating their unique challenges due to racism and gendered biases. TAIBU Community Health Centre partnered with Brock University to conduct a community-based needs assessment, employing an anti-racist, Black Feminist, and trauma-informed approach. The report shares findings and recommendations from the study.

Poster Board objectives and learning outcomes:

- Develop an understanding of the impact of anti-Black racism on the educational experiences of Black girls in Canada, with a focus on the neglect and punishment they face within the education system, affecting academic, emotional, and physical needs.
- Examine the intersectionality of racialized poverty, childcare, and the child welfare system, and its contribution to the overrepresentation of Black children in the Child Welfare System. Understand the racialized struggles faced by Black girls, providing insight into the challenges of growing up in Canada.
- Explore the experiences of young Black mothers in Canada, particularly the correlation between early motherhood and unresolved racial trauma. Understand how mainstream societal perceptions may differ from the positive impact motherhood has on personal healing and development, despite the stressful experiences and compromised health management capacities.

Full description:

Challenge:

The initiative aimed to address the challenges faced by young Black women in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) who were mothers. These challenges included systemic racism, economic disparities, and inadequate support structures, impacting their ability to provide for their children.

Action:

The research team, consisting of TAIBU Community Health Centre (TAIBU CHC) staff, a young Black mother from the community, and university-based researchers, conducted a community-based participatory needs assessment. They employed anti-racist, Black Feminist, trauma-informed, and decolonized methodologies to understand the experiences of young Black mothers. The key findings highlighted systemic issues in education, child welfare, racism, and the impact of early motherhood.

Impact:

The outcomes revealed the profound impact of structural racism on the lives of young Black mothers, affecting their mental and physical health, economic self-reliance, and access to essential services. The pandemic exacerbated existing racial trauma. The initiative highlighted the resilience of young Black mothers in overcoming challenges through individual capacities and informal support systems.

Trajectory:

The report recommends a comprehensive approach, including financial support, mental health care, parent support, medical care, policy advocacy,

and social service advocacy. It emphasizes the need for a culturally grounded, anti-racist, trauma-informed, intersectional, decolonizing, and individually tailored program. The next steps involve creating a centralized community "safe space" exclusively for young Black mothers and families. The trajectory involves policy recommendations targeting mental health supports, education, Children's Aid Society, the Family Sponsorship program, OSAP, Ontario Works, childcare, and parental benefits.