Another conference won’t save black babies

W hile White women typically have the opportunity to choose as many as 10 children, U.S. black women tend to have the opportunity to choose as many as two children. This disparity has led some to believe that Black women should have a lower infant mortality rate than White women. In 2011, the United States’ infant mortality rate stood at 6.6 deaths per 1,000 births for non-Hispanic White women and 11.2 deaths per 1,000 births for non-Hispanic Black women.

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In 2007, 390,000 Medicaid services were provided to children in Florida, and $18 million a year for dental services were provided to matters in Leon County. In 2008 and 2010, three black infants per 1,000 births died. Between 1999 and 2008, the percentage of Medicaid-enrolled children who received dental care for poor children, according to a study published in the journal Pediatrics, increased from 72 percent to 87 percent. In 2008, 26 percent of Medicaid-enrolled children did not receive any dental care. In 2005, the Florida Legislature lifted the budget to $3 million for the federal government to pay only 21 cents on the dollar for dental care for poor children. In 2008, 39,000 Medicaid-enrolled children received no dental care at all.

The Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental care were a total of $3 million, and $18 million a year for dental services were provided to children in Florida. In 2007, 390,000 Medicaid services were provided to children in Florida, and $18 million a year for dental services were provided to matters in Leon County.

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