



## Brief:

# Air pollution worsens inequities in maternal and newborn health

**Nearly 120 million people in the US are living in places with unhealthy levels of air pollution.**

Air pollution plays a key role in the current US maternal health crisis and inequitable health outcomes that exist for Black, Indigenous, and people of color in this nation.

## MATERNAL HEALTH

- Higher risk of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, including preeclampsia, are associated with exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub>.
- Higher risk of gestational diabetes is associated with air pollution exposure during pregnancy.

**Black and Hispanic people bear a pollution burden of 56% and 63% excess exposure.**

## INFANT HEALTH

- PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and ozone exposure during pregnancy is associated with higher risk for preterm birth, low birthweight, and stillbirth.
- Combustion-related air pollutants are linked to adverse effects on brain development, neurodevelopmental disorders, and reduced size of brain regions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identify communities living with significant air pollution and make special efforts to monitor and reduce exposure AND improve education and outreach to pregnant people and families.
- Join us: [IgnitingImpactTogether.org](https://www.IgnitingImpactTogether.org)