



YWCA San Antonio
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Dear Mayor Nirenberg and Members of the San Antonio City Council:

YWCA San Antonio is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. The YWCA national is the oldest and largest multicultural women's organization in the world, serving the San Antonio community for 110 years.

YWCA San Antonio joins in support of the resolution to declare racism a public health crisis and to promote racial equity in our community. Multiple health studies over three decades have concluded that health inequities, at their core, are due to racism. At the national level, Black women are up to four times more likely to die of pregnancy related complications than white women. Black men are more than twice as likely to be killed by police as white men. And the average life expectancy of African Americans is four years lower than the rest of the U.S. population.

Here in San Antonio, overall, white women are much more likely to start prenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancies compared with Latina and Black women. Data from the City of San Antonio's commissioned Report on the Status of Women reveals that in 2017, the low birthweight rate was highest for Black infants, with 14 percent born weighing less than five pounds. Black babies were also approximately twice as likely to die before their first birthday compared to babies of White and Latina mothers.

Systemic racism divides our city by neighborhood, educational quality, and access to health care. Racism is the driving force behind the social determinants of health. Racism lives in institutionalized practices that favor one human over the other based on the color of their skin. To eliminate racism, it is imperative that at every space and level of government, we acknowledge structural racism and take steps towards dismantling it. YWCA San Antonio proudly joins other community organizations, advocates and City Council Members in support of the resolution to declare racism a public health crisis.

Thank you,
Francesca Rattray
Chief Executive Officer