

Critical Building Blocks for a Healthy Start: Championing Equitable Maternal Health

February 28, 2023



Welcome.

Marquita Little Numan, Senior Director of Equity & Impact
Jacy Montoya Price, Senior Director of Advocacy & Issue Campaigns
Alliance for Early Success

- **Q&A:** Use the Q&A function for questions and we'll get to as many as possible.
- **Chat:** Feel free to tell us who you are and comment along in the chat, but put your questions for the panelists in the Q&A box.
- **Recording:** Recording and links/resources will be sent out in the next few days and will be posted at earlysuccess.org/stateactioncalls.



Panelists



Maggie Clark
Program Director
Georgetown Center for Children
and Families



Ky Lindberg
Chief Executive Officer
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies
Coalition of Georgia



Sekesa Berry
Founder & Executive Director
Atlanta Doula Collective





Critical Building Blocks for a Healthy Start: Facing the Maternal Health Crisis Head On

Maggie Clark
Program Director
Georgetown University Center for Children and
Families

February 28, 2023



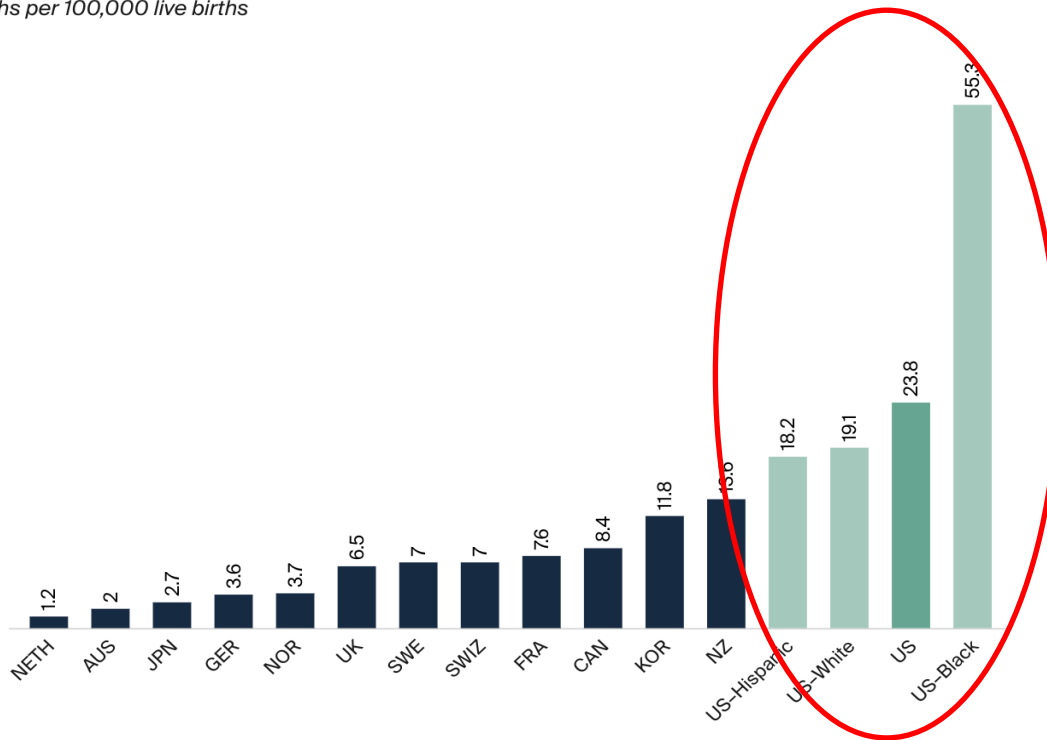
Maternal Health and Infant Health Are Inseparable

- Mothers' experiences before, during and after pregnancy have direct impacts on the health of their infants



New Data Shows U.S. Maternal Mortality Rate Exceeds That in Other High-Income Countries

Deaths per 100,000 live births

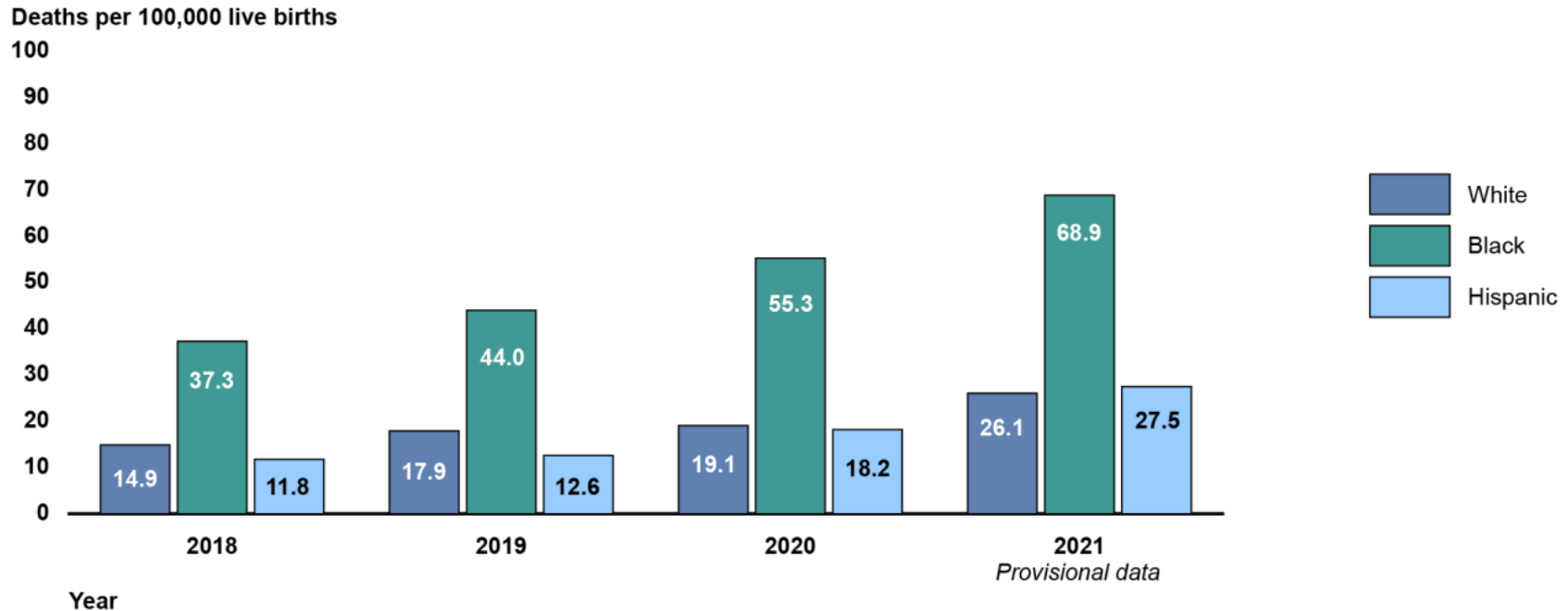


- In 2020, the maternal mortality rate in the U.S. was 24 deaths per 100,000 live births — more than three times the rate in most other high-income countries.

Source: Munira Z. Gunja, Evan D. Gumas, and Reginald D. Williams II, “The U.S. Maternal Mortality Crisis Continues to Worsen: An International Comparison,” To the Point (blog), Commonwealth Fund, Dec. 1, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.26099/8vem-fc65>

Worsening Maternal Health Crisis

Figure 1: Number and Rate of Maternal Deaths by Race and Ethnicity, 2018 through 2021



Source: Government Accountability Office. (2022). Maternal Health: Outcomes Worsened and Disparities Persisted During the Pandemic. (GAO Publication No. 23-105871). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. Available at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2022-10-19%20GAO%20Report%20on%20Maternal%20Health.pdf>

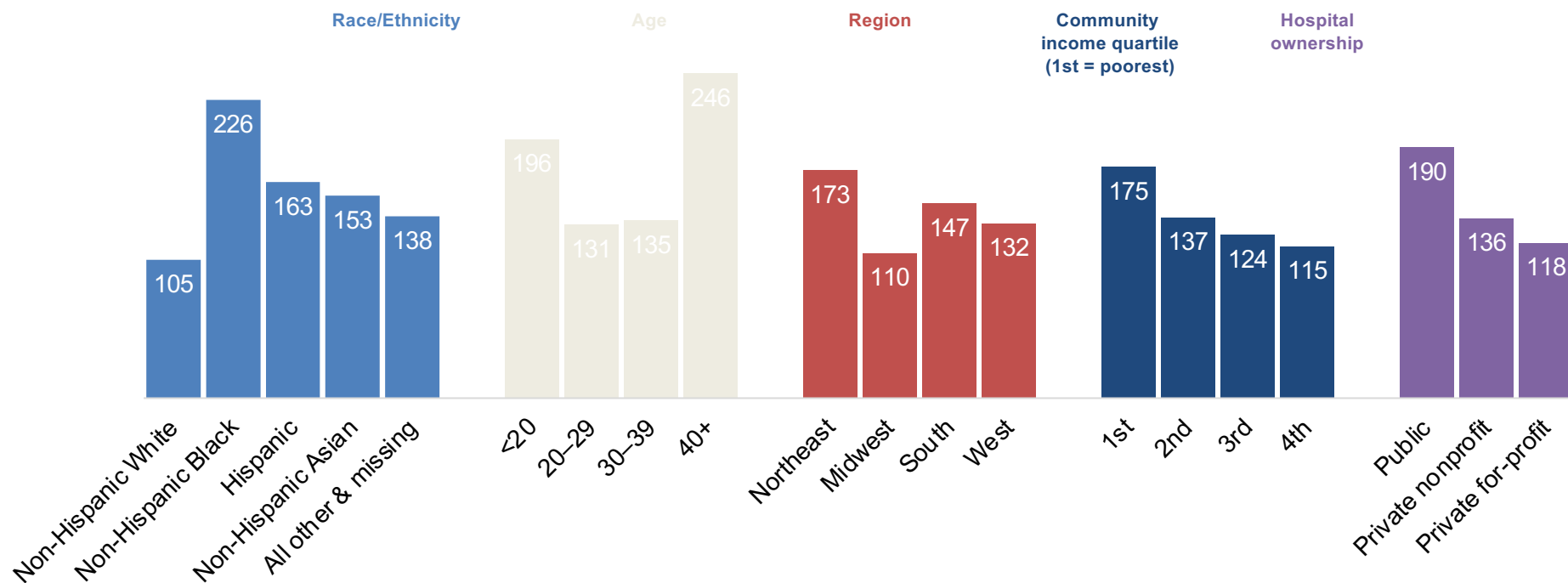
Pregnancy-Related Deaths: Data from Maternal Mortality Review Committees in 36 US States, 2017–2019



- Pregnancy-related deaths occurred during pregnancy, delivery, and up to a year postpartum.
- The leading cause of pregnancy-related death varied by race and ethnicity.
- Over 80% of pregnancy-related deaths were determined to be preventable.

Source: Trost SL, Beauregard J, Njie F, et al. Pregnancy-Related Deaths: Data from Maternal Mortality Review Committees in 36 US States, 2017–2019. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of Health and Human Services; 2022.

Severe maternal morbidity per 10,000 births, 2016–17



Data: Clare C. Brown et al., "[Associations Between Comorbidities and Severe Maternal Morbidity](#)," *Obstetrics and Gynecology* 136, no. 5 (Nov. 2020): 892–901.

“It’s not race, it’s racism”- *Dr. Tiffany L. Green, The New York Times*

TheUpshot

Childbirth Is Deadlier for Black Families Even When They’re Rich, Expansive Study Finds

By Claire Cain Miller, Sarah Kliff and Larry Buchanan
Produced by Larry Buchanan and Shannon Lin
Feb. 12, 2023

- Racial disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes were not explained by income, education, age, marital status or country of birth.
- Research shows that negative experiences during pregnancy and throughout life (e.g. chronic stress, racism, exposure to pollution, housing instability, food insecurity) are associated with low birth weight, preterm birth, and developmental delays for the child.

Sources: Claire Cain Miller, Sarah Kliff, Larry Buchanan, “Childbirth is Deadlier for Black Families Even When They’re Rich, Expansive Study Finds,” *The New York Times*, February 12, 2023, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/02/12/upshot/child-maternal-mortality-rich-poor.html>; Jack P. Shonkoff, Natalie Slopen, David R. Williams “[Early Childhood Adversity, Toxic Stress, and the Impacts of Racism on the Foundations of Health](https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-090419-101940)” Annual Review of Public Health 2021 42:1, 115-134, accessed at <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-090419-101940>.

Federal, state progress

- Biden Administration Maternal Health Blueprint, federal investments
- ARPA option allows for 12 months of postpartum Medicaid coverage, 36 states elected so far
- Black Maternal Health Momnibus to be reintroduced
- New Maternal Mental Health Hotline, 1-833-9-HELP4MOMS



Alliance for Early Success – National Issues State Action

Deepening understanding and exploring pathways for collaboration with Maternal Health Advocates



**HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES**

Coalition of Georgia

Ky A. Lindberg, M.Ed., B.A.
CEO

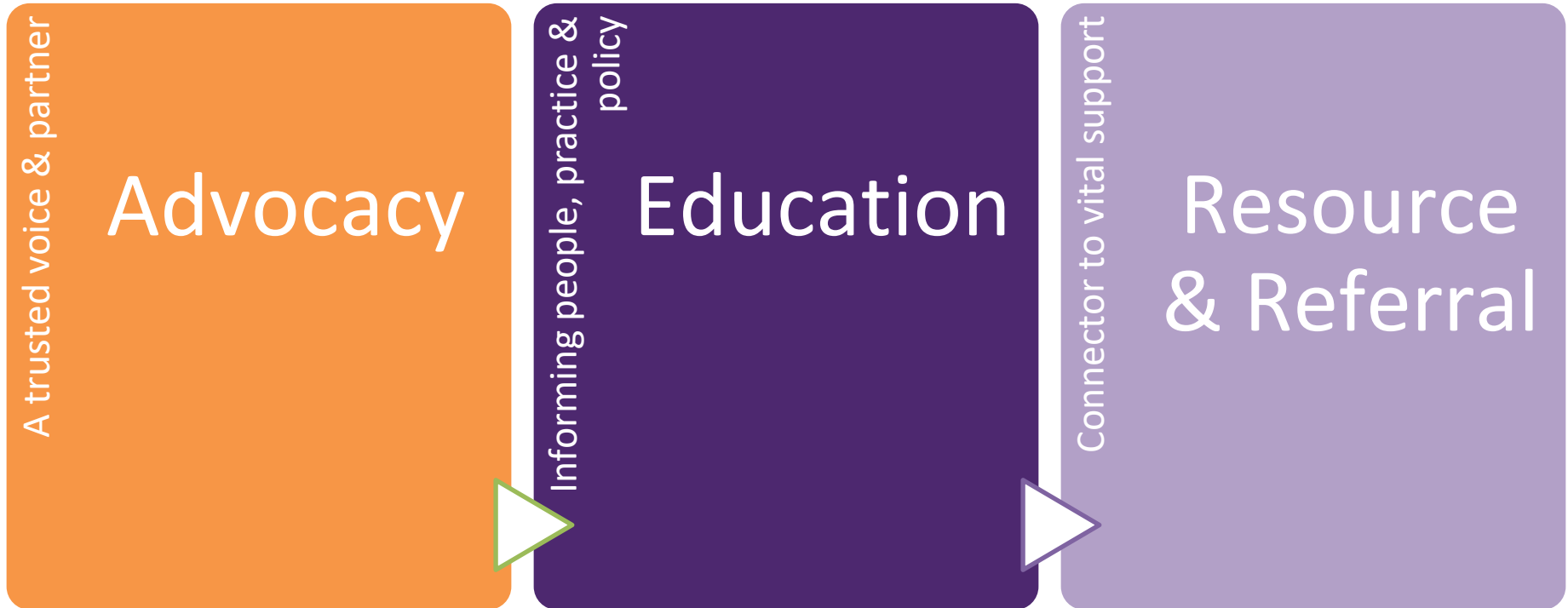
HMHBGA

February 28, 2023

Happy Tuesday



About Us



Our mission is to improve maternal and infant health through advocacy, education and access to vital resources.

THEORY OF CHANGE

Information

Investments

People

Relationships



Assumptions

- All birthing people, their supportive partners & babies require health equity
- Those directly experiencing health inequities are the experts of their experiences and thusly must be an equal partner in identifying solutions
- Individuals can change institutions & systems

Pre-conditions

- Birthing people & their supportive partners willing to participate
- Institutional/Systems leaders being willing to listen & participate
- Partnerships to facilitate change
- Political/civic landscape to operate

OUTPUTS

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Increased Maternal & Infant Health Outcomes

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Coalition Building
Policy Change

Knowledge & Skill

Access to Care



Advocacy Campaigns
Collaboration Hubs



Intervention Incubators
Learning Pathways
Feedback Mechanisms
Data Center



Resource & Referral Hub

OUR IMPACT

A Georgia where every mother and baby has the resources and support to be healthy and thrive throughout the perinatal period.

Our Work

A trusted voice & Partner

Advocacy

Policy Agenda

- Expand Protection for Pregnant & Postpartum Employees
- Increase Oral Healthcare for Birthers
- Expand access to and create sustainable funding mechanisms for the perinatal workforce
- Increase Maternal Mental & Physical Wellness
- Increase Maternal and Infant Health Funding

Policy Agenda for the 2023 Legislative Session

Our Work

A trusted voice & Partner

Advocacy

Coalitions & Working Groups

- Georgia Doula Access W.G.
- Infant Mortality W.G.
- Maternal Oral Health W.G.
- Planning for Healthy Babies W.G.
- Prenatal Education W.G.
- Maternal Mortality Stakeholder Group
- Georgia Coalition for Pregnant Workers
- Maternal Mental Health Task Force

Our Work

Informing people, policy & practice

Education

Direct Services

- Multi-intervention Program (MIS/BBI)
- Workforce Development (BPSP)
- Perinatal Education (P&I)
- Peer Support Groups

Research

- State of the State Report
- Doula Medicaid Reimbursement Pilot
- MMH Environmental Scan
- Maternal Oral Health – PCORI/SEED
- First Candle – Safe Sleep/HHS

Our Work

Connector to Vital Services

Resource & Referral

Call Center

- Children 1st
- Help Me Grow
- Prevent Child Abuse

Microgrants

- Project Innovation Fund
- Safe Under the Lilies Fund

Perinatal Care Package Project

Contact Us



Ky Lindberg

Chief Executive Officer

Ky.Lindberg@hmbga.org

*"I am here to help with
strategic discussions and
contract negotiations."*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!!!

www.hmbga.org



Atlanta Doula Collective, Inc.

Who Are We?

The Atlanta Doula Collective (ADC) works to bridge the gap in perinatal healthcare for Black women. By curating culturally appropriate programming, affordable access to services and equitable support to Black mothers, we aim to uplift and empower them and their families. Collectively, we are shifting the paradigm of Black Maternal Health outcomes, in Metro-Atlanta, to a new narrative of thriving Maternal Wellness.



We are a grassroots movement of Doulas, working together to address the maternal health needs in our communities.



ADC Herstory

Helping Black families achieve their birth plan and healthy birth outcomes.

- **Began as an On-call Doula Cohort in 2017.**
- **Evolved into a Doula Directory in 2019.**
- **Registered and became an official a Non-profit 501c3 in 2020.**



2023
Community Partners



Atlanta Doula Collective, Inc. Production

Current Programming

Mama Talk

An informational support group for pregnant and postpartum Black families, hosted, either virtually or in-person, by the Atlanta Doula Collective, Inc. Each Mama Talk features a relative topic of discussion, led by a community expert. This community forum has been cultivated to be a safe space for Black families to share their birth stories, birthing fears and fertility concerns. The Mama Talk program also grants opportunities for participants to share common experiences, support one another and empower themselves with new information.



Pregnancy Information Circle & Lunch, PIC'L

A barrier-free Virtual Childbirth Education six-week bi-weekly series presented by experienced Doulas within the Atlanta Doula Collective. This virtual childbirth education series provides evidence-based information using a culturally sensitive framework, to help pregnant, birthing and postpartum families make informed decisions about their maternal care, birthing options and community resources.

Current Trainings

Innerstanding Birthwork, Intermediate Doula Training

IA culturally sensitive virtual training curated to help birthworkers navigate the various dynamics of supporting black families during the journey of pregnancy and immediate postpartum. This Full-Circle intermediate doula training includes comprehensive knowledge of antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum, designed to supplement the newly trained birthworker with more skills to help them better assist birthing families.

Advanced Doula Skills Training

Training provides comprehensive knowledge on maternal health and wellness, as well as the skills and techniques needed to support mothers during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. The training covers a wide range of topics, including anatomy and physiology, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, maternal nutrition and hydration, and the prevention and management of common maternal health conditions.

Upcoming Events

PIC'L

Mar. 5th

Comfort Measures for
Birth

Mar. 19th

Breastfeeding Basics

Apr. 2nd

Baby Basics & Newborn
Warning Signs

Apr. 22nd.

Postpartum Recovery



ATLANTA DOULA
COLLECTIVE

Teas, Tonics & Tinctures

MARCH 25th

11:00am — 1:00pm

The Doula Loft

232 19th St. Unit 7404

Atlanta, Ga 30363



This interactive workshop teaches how to use herbs safely during pregnancy and postpartum. Instructed by, Aaliya Boler, a full spectrum Doula and herbalist. Each participant will make their own tincture to take home.



MAMA TALK

[Home](#)[About](#)[Support Us](#)[Events](#)[The Collective](#)[Contact](#)[Donate](#)

In Person

11345 Tara Blvd. STE 4-279
Hampton, GA 30228



Online

Make a tax deductible donation.

[Click to Give](#)

Over the Phone

It's easy to donate offline too.

Tel: 678-834-9044

Support Atlanta Doula Collective.

When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile



Alliance for Early Success

National Issues ► State Action

Thank you for joining us today.

Remember, earlysuccess.org/stateactioncalls is where you'll find:

- Recording of this and past calls
- Links to resources
- Sign up form for invitations to future presentations