

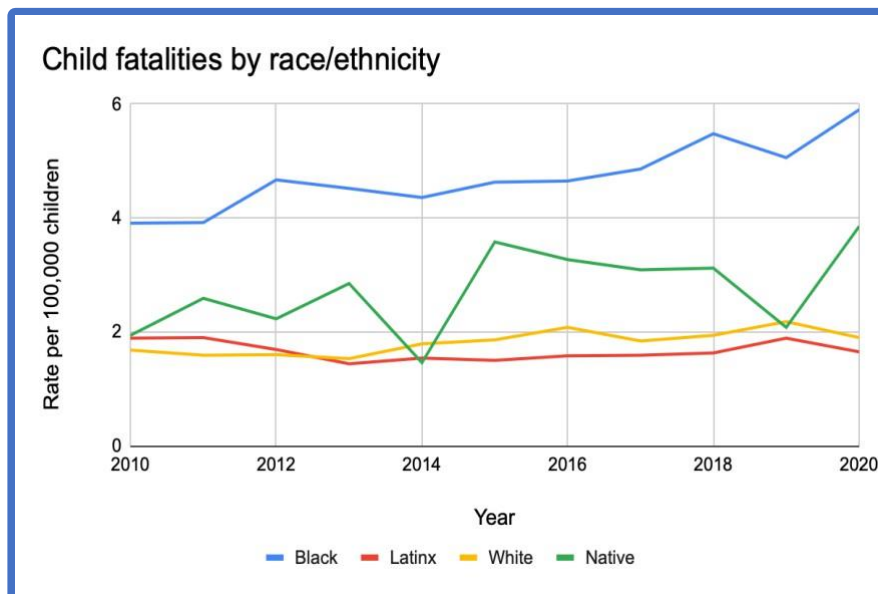


Black Children have the Highest Rate of Fatal Maltreatment, and Rates are Increasing

Sandra Donnay, Ph.D., & Carolina Torres

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- ◆ Fatal maltreatment is a public health problem. In the United States, about five children die every day due to caregiver abuse or neglect.¹ These estimates are understated, and the actual number is unknown.^{2,5}
- ◆ Black children comprised 35% of the estimated 1,750 maltreatment fatalities, yet they only comprise 16% of the U.S. child population.¹
- ◆ Neglect (74%) and physical abuse (43%) account for most fatalities.^{1,3,5}
- ◆ Economic stress and intergenerational trauma contribute to poor mental health and substance use that can exacerbate parental stress.^{5,6,7}



Parents carry out about 90% of child fatalities.¹ About 68% of victims are under the age of three.¹

Fatal Child Maltreatment Can be Prevented

Policy Recommendations

Child maltreatment prevention must involve a ***broad public health approach*** that focuses on population-level (primary) and secondary (high-risk) prevention strategies.² A public health approach should encompass:

- Improving the economic viability of marginalized and low-income families.^{4,5,6} For example:
 - Increased federal and state minimum wages and earned income tax credit (EITC) reduced neglect of young children.^{5,9}
 - Increased Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits reduced physical abuse.⁷
- A unified vision and prevention strategy that encompasses strong partnerships among early childhood, higher education, child welfare, mental health, religious, healthcare, and civic organizations.^{2,8}
- Universal accessibility of home visiting programs.⁸



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