



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

HIGHLIGHTS



BATTLE CREEK
BENTON HARBOR
DETROIT
FLINT

Having adequate support

MOTIVATING FACTORS

Knowing benefits of breastfeeding

Trusting body and that it was made to breastfeed

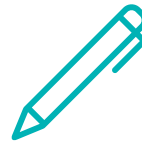
FAST FACTS:



30 FAMILIES



4 FACILITATORS



5 TRANSCRIBERS



4 COMMUNITY ORGS

“Black women work more than any population. We want to breastfeed but there are challenges with trying to support your family as well.”
- Janeva, Benton Harbor Community Conversation participant

ABOUT:

In alignment with MIBFN's commitment to "listen," the purpose of the Community Conversation was to have a crucial conversation about birth and breastfeeding justice and to discuss breastfeeding barriers and opportunities in four communities around Michigan. Planning and implementation of the meeting happened in collaboration with an Advisory Council of breastfeeding leaders from Black-led breastfeeding organizations. Participants, facilitators, transcribers, and community organizations were equitably compensated for their time and expertise.



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BARRIERS TO SYSTEMATIC SUPPORT

BIRTH CARE

Lack of prenatal and postpartum breastfeeding support

Lack of privacy at WIC office/feeling like WIC is impersonal

Medical staff being dismissive and rude after birth

Lactation consultant at the hospital seeming rushed and unengaged

Stress and fear about COVID-19 and breastfeeding

WIC

COMMUNITY

Lack of community resources and support from family, partner, and/or friends

Breastfeeding in public being sexualized

Difficulty with having enough time or finding a space to express milk at work

WORKPLACE

Family members who provide child care not honoring parents' feeding choices and providing formula instead

Employers not being supportive or understanding providing lactation accommodations

COVID-19

CHILD CARE



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Community Conversation Life-Giving Playlist, Detroit Edition

- Stevie Wonder--"Songs in the Key of Life" Album
- Robert Glasper and Brandy--"Be Optimistic"
- H.E.R.--"I Can't Breathe"
- Ann Street Band--"Sunny"
- Gregory Porter--"Holding On"
- Big Sean--"Harder Than My Demons"
- PJ Morton--"Everything's Gonna Be Alright"
- Dante Bowie--"Voice of God"
- Koryn Hawthorne--"Won't He Do it"
- Tori Kelley--"Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing"
- Roy Ayers--"Sunshine"
- Lupe Fiasco--"The Show Goes On"
- Kirk Franklin--"Coulda Been"
- Marvin Sapp--"Thank you for it All"
- Jhene Aiko--"Back on my BS"



"Families talked like they knew each other forever and they opened up, with laughter, pain, and authenticity."

- Shonte' Terhune-Smith,
YOLO Breastfeeding
founder and Advisory
Council member

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO
TASTE-A-LICIOUS CATERING,
SOUTHERN DRINKS & EATS,
DIALOS CAFE, AND CHEF TAZ
BISTRO FOR PROVIDING
NOURISHING MEALS FOR ALL
THE FAMILIES WHO
PARTICIPATED.**