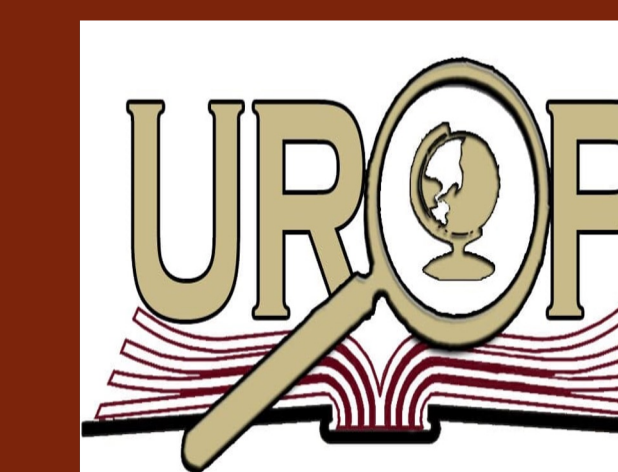




# Sexual And Reproductive Health Disparities Among Afro-Caribbean Women In The United States



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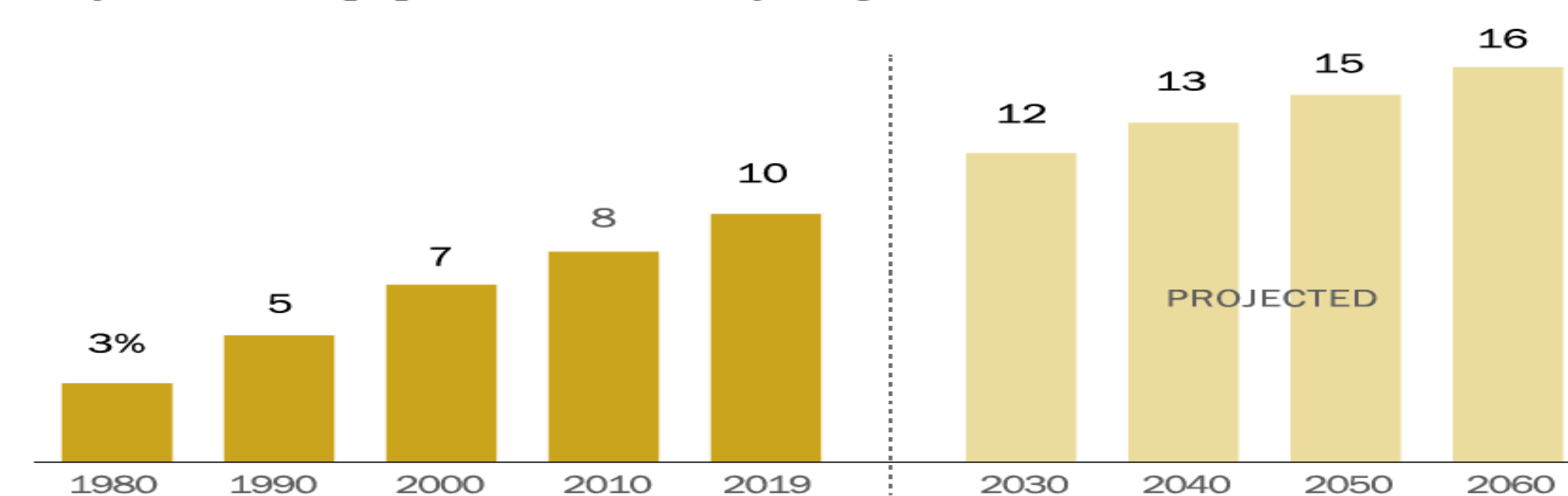
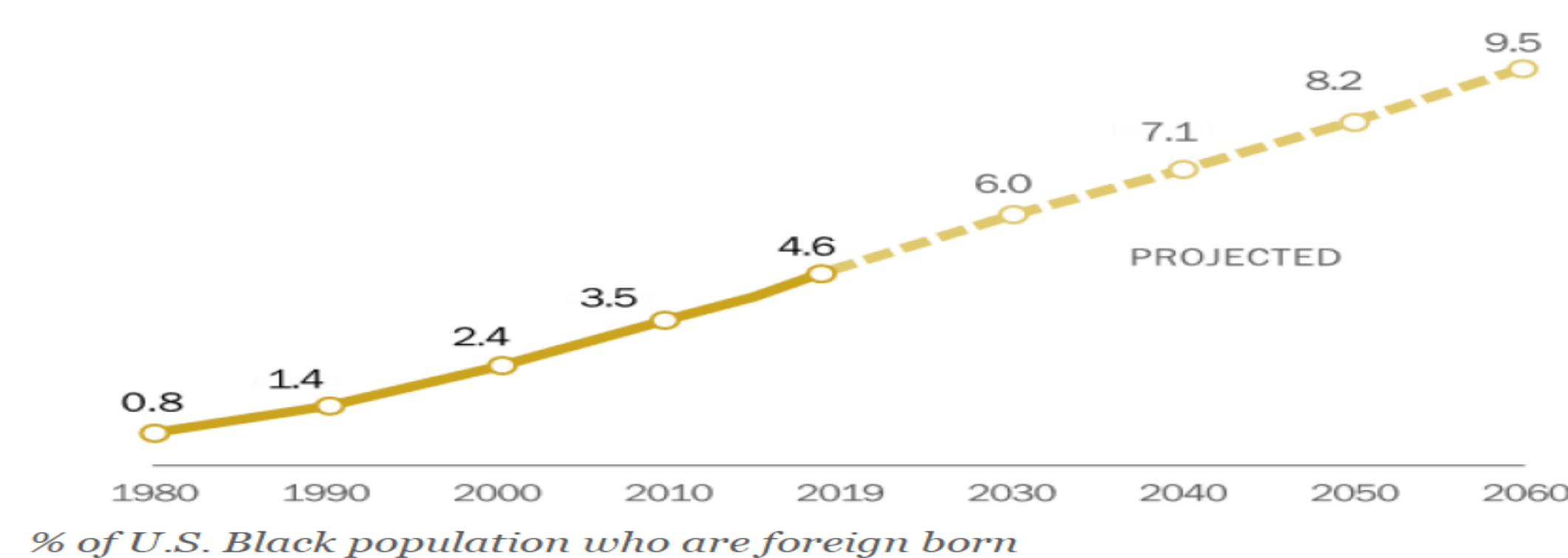
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## Introduction

- Racial disparities persist in reproductive and sexual health outcomes in the U.S., disproportionately affecting Black women compared to other racial and ethnic groups.
- Black women have higher rates of unintended pregnancy, abortion, and sexually transmitted infections compared to their white counterparts.
- Black women have higher rates of obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, increasing their risk for pregnancy complications.
- Racism perpetuates systemic disparities in access to resources and healthcare, contributing to poorer reproductive and sexual health outcomes among marginalized communities.
- Black people in the U.S. have diverse cultures, norms, values, and beliefs
- 1 in 10 Black people living in the U.S. are immigrants.
- There is a gap in knowledge about the sexual and reproductive health among Afro-Caribbean women in the U.S. as researchers tend to overlook the differences within the U.S. Black population.

## Black immigrant population climbs to 4.6 million and is projected to reach 9.5 million by 2060

Total U.S. Black foreign-born population, in millions



Note: For data from 2000 to 2019, "U.S. Black foreign born population" refers to all people who self-identify as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people and were born outside of the U.S. to non-U.S. citizen parents. Data from 1980, 1990, 2030 and later only includes data for single-race Black foreign-born population.

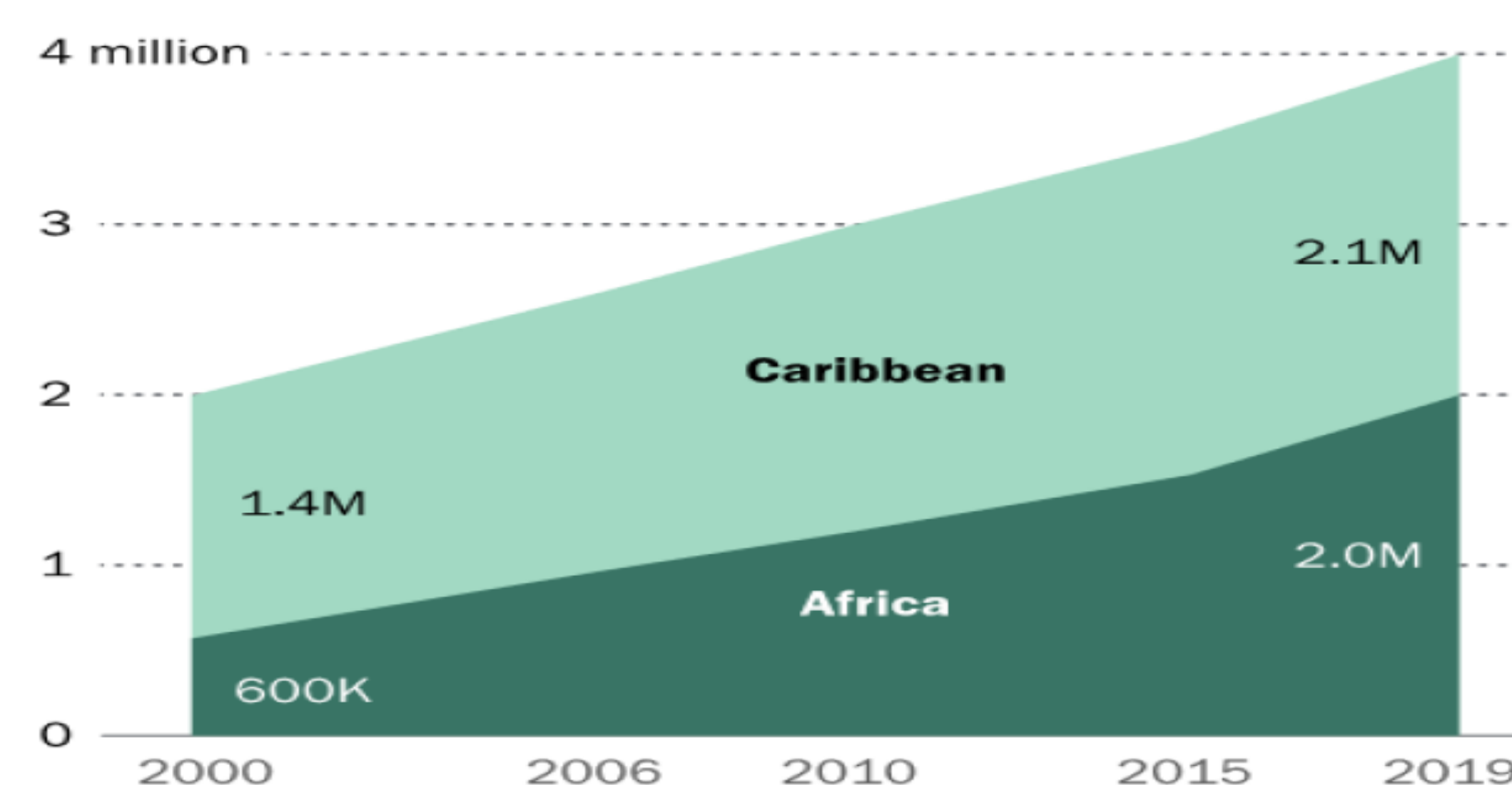
Sources: Pew Research Center analysis of decennial census data from 1980, 1990 and 2000 and American Community Survey data from 2010 and 2019. Census Bureau 2017 population projections for 2020-2060.

"One-in-Ten Black People Living in the U.S. Are Immigrants"

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## Number of Black immigrants from Africa living in the U.S. more than tripled from 2000 to 2019

U.S. Black immigrant population born in Africa and the Caribbean



Note: Population numbers rounded to the nearest 100,000. "U.S. Black immigrants" refers to all people who self-identify as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people and were born outside of the U.S. to non-U.S. citizens.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2010 and 2019 American Community Surveys (1% IPUMS) and the 2000 decennial census (5% IPUMS).

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## Objective

The purpose of this comprehensive literature review is to gain a better understanding of the sexual and reproductive health disparities that Afro-Caribbean (i.e., Black Caribbean) women face in America.

## Methods

- We conducted a comprehensive literature review.
- We searched four databases, including PubMed, ProQuest, EBSCO, and MEDLINE, to find relevant articles.
- The search terms we used included "Afro-Caribbean," "nativity," "Black women," "sexual disparity," "immigrants," and "health care."
- Peer-reviewed and grey literature (i.e., dissertations and reports) were included in the review.
- We included in the review articles and grey literature published or reported within the last ten years (2013-2023).

## Results

- **Healthcare Utilization Disparities:** Foreign-born women are less likely to have health insurance coverage and utilize sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services compared to US-born women. They are also less likely to likely to use highly effective contraceptive methods.
- **Preference for Social Support:** Afro-Caribbean pregnant women prioritize social support systems, including family, peers, and online communities, over clinical prenatal care services, unlike US-born women.
- **Need for Tailored mHealth Programs:** Due to language barriers and diverse dialects among Afro-Caribbean immigrants, there is a need for tailored mobile health (mHealth) programs to supplement access to information and resources, particularly in sexual and reproductive health.
- **Challenges in HIV/AIDS Services Access:** African-born (or foreign born) women face difficulties accessing HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care services due to cultural norms, language barriers, and immigration status.
- **Impact of Nativity on Maternal Health Outcomes:** Nativity significantly influences perinatal and infant outcomes, with foreign-born birthing people experiencing lower rates of poor outcomes compared to their US-born counterparts.
- **Lower Preterm Birth (PTB) Risk:** African-born (or foreign born) Black women exhibit a lower risk of PTB compared to US-born Black women, even after adjusting for social conditions and maternal factors. Paternal education attainment partially explains the disparity in PTB rates.

## Conclusions

- Foreign-born women, including Afro-Caribbean women, face several reproductive health challenges, including accessing healthcare.
- More research is needed to shed light on the sexual and reproductive health disparities between foreign-born women, including Afro-Caribbean women, and U.S.-born women, particularly concerning access to healthcare.
- Interventions are needed to address provider-patient relationships to ensure quality of care for Afro-Caribbean women.
- The number of Afro-Caribbean immigrants in the U.S. is expected to increase significantly, emphasizing the need to prioritize this population.

## Acknowledgements

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