



# BLACK CHILD LEGACY

C A M P A I G N

Uniting Families and Communities  
for a Healthy Future

In 2014, African American children died at a rate almost three times higher than that of other children in Sacramento County. The Black Child Legacy Campaign is the community-driven movement raising visibility and strengthening collective impact efforts of the Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Deaths (RAACD) to reduce the number of black mortalities due to homicide, child abuse and neglect, infant sleep-related conditions, and perinatal conditions.

**INFANT SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS:** Infant sleep-related death is the term used to describe babies (from birth to 1 year) who die in the place where they are sleeping. Most infant sleep-related deaths can be prevented by following the ABCs: sleeping baby ALONE, on his or her BACK, and in a CRIB with no pillows, stuffed animals or other objects in the crib with them.

**In Sacramento County, African American babies are 4.6 times more likely to die of a sleep-related death than all other ethnic groups.**

**PERINATAL CONDITIONS-RELATED INFANT DEATHS:** Stress, smoking or other substance abuse, and chronic disease, such as diabetes, are linked to perinatal conditions, including babies being born prematurely or at a low birth weight or with other issues that lead to death. Many perinatal conditions-related infant deaths can be prevented by making sure the mother has appropriate care during and before pregnancy.

**In Sacramento County, African American babies are almost 2 times more likely to die of perinatal conditions than all other ethnic groups.**

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (CAN) HOMICIDES:** CAN homicides are a child's death caused by a caregiver. CAN homicides can be direct, as when a child is beaten or an infant is shaken, or indirect, as when a child dies in a car accident caused by their parents or caregivers driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

**In Sacramento County, African American children are almost 9 times more likely to die of child abuse and neglect than all other ethnic groups.**

**CHILD & YOUTH HOMICIDES (THIRD-PARTY):** Some homicides carried out by a third party (someone other than the parent or caregiver) happen by chance, such as when a drunk driver hits a child riding her bike. Others are deliberate, as when a young man dies from a gunshot in a gang-related fight. Preventing third-party homicides means strengthening families and neighborhoods so that children have a chance to learn and grow to their full potential.

**In Sacramento County, African American children are 4 times more likely to die because of third-party homicide than all other ethnic groups.**