Health in Color

By Alexis Green

Sometimes stories involving minority communities tend to fall into the shadows. Health in Color hopes to bring awareness to headlines you may have missed and paint a picture of what's happening within black communities. From health epidemics and new bills to controversial billboards, we've got you covered on the health news from the summer that are affecting African-Americans.

Study reveals most pregnancy-related deaths were preventable

Photo courtesy of The Austin American Statesman

In 2012, Texas saw its highest number of maternal deaths to date and as written about in the Austin American-Statesman, 80 percent of these deaths were preventable. This issue largely affects African-American women who were 2.3 more times likely to die from complications of a pregnancy than white women. Rates have continued to progress over the years as experts are looking at contributing causes such as access to health and education.

The Invisible HIV epidemic

Black gay men have a 50 percent chance on contracting HIV, yet with such large numbers the disease remains a silent issue. Within some southern regions, there are still stigmas around same sex relationships that, according to The Guardian, are resulting in "dangerous" sex lives. Closeted relationships are not only keeping people in the dark, but this epidemic as well.

The fight against high pregnancy-related deaths rates

As reported by the [Los Angeles Times](#), African-American women in the U.S. are three to four times more like to die before or after childbirth than white women. Senator Kamala Harris, however, has a bill to combat those high rates. The bill would provide $30 million in grants towards training against racial bias and giving healthcare professionals incentive to address the disparity on maternal healthcare outcomes.

Are police killings a public health issue?

Photo courtesy of Nuccio DiNuzzo/Chicago Tribune/TNS via Getty Images

As police killings have become a topic of discussion, the focus has now expanded to include how these murders may be linked to health problems. [PBS Hour](#) highlights research that connects the trauma and pain of loss caused by police killings to the deterioration of mental health within black and other communities.

The battle against institutional racism loses its funding

The Office of Minority Health Statistics and Engagement lost its funding, according to [KUT](#). The agency worked to resolve issues with racial inequities in government services by identifying issues within certain communities and working closely with the people within that community to resolve them. One of the main issues the agency tackled was health equity, a problem that some people fear will fall on the backburner upon the agency's August closure.

Pro-abortion billboard sparks some anger in Dallas

Photo courtesy of the Houston Chronicle

When "abortion is self-care" appeared on a billboard in Dallas, people questioned what kind of message The Afiya Center, a non-profit organization that advocates for black women and reproductive justice, was trying to send out. According to the Houston Chronicle, the advertisement sparked debate over racism and the glamorization of abortion. The organization, despite backlash, is standing behind its message.

Serena opens up about struggles with postpartum depression

Postpartum depression remains an issue for a variety of mothers, one of which is tennis celebrity, Serena Williams, as described by KPIX. After a loss at the Silicon Valley Classic tournament, Williams attributed her worst defeat to being in a "funk." The tennis player has previously talked about her experience with her complicated childbirth and depression which has resonated with moms who understand the demanding job of motherhood.

That concludes Health in Color for this summer, but don't stop here. Look for other stories within and outside your community. After all, there is always something left to be discovered that your favorite publication might have forgotten bring to light.