

The Problem: NYC has a Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Crisis

- **Pregnancy-related and -associated deaths in NYC have declined since 2001.**

Yet, on average, Black mothers in NYC are **9.4 x** more likely to die of a pregnancy-related death compared to white mothers. Plus, **75%** of pregnancy-associated deaths among Black mothers are preventable.

- **Over half of all deaths occur between 43 days and 1 year of the end of pregnancy.**
- **Chief causes of death: cardiovascular, hemorrhage, embolism, suicide, and overdose.**

Statistics: [Searing, H. \(2022\). The NYC Maternal Mortality Review Committee: Three Years in Review.](#)

The Response: Birth Equity Initiative

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Birth Equity Initiative addresses the root cause of Black maternal health inequities: structural racism from birth to the birth of one's offspring. The initiative uses a collective impact approach to improve the care of and support for Black pregnant persons and women.

Initially focusing on Brooklyn, the borough with the greatest number of Black births, the Birth Equity Initiative has been moving forward with three strategic components:

1. Convene diverse stakeholders for a collective impact approach to developing goals. Collation stakeholders include insurance companies, community-based organizations, advocates and activists, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers.
2. Develop a Brooklyn Maternal Home model to bundle Medicaid payments for an array of pre/inter-conception, pregnancy, and postpartum services.
3. Enhance and expand the integration of primary care with other support services for underserved and at-risk birthing persons.

We Need Your Support:

The high-impact and scalable goals of the Birth Equity Initiative are achievable through collaboration between government, community, individuals, businesses, and philanthropy. **For more information:** Maritza Arroyo, Chief Development Officer, Fund for Public Health NYC, marroyo@fphnyc.org

Who We Are: The Fund for Public Health NYC

The Fund for Public Health NYC is the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's longtime and trusted partner for helping launch public health initiatives like the Birth Equity Initiative. Our foundational goal is for ALL New Yorkers to share equitably in a culture of healthy living and enjoy optimal health.

Since FPHNYC's founding in 2002, our unique public-private model combines the power and scale of the NYC Health Department with the agility and administrative expertise of FPHNYC to accelerate the startup and launch of public health initiatives. **Studies have shown the median return on investment for public health interventions to be 14.3 to 1** – one of the best returns on investments possible toward improving health outcomes for our communities and individuals.

The Health of New York is Everybody's Business:

Consider how you can best apply your talents, resources, and connections to help improve maternal outcomes for Black birthing people and raise awareness about the Birth Equity Initiative.



For information on partnering and supporting the Fund for Public Health NYC, contact Maritza Arroyo, Chief Development Officer: marroyo@fphnyc.org

For more information on the Fund's collaboration with the NYC Health Department on maternal health, visit fphnyc.org/birthequity

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is one of the largest public health agencies in the world, with over 200 years of leadership in the field. The Birth Equity Initiative is a priority project of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer. The NYC Health Department offers many maternal health programs and services. For more information, call 311 or visit: nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/health-topics/sexual-and-reproductive-health.page