

Does care during pregnancy differ based on patient race in the US?

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In an analysis of perinatal care provided in the United States, investigators found few differences by race for care that was based on guidelines or expert recommendations; however, discretionary care (for

which professional recommendations or guidelines do not exist) varied by race.

The analysis, which is published in *Birth*, included information from the [electronic health records](#) for 7,056 [women](#) who delivered infants within a large hospital system between 2012 and 2018. Compared with Non-Hispanic white women, Non-Hispanic Black women were 20% less likely to receive a prenatal depression screen and 60% more likely to have a urine drug test when denying drug use, while Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Asian women were 40% and 60% less likely, respectively, to have a urine drug test completed when denying drug use.

"Greater efforts need to be made to identify and mitigate providers' implicit and explicit biases; expanded professional guidelines may offer some protections against inequitable, discretionary care," the authors wrote.

More information: Disparities in the provision of perinatal care based on patient race in the United States, *Birth* (2023). [DOI: 10.1111/birt.12717](#)

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