



Safyer McKenzie-Sampson

Bio

BIO

Safyer McKenzie-Sampson is an IDEAL Provostial Fellow and instructor within the Department of Pediatrics at Stanford University. Dr. McKenzie-Sampson is a social and perinatal epidemiologist, focused on researching the multi-level impacts of exposure to racism across the life course on the risk of adverse perinatal outcomes in Black communities, with the goal of translating findings into interventions to increase birth justice. Her research portfolio uniquely interrogates the rates of adverse perinatal outcomes through the lens of maternal nativity in the United States which allows for focus on the experiences of Black immigrants. She is currently the principal investigator of the AZANIA study, a mixed methods pilot study which collects data on the pregnancy and childbirth experiences of African immigrants in California. Dr. McKenzie-Sampson received her PhD in Epidemiology and Translational Science from the University of California San Francisco, and in addition to her research, she supports families in the Bay Area as a full-spectrum community doula.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Member, Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Strategies for Recruiting African Immigrants to Mixed Methods Maternal Health Research: Evidence from a Pilot Study.** *Journal of immigrant and minority health*
Mahdi, B., Ghebreselassie, M., Solomon, M., Wangara, M., Hussein-Cattan, M., Tamene, M., Hailu, E. M., McKenzie-Sampson, S.
2025
- **Risk of adverse perinatal outcomes among African-born Black women in California, 2011-2020.** *Epidemiology (Cambridge, Mass.)*
McKenzie-Sampson, S., Baer, R. J., Chambers Butcher, B. D., Jelliffe-Pawlowski, L. L., Karasek, D., Oltman, S. P., Riddell, C. A., Rogers, E. E., Torres, J. M., Blebu, B.
2024
- **Structural racism, nativity and risk of adverse perinatal outcomes among Black women.** *Paediatric and perinatal epidemiology*
McKenzie-Sampson, S., Baer, R. J., Jelliffe-Pawlowski, L. L., Karasek, D., Riddell, C. A., Torres, J. M., Blebu, B. E.
2023
- **Maternal nativity and risk of adverse perinatal outcomes among Black women residing in California, 2011-2017.** *Journal of perinatology : official journal of the California Perinatal Association*
McKenzie-Sampson, S., Baer, R. J., Blebu, B. E., Karasek, D., Oltman, S. P., Pantell, M. S., Rand, L., Rogers, E. E., Torres, J. M., Jelliffe-Pawlowski, L. L., Scott, K. A., Chambers, B. D.
2021; 41 (12): 2736-2741
- **Staff perspectives on racial inequities in the neonatal intensive care unit: the REJOICE study.** *Journal of perinatology : official journal of the California Perinatal Association*

- Austin, K., Smith, O., McLemore, M., Lewis, S., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Washington, T. E., Rogers, E. E., Karvonen, K. L.
2025
- **Clinical risk factors and adverse perinatal outcomes among U.S. and African-born Black women in California.** *Journal of perinatology : official journal of the California Perinatal Association*
McKenzie-Sampson, S., Baer, R. J., Costello, J., Karasek, D., Torres, J. M., Riddell, C. A., Jelliffe-Pawlowski, L. L., Blebu, B. E.
2025
 - **Structural racism and perinatal mental health - The role of racialized economic segregation.** *Social science & medicine (1982)*
Tamene, M., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Ahern, J., Bradshaw, P. T., Carmichael, S. L., Mujahid, M. S.
2025; 381: 118296
 - **Early Newborn Metabolic Patterning and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.** *JAMA pediatrics*
Oltman, S. P., Rogers, E. E., Baer, R. J., Amsalu, R., Bandoli, G., Chambers, C. D., Cho, H., Dagle, J. M., Karvonen, K. L., Kingsmore, S. F., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Momany, A., Ontiveros, et al
2024
 - **Risk and Protective Factors for Preterm Birth Among Racial, Ethnic, and Socioeconomic Groups in California.** *JAMA network open*
Jelliffe-Pawlowski, L. L., Baer, R. J., Oltman, S., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Afulani, P., Amsalu, R., Bell, A. J., Blebu, B., Blackman, K. C., Chambers, C. D., Costello, J., Fuchs, J., Garay, et al
2024; 7 (9): e2435887
 - **Parent and staff perceptions of racism in a single-center neonatal intensive care unit.** *Pediatric research*
Karvonen, K. L., Smith, O., Chambers Butcher, B. D., Franck, L. S., McKenzie-Sampson, S., McLemore, M. R., Pantell, M. S., Rogers, E. E.
2024
 - **Neighborhood Income is Associated with Healthcare Utilization in Pediatric Short Bowel Syndrome.** *The Journal of pediatrics*
Gutierrez, S. A., Pathak, S., Raghu, V., Shui, A., Huang, C. Y., Rhee, S., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Lai, J. C., Wadhvani, S. I.
2023: 113819
 - **Structural racism is associated with adverse postnatal outcomes among Black preterm infants.** *Pediatric research*
Karvonen, K. L., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Baer, R. J., Jelliffe-Pawlowski, L., Rogers, E. E., Pantell, M. S., Chambers, B. D.
2023; 94 (1): 371-377
 - **"It was just one moment that I felt like I was being judged": Pregnant and postpartum black Women's experiences of personal and group-based racism during the COVID-19 pandemic.** *Social science & medicine (1982)*
Chambers, B. D., Fontenot, J., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Blebu, B. E., Edwards, B. N., Hutchings, N., Karasek, D., Coleman-Phox, K., Curry, V. C., Kuppermann, M.
2023; 322: 115813
 - **Racial disparities in the development of comorbid conditions after preterm birth: A narrative review.** *Seminars in perinatology*
Karvonen, K. L., Goronga, F., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Rogers, E. E.
2022; 46 (8): 151657
 - **Psychometric validation of a patient-reported experience measure of obstetric racism© (The PREM-OB Scale™ suite).** *Birth (Berkeley, Calif.)*
White VanGompel, E., Lai, J. S., Davis, D. A., Cartlock, F., Camara, T. L., Taylor, B., Clary, C., McCorkle-Jamieson, A. M., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Gay, C., Armijo, A., Lapeyrolierie, L., Singh, et al
2022; 49 (3): 514-525
 - **Clinicians' Perspectives on Racism and Black Women's Maternal Health.** *Women's health reports (New Rochelle, N.Y.)*
Chambers, B. D., Taylor, B., Nelson, T., Harrison, J., Bell, A., O'Leary, A., Arega, H. A., Hashemi, S., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Scott, K. A., Raine-Bennett, T., Jackson, A. V., Kuppermann, et al
2022; 3 (1): 476-482
 - **Racial disparities in emergency mental healthcare utilization among birthing people with preterm infants.** *American journal of obstetrics & gynecology MFM*
Karvonen, K. L., Baer, R. J., Blebu, B., Calthorpe, L., Fuchs, J. D., Jelliffe-Pawlowski, L., Karasek, D., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Oltman, S. P., Rand, L., Shannon, M. T., Washington, T. E., Woolridge, et al
2022; 4 (2): 100546
 - **Mortality and Major Neonatal Morbidity in Preterm Infants with Serious Congenital Heart Disease.** *The Journal of pediatrics*

Steurer, M. A., Baer, R. J., Chambers, C. D., Costello, J., Franck, L. S., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Pacheco-Werner, T. L., Rajagopal, S., Rogers, E. E., Rand, L., Jelliffe-Pawlowski, L. L., Peyvandi, S.
2021; 239: 110-116.e3

- **Risk and Protective Factors for Preterm Birth Among Black Women in Oakland, California.** *Journal of racial and ethnic health disparities*
McLemore, M. R., Berkowitz, R. L., Oltman, S. P., Baer, R. J., Franck, L., Fuchs, J., Karasek, D. A., Kuppermann, M., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Melbourne, D., Taylor, B., Williams, S., Rand, et al
2021; 8 (5): 1273-1280
- **The association of COVID-19 infection in pregnancy with preterm birth: A retrospective cohort study in California.** *Lancet Regional Health. Americas*
Karasek, D., Baer, R. J., McLemore, M. R., Bell, A. J., Blebu, B. E., Casey, J. A., Coleman-Phox, K., Costello, J. M., Felder, J. N., Flowers, E., Fuchs, J. D., Gomez, A. M., Karvonen, et al
2021; 2: 100027
- **Pain and Functional Limitations Among Midlife and Older Canadians: The Role of Discrimination, Race and Sense of Belonging.** *The journals of gerontology. Series B, Psychological sciences and social sciences*
Vang, Z. M., Chau, S., Kobayashi, K., Owen, M. J., McKenzie-Sampson, S., Mayrand-Thibert, J., Brass, G.
2021
- **Gestational diabetes and risk of cardiovascular disease up to 25 years after pregnancy: a retrospective cohort study.** *Acta diabetologica*
McKenzie-Sampson, S., Paradis, G., Healy-Profitós, J., St-Pierre, F., Auger, N.
2018; 55 (4): 315-322