

## PURPOSE

The primary objective of this project is to increase the awareness about infant mortality in African American males at Lane College and in surrounding communities. This project will also increase parental health awareness, physical activities, and healthy habits among participants.

This project aims to define and analyze what is regarded as risky behaviors for participants in the hope of reducing these behaviors. In addition, it will also address unplanned pregnancies, and fathers having an active role during pregnancy and beyond.



## DEMOGRAPHIC

The research population will be African American males ages 18-35 in Jackson TN, and surrounding West TN, communities, focusing on those with a low socioeconomic background or that are 1<sup>st</sup> time fathers. Men will be not excluded from this project if they are not in the target population.

## METHODS

This project partnered with other Student Health Ambassadors to have a Men's Night Out on Monday, March 22, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Student Health Ambassador placed flyers around campus, on Facebook (150 views, 11 shares), Instagram (76 views), and Snapchat (44 views). The Student also invited young men from the community that self-identified as 1<sup>st</sup>-time fathers. 33 men and 1 woman were in attendance.

The Student Investigator created QR codes for pre and post touch-less surveys to reduce contact with attendees. The surveys were administered to measure if any of the participants are ready to make behavioral changes related to preconception health.

This project was set up in a barbershop format and gifted Black Father's Matter shirts as an incentive for participation. This project also offered free refreshments. There were presentations from fathers in different stages of life speaking on their experiences. Information on being a supportive partner, infant /child safety, and financial planning was also presented to men.

This project will also provide awareness about HBCU Wellness COVID-19 Prevention Campaign. Wash your hands, Wear your mask, Social Distance, and Self Check (WWSS).

## OUTCOMES

The outcomes of this project are as follows:

- 1) 32 responded: Infant Mortality is the death of an infant before his or her first birthday.
- 2) 31 responded: Fathers play a major role in the development before the age of one year old.
- 3) 25 responded: Did not have an active father or positive male role model in their life growing up.
- 4) 20 responded: I know of a family member that lost a baby before the baby was one year old.

## STUDENT LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons learned from this project are:

- 1) Some men grew up without a positive role model in their lives and it can be very hard to be something, that you have never seen.
- 2) Black men are champions at taking the responsibility of being a father to children that are not biologically theirs.
- 3) Most men would like to be in their children's lives, however there can be many obstacles in place for the father.
- 4) Men do not want to be ONLY financial supporters of their children "child support dads".



## COMMUNITY PARTNER/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lane College  
Cutting-UP Barbershop  
M'Perial Business Group  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated,  
Kappa Sigma Chapter  
TN-MMC HBCU Wellness Project  
The Office of Minority Health (OMH) at the U.S.  
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)