

STATE HEALTH ASSESSMENT KEY FINDINGS

PRIORITY AREA

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

The Louisiana State Health Assessment (SHA) and State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) are Louisiana's roadmap to a healthier state. The SHA has identified maternal and child health as a priority area for the SHIP. Information presented below is from the SHA community engagement activities, which included community leader interviews and a statewide survey. Health outcomes for the state can also be viewed on the SHA dashboard: www.LouisianaSHA.com

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) refers to the health and well-being of maternal and child populations across the life course: women of childbearing age, pregnant individuals, infants, children with special health care needs, and children and adolescents. Racial inequities and disparities exist within the following MCH indicators: prenatal care, maternal mortality rates, preterm birth rates, cesarean deliveries, breastfeeding initiation rates, low birth weight, and infant mortality. Inequities are driven by more than just individual behavior and include access to key systems of care and support such as health care providers, insurance coverage, and child care.

The SHA and SHIP strive to be inclusive of all birthing people and acknowledge that not all individuals who get pregnant or give birth identify as women.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

"Maternal mortality, preterm birth, breastfeeding rates, the mistreatment and the maltreatment of Black and Brown women inside of the hospital systems, our high rate of Caesarian section, the high rate of reported birth trauma across the state, those things are still continuing...there's still a whole lot of work to be done."
- Community Leader, Region 1

"I feel like we've gotten into this drive-thru scenario of rushing birthing people through their experiences and rushing them back to make money for someone on their job and forcing us to choose between being healthy [and] meeting our children's emotional and physical needs vs being able to keep a roof over our heads." - Community Leader, Region 2

"Daycare access is definitely an issue in some of the more rural parishes. There are actually parishes that do not have a single daycare center in it."
- Community Leader, Region 6

STATEWIDE HEALTH OUTCOMES



A Black woman is 2X more likely to die from a pregnancy-associated cause than a white woman



67% of pregnancy associated deaths were women with a high school degree/GED or less.
47% of all women giving birth had a high school degree/GED or less



The top 3 leading causes of pregnancy associated deaths are accidental overdose, homicide, and motor vehicle crashes.