

Impact of Racism on Black Children's Health

Advancing Protection, Promotion, and & Preservation Policies

Iheoma U. Iruka, PhD [she/her]

Research Professor, Department of Public Policy
Fellow, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute
Founding Director, Equity Research Action Coalition

Presentation at the 2023 NIHCM Webinar: The State of Our Children's Health
May 10, 2023



Equity Research Action Coalition

UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

About the Equity Research Action Coalition



SUPPORT US

HOME

WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

RESOURCES

PARTNER WITH US



- University collaborative at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill
- focuses on **co-constructing** actionable research and evaluation with practitioners and policymakers to support the optimal development of Black children prenatally through childhood.
- works at the intersection of research, program, and policy through **anti-racist and cultural wealth frameworks**



What We Do: Research-Policy-Practice-Translation

Early Years Research and Evaluation	Equitable Early Childhood Policies	Mentoring and Training	Counternarrative Translation
<p>Critically synthesize the wholistic experiences of children and their families from the African diaspora beginning prenatally</p>	<p>Develop actionable policies and practices to eradicate the impact of racism and poverty and all its consequences on the lives of Black children and their families and communities</p>	<p>Support the development of diverse emerging scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and leaders interested in strengthening Black children's early years</p>	<p>multi-pronged communication driver to disseminate information to support anti-bias, culturally-sustaining, and asset-based policies and practices</p>



Advancing child health and development starts before birth and matters throughout the life course.

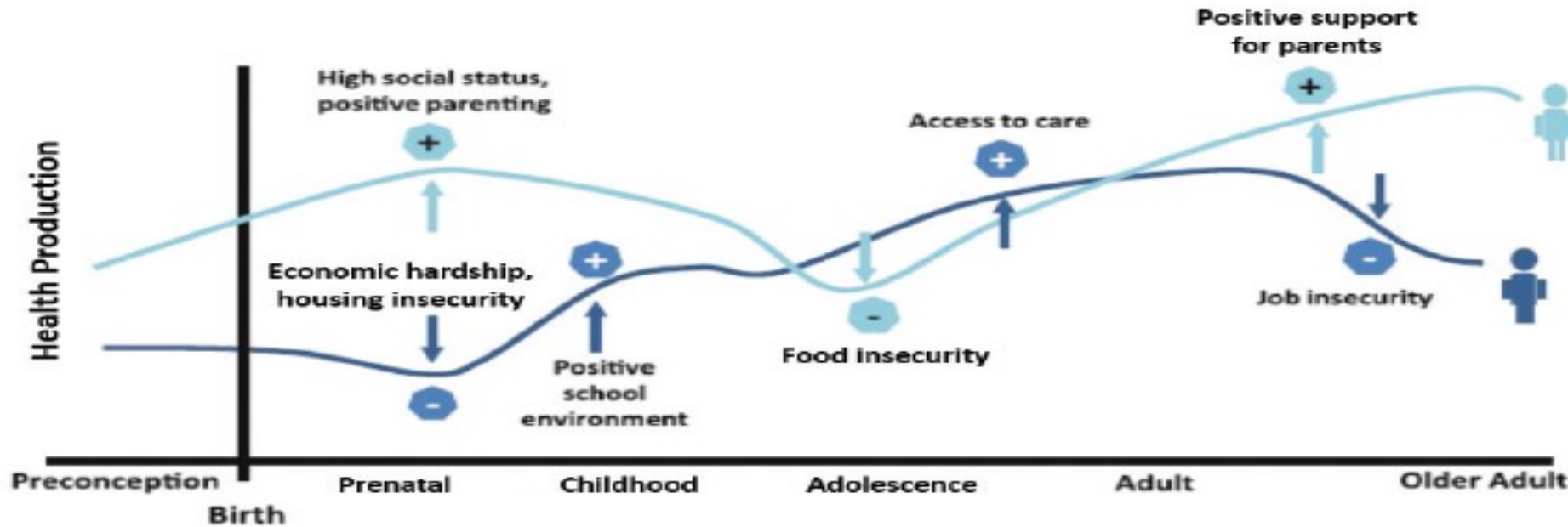


FIGURE 1-1 Variable health trajectories: Life course approach.

NOTE: This figure includes several examples; however, there are many other variables that impact health trajectories (see Chapter 3).

SOURCE: Adapted from Halfon et al., 2014.



Equity Research Action Coalition

UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

Racism + Resilience + Resistance Integrative Study of Childhood Ecosystem (R³ISE)

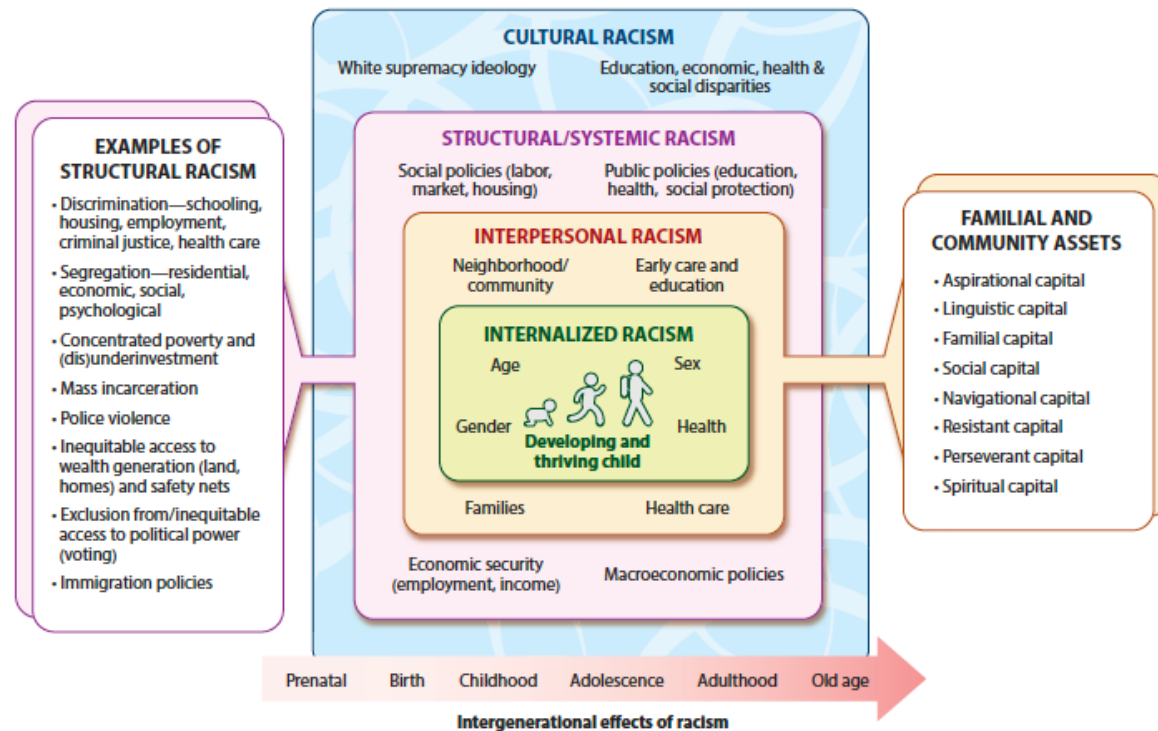


Figure 1
 Racism + Resilience + Resistance Integrative Study of Childhood Ecosystem (R³ISE). The R³ISE integrative model is a conceptual framework examining how different forms of racism, such as cultural and systemic racism, impact children's healthy development and the moderating role of family and community cultural assets. Note that vicarious racism and some other forms of racism are not pictured.

integration of multiple frameworks

multi-dimensionality of racism (*pictured and not-pictured*)

racism has intergenerational effects

attending to intersectionality

interplay between racism and cultural assets



Black Parents and Their Babies: The Dual Pandemic of Racism and COVID-19, 2019–2022

October 2022



Equity Research Action Coalition
UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute



Equity Research Action Coalition

UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute



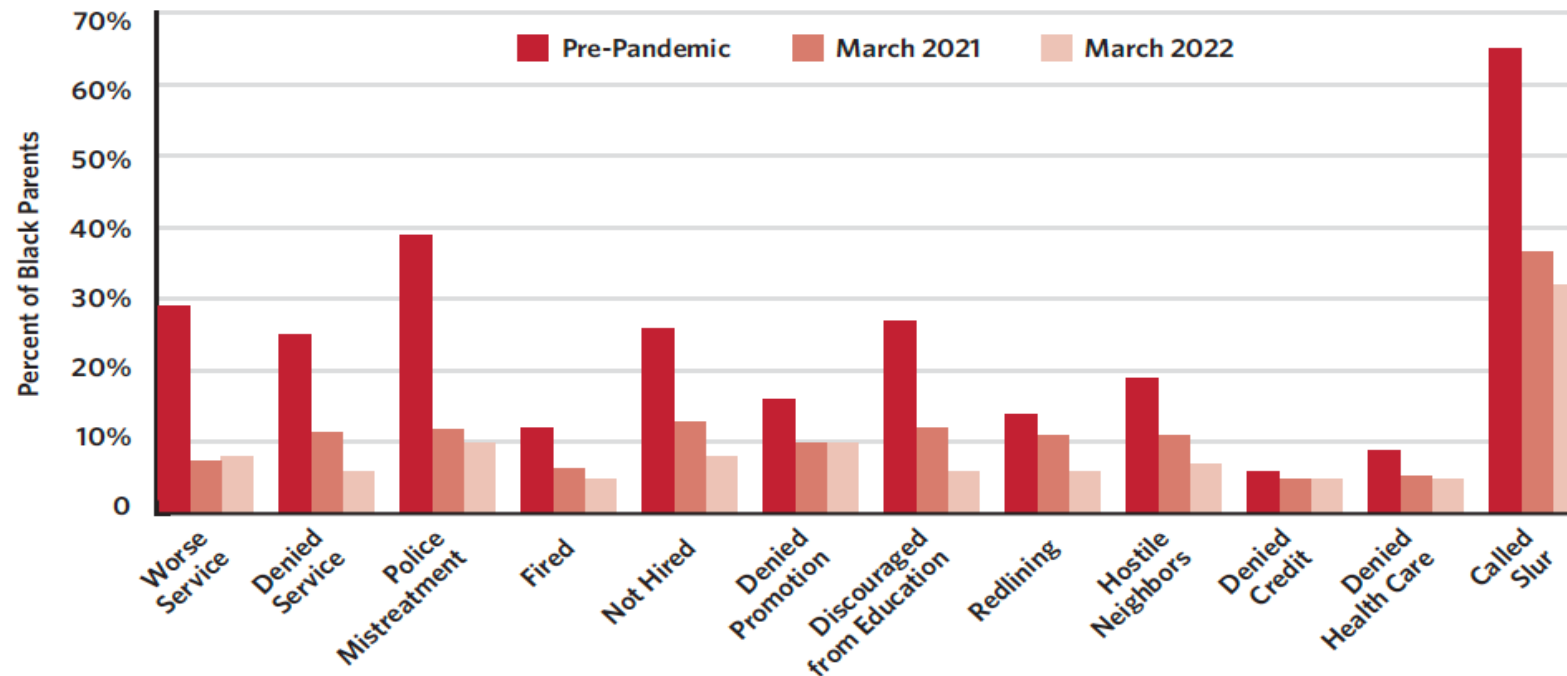
Findings

This report demonstrates that two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, Black families and their babies are surviving, although they continue to feel the weight of racism, discrimination, economic strain, and other inequities, compounded by the global pandemic. Racism and discrimination remain a concern for Black families and their babies, along with economic instability and addressing mental health challenges. Our key findings

One out of three Black parents reported the use of a slur directed at them during the pandemic; this rate decreased slightly between 2021 and 2022.

Black parents also reported concerns about unfair treatment of their children, particularly before the pandemic.

Figure 1. Black Parents of Babies: Experiences of Discrimination



Note. Pre-Pandemic N = 265; March 2021 N = 235; March 2022 N = 191. RAPID-EC surveyed between August 24, 2020, and February 16, 2022



Over a quarter of Black families in poverty in 2022 experience 3+ material hardships and over 10% of Black middle-income families also experience these hardships.

Table 1. Black Families' Material Hardships

	2021		2022		Change from 2021-2022		% Change from 2021-2022	
	Below/ Near- Poverty	Middle- Income	Below/ Near- Poverty	Middle- Income	Below/ Near- Poverty	Middle- Income	Below/ Near- Poverty	Middle- Income
Difficulties Paying for Basic Needs (Hard/Very Hard)	32.29%	7.65%	26.64%	7.02%	-5.65%	-0.63%	-17.50%	-8.24%
Difficulty Paying for:								
Utilities	45.34%	20.77%	47.25%	13.68%	1.91%	-7.09%	4.21%	-34.14%
Housing	34.46%	17.49%	35.32%	11.11%	0.86%	-6.38%	2.50%	-36.48%
Food	30.32%	16.94%	24.77%	11.97%	-5.55%	-4.97%	-18.30%	-29.34%
Early Care and Education	18.13%	13.67%	14.68%	9.40%	-3.45%	-4.27%	-19.03%	-31.24%
Health Care	10.88%	11.48%	11.92%	4.27%	1.04%	-7.21%	9.56%	-62.80%
Material Hardships (3 or More)	29.02%	16.39%	25.23%	12.82%	-3.79%	-3.57%	-13.06%	-21.78%
Receiving Public Benefits	53.91%	18.58%	59.07%	13.79%	5.16%	-4.79%	9.57%	-25.78%
Access to Free Food	48.96%	22.95%	22.48%	3.42%	-26.48%	-19.53%	-54.08%	-85.10%

Note: N = 782; RAPID-EC surveyed between April 6, 2020, and February 16, 2022.



Equity Research Action Coalition

UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

3Ps of Justice: Transformative Agenda

PROTECTION – *How are we ensuring children and families are free from harm, trauma, and adversity?*

PROMOTION – *How are we fostering the health, wealth, and educational excellence of children and families?*

PRESERVATION – *How are we preserving the family, culture, language, community, and identity of children and families?*



Black Child National Agenda:

America Must Deliver on its Promise



in partnership with



10 Policies

1. Maintain Child Tax Credits and Income Supports
2. Address Racial Disparities in Wages and Career Advancement Opportunities
3. Invest in Black-Owned and Black-Led Businesses, Organizations, and Institutions
4. Expand the Family and Medical Leave Act
5. Expand Health Insurance
6. Expand Universal Access to Early Care and Education
7. Address Harsh and Unfair Discipline Practices
8. Ensure Equity in Early Intervention and Special Education
9. Ensure Culturally Responsive Curricula and Practices through Workforce Development and Training
10. Pass Reparations

3Ps + Black Child National Agenda: Many of these policies activated in several states

PROTECTION POLICIES

1. Maintain Child Tax Credits and Income Supports
7. Address Harsh and Unfair Discipline
8. Ensure Equity in Early Intervention and Special Education

PROMOTION POLICIES

2. Address Racial Disparities in Wages & Career Advancements
4. Expand Family and Medical Leave Act
5. Expand Health Insurance
6. Expand Universal Access to Early Care and Education

PRESERVATION POLICIES

3. Invest in Black-Owned and Black-Led Business, Organizations, and Institutions
9. Ensure Culturally Responsive Curricula and Practices Through Workforce Development and Training
10. Pass Reparations



Equity Research Action Coalition – Counternarrative Translation Approaches

Community
partner learning
meetings

Black Babies
Awareness Month
& Black Media

Black Child
National Agenda

RISER Network &
Mentoring

Peer review
articles,
reports/briefs, &
op-eds

Revising national
studies to
explicitly focus on
(rac)ism



Equity Research Action Coalition

UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

Changing the Water and Activating Change

B Contents

201 pieces of coverage in total. Open a section to view all the coverage in detail.

ews

Black Babies Awareness Month campaign shines a spotlight on the health and wellbeing of Black children

Johnson City Press

oma U. Iruka, founder, research Action Coalition

Coverage

Black Babies Awareness Month campaign shines a spotlight on the health and wellbeing of Black children

amsterdamnews.com
New York Amsterdam News

Afro-American N
Facebook Watch

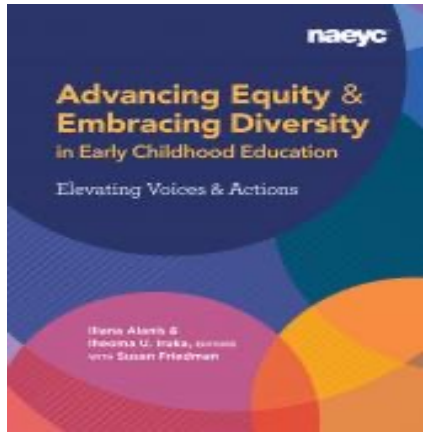
Black Babies Awareness Month campaign shines a spotlight on the health and wellbeing of Black children

Defender
Black Babies Awareness Month spotlights new national agenda

B Contents

- 201** Pieces of Coverage
Total number of online, offline and social clips in this book
- 196M** Online Readership
Combined total number of people that visit the websites featuring coverage
- 778K** Est. Online Views
Prediction of lifetime views of online coverage, based on audience reach &...
- 168** Social Shares
Number of times the online articles have been shared on social media
- 397** YouTube Views
Total number of times video content has been viewed on YouTube
- 57** Avg. Domain Authority
A 0-100 measure of the authority of the site coverage appears on...

Resources



Anti-Racist Policymaking to Protect, Promote, and Preserve Black Families and Babies

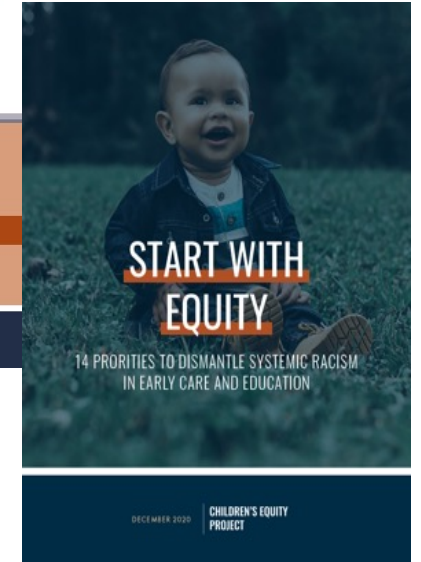
Iheoma U. Iruka, Kristen Harper, Chrishana M. Lloyd, Porscha Boddicker-Young, Allison De Marco, and Jarvis Blanding

These authors contributed equally to the creation of this brief.
October 2021



Black Parents and Their Babies: The Dual Pandemic of Racism and COVID-19, 2019–2022

October 2022



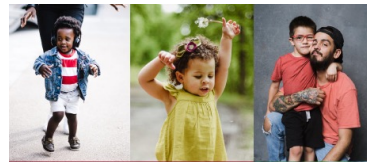
Are Black and Latine Families with Babies Feeling Relief from the Child Tax Credit?

By Iheoma U. Iruka, Dharini Bahria, Milton Soggs, and Jacqueline Sims
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *Boston University

Introduction

This is the third brief in the series that aims to assess the impact of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) on economic hardships faced by American families with infants and toddlers (also referred to as babies in this series). The CTC aims to lift families with children out of poverty through monthly cash transfers of \$250 or \$300 per child and an annual child tax credit of \$3,600 per child under the age of six and \$3,000 per child under the age of 17 for tax filers up to a certain income cut off.

In our [second brief](#), we found that receipt of a child tax credit helped reduce income volatility, major financial strain, and material hardships among low-



BUILDING A UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL SYSTEM AROUND HEAD START

GUIDING AN EQUITABLE PANDEMIC RECOVERY



CHILDREN'S EQUITY PROJECT

THE CENTURY FOUNDATION

AUGUST 2021



Black Parents and Their Babies: Attending to the First 1,000 Days



Iheoma Iruka, PhD • Stephanie Curren, PhD • Tonia Durlak, PhD • Kerry Ann Escoge, PhD



Equity Research Action Coalition

UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

New Book
Coming
June 2023!!



Thank you!!

Comments?? & Questions??

<https://equity-coalition.fpg.unc.edu>

fpgequitycoalition@unc.edu



Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph.D.
LinkedIn/Twitter: @IheomaIruka



Equity Research Action Coalition

UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute