

# Health Disparities Panel Handout

Click to watch Part 1 of this panel discussion on  
Systemic Racism & Health Disparities in Oklahoma

*(a panel hosted by COBA on October 26, 2020)*

## Describing race/ethnicity

Attendees may hear the terms such as “women of color”, “babies of color”, “families of color” and “people of color”. These terms are used in public health and academic circles in the United States to denote ethnic groups that are nonwhite and have experienced systemic racism. This includes, but is not limited to, African Americans, Latinos, American Indians and others. It is meant to be inclusive and not to be used when citing one specific group, such as Black or Hispanic families.

## DEFINITIONS

### Health disparities

A particular type of difference in health “in which disadvantaged social groups—such as the poor, racial/ethnic minorities, women, or other groups who have persistently experienced social disadvantage or discrimination—systematically experience worse health or greater health risks than more advantaged social groups.”

### Systemic racism

A social structure in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations, and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways to perpetuate racial group inequity.

## RESOURCES

(click to be redirected to these sites/articles)

1. Disparities Defined by HealthyPeople.Gov
2. Social determinants of Health: Know What Affects Health
3. Eliminating Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Mortality
4. Exploring African Americans’ High Maternal and Infant Death Rates