

Kothari CL, P. R., Dormitorio B, Ospina F, James A, Lenz D, Baker K, Curtis A, Wiley J. (2016). The interplay of race, socioeconomic status and neighborhood residence upon birth outcomes in a high black infant mortality community. *SSM- Population Health*, 859-867.
doi:10.1016/j.ssmph.2016.09.011

[Download via the Brown University Library](#)

This study examines the relationship between race and socioeconomic status on infant birth weight in a Midwestern county noted to have high rates of Black infant mortality. It analyzed a population of 2861 black and white women for a main outcome of infant birth weight. Factors analyzed were race and SES, and it was found that both were strong individual predictors of infant birth weight. It was also found that Black women living in communities that were majority Black had better outcomes, as opposed to Black women living in predominantly white communities. This study demonstrates the influence of personal and community factors on health, and posits that these racial disparities are a result of “social institutions that systemically disadvantage minorities,” rather than inherent biological difference.