

HEALTHY BABIES & HEALTHY MOTHERS IN GREENMOUNT EAST



Baltimore babies die at a rate that is among the worst in America. In 2009 alone, 128 Baltimore infants under the age of one died, many of those deaths preventable. The city also has an extremely high rate of babies born pre-term and underweight – key factors in infant mortality. Among the neighborhoods with high rates of infant mortality and poor birth outcomes is the Baltimore community of Greenmount East.

A new initiative – B'more for Healthy Babies – is tackling this problem by bringing a range of new resources into this area.

The goal? Preventing infant deaths and promoting better family health throughout Greenmount East.

A Community Strategy

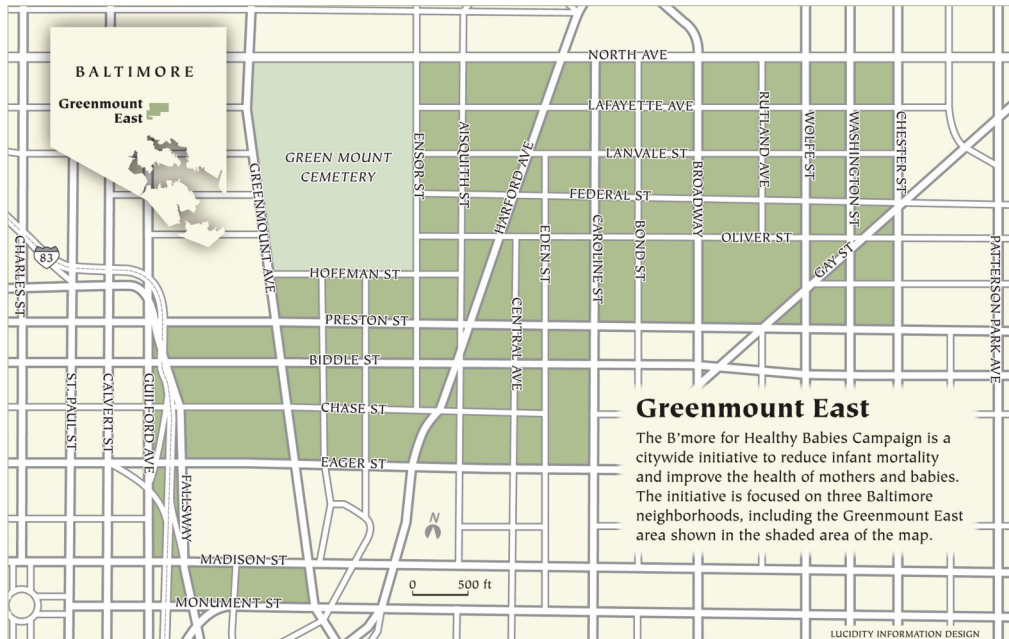
People's Community Health Centers, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that has 40 years of experience providing affordable health care in Baltimore, has developed a community-based strategy to ensure that all mothers have the care they need to deliver healthy babies. The holistic strategy, guided by the principles of the B'more for Healthy Babies initiative, seeks to promote healthy motherhood and help women understand the importance of living healthy lives before, during and after their pregnancies.

Outreach workers from People's and a range of partnering organizations will identify pregnant women in the community and educate them about services that are available to them. Baltimore Healthy Start will provide in-home visits to check on women during their pregnancies and help them to maintain healthy lifestyles, link them to important services, and provide much-needed support. The Baby Basics Program along with Mom's Clubs and other activities for pregnant women and new mothers will give women a chance to bond with each other and take part in educational activities.

The Greenmount East campaign will also create support groups for new fathers, provide mothers with information about nutrition and breast feeding, and offer services to prevent eviction and domestic abuse. The campaign is taking advantage of the community's proximity to the Waverly Farmers Market by setting up information booths and by offering vouchers to allow participating women to purchase healthy, locally grown food from the market's vendors.

Greenmount East

This unprecedented community effort is focused the Greenmount East area, bordered roughly by North Avenue, Greenmount Avenue, Chester Street and Eager Street, home to just under 10,000 people. Each year, an average of 200 babies are born to women in the area. By several measures, it has some of the poorest health outcomes in Baltimore. And while the area has a high rate of poverty, it also has an extremely resilient population determined to improve conditions in the community.



Key Partners

The initiative in Greenmount East is being led by People's Community Health Centers. Key partners include:

Sojourner Douglas School of Nursing
Baltimore Healthy Start
DRU/Mondawmin Healthy Families
Mind, Heart and Body Program
Caree Jackson, Ph.D., nutritionist
The Men and Family Center
Citizens Planning and Housing Association

Michele's Haven
St. John's Episcopal Church
Black Nurses Association
Waverly Farmers' Market
Darker than Blue Restaurant
Baltimore City Community College

For More Information

Contact Dr. Roxanne Beharie at 410-467-6040, ext. 2104 or visit healthybabiesbaltimore.com.

Consider how you can help. B'more for Healthy Babies recognizes that reducing the city's infant mortality rate will require support from everyone -- whether it's the leaders of key city agencies, physicians, nurses and social workers, community groups and teachers, or fathers, grandmothers, caregivers and pregnant women themselves.

The B'More for Healthy Babies initiative is a partnership of the Baltimore City Health Department, the Family League of Baltimore City Inc., with major funding support from CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield.

