

Nurture New Jersey: Utilizing NJDOH's NJSHAD Data Portal for Detailed Maternal & Infant Health Data

What was the problem/situation?

The State of New Jersey is ranked 47th in the nation for maternal deaths and has one of the widest racial disparities for maternal and infant mortality. In NJ, a black baby is over 3 times more likely than a white baby to die before their first birthday. Based on the racial inequity in NJ's maternal and infant mortality, NJ's First Lady Tammy Murphy launched Nurture NJ in 2019 to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, and ensure equitable care among women and children of all races and ethnicities.



How was Tracking involved?

New Jersey's Tracking's data portal, NJSHAD, <https://www-doh.state.nj.us/doh-shad/home/Welcome.html>, makes data from across NJDOH publicly available through indicators, queryable datasets, and a community profile tool which visualizes how a racial, ethnic group, or county is doing compared to NJ overall.



Nurture NJ: 2021 Strategic Plan,

<https://nurturenj.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/20210120-Nurture-NJ-Strategic-Plan.pdf>,

extensively cited NJSHAD data (infant mortality counts and rates; premature birth rate; % poverty; per capita income; unemployment rate; and food insecurity) by race/ethnicity to document NJ's racial maternal and infant

health disparities. Moving forward New Jerseyans can continue to rely on NJSHAD datasets and tools to track maternal and infant mortality improvements by time, region, race, and ethnicity.

As stated in the Nurture New Jersey: 2021 Strategic Plan, "The disparities in maternal and infant outcomes are not the result of differences in genes or behaviors but are mostly explained by the differential historical, social, economic, and health environments experienced by Black and brown women."

What action was taken to resolve the problem?

Nurture NJ, one of NJ Governor Phil Murphy's priority projects, supports multiple programs and resources, including: Black Maternal Health Week; NJ's annual Black Maternal and Infant Health Leadership Summit; support services for pregnant women and new mothers, including community-based doulas; support for Centering, an evidence-based model of group care; and a family festival series providing one-stop assistance for young families. Some of Nurture NJ's actions:



- ❖ 36 maternal & infant health pieces of legislation signed;
- ❖ held meetings with >100 critical stakeholders;
- ❖ obtained \$11 million dollars of funding for NJ maternal and infant health improvements, policies, & programs;
- ❖ annual NJ Black Maternal and Infant Health Leadership Summit;
- ❖ annual NJ Hospital Report Cards for maternal morbidity and maternal mortality; and;
- ❖ sponsoring a Family Festival event series.

NJSHAD serves as the main data portal for NJDOH, providing public access to data and information from the entire New Jersey Department of Health, and hosts datasets for the New Jersey Environmental Public Health Tracking (NJEPHT) Program. NJSHAD provides static public health indicators which combine data and information, and dynamic custom public health query tools. The functionality, content, and utility of NJSHAD and the NJEPHT portal continue to be enhanced.