

HEALTHY BABIES & HEALTHY MOTHERS IN THE PATTERSON PARK COMMUNITY



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 Patterson Park North and East.

A new initiative – B'more for Healthy Babies – is tackling this problem by bringing new resources into this area. The goal? Preventing infant deaths and promoting better family health in the communities north and east of Patterson Park.

A Community-based Strategy for Mothers and Babies

Baltimore Medical System is using a community-based strategy for the Patterson Park North and East neighborhood to ensure that all women have the care they need to deliver healthy babies and that new mothers receive care and support. This strategy is guided by the principles of the B'more for Healthy Babies Initiative.

As part of the strategy, outreach workers from Baltimore Healthy Start and Baltimore Medical System will visit pregnant women to make sure they understand the importance of prenatal care, and will refer them to available resources in the community. Kennedy Krieger Southeast Early Head Start will also provide home and center-based education and support, as well as referral to resources, including the Johns Hopkins WIC program, which provides nutritional food supplies to qualifying families, nursing assistance, and help ending domestic violence.

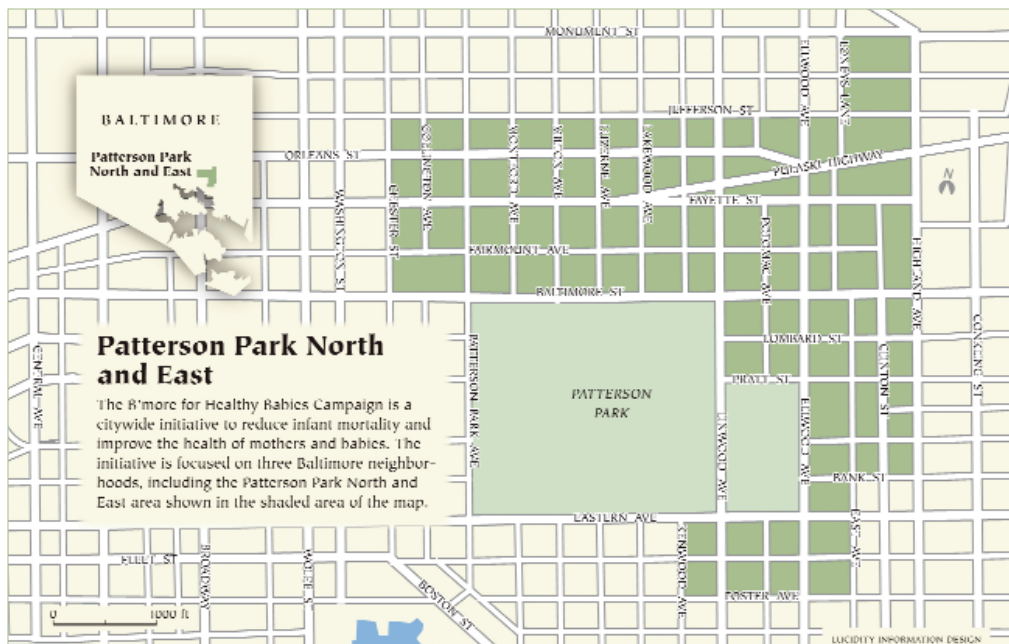
All partner organizations will participate in the use of the Baby Basics Curriculum, a low-literacy prenatal handbook from the What to Expect Foundation. Part of the curriculum involves Mom's (and Dad's) Clubs meeting at different locations in and around Patterson Park North and East. Some collaborating organizations will have staff facilitating the Clubs. Others, such as St. Vincent de Paul Southeast Head Start and the Patterson Park Public Charter School will help by sponsoring the Clubs, offering their families information on safe sleep, tobacco cessation and other related themes, as well as referring families to resources for healthcare, mental health counseling, and other needs. Healthcare and substance abuse treatment for these women and their families will be provided by Baltimore Medical System, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and other providers in the area.

Over time, the initiative will develop a Neighborhood Action Team to educate and engage community members in the initiative.

Patterson Park North and East

This unprecedented community effort is focused on an area in East Baltimore that is home to about 15,200 residents. About a quarter of the population is living in poverty and another quarter is low-income. The area also has several strong anchor institutions, nonprofit organizations, and a population determined to improve conditions in the community.

The effort is led by Baltimore Medical System, a community-based, independent non-profit dedicated to improving the health and wellness of medically underserved communities in the Greater Baltimore area.



Key Partners

Baltimore Medical System is working with a range of key partners in the Patterson Park B'more for Healthy Babies initiative:

*Baltimore Healthy Start
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center
Johns Hopkins Bayview Community Care-a-Van
St. Vincent de Paul Head Start - Southeast
Patterson Park Public Charter School*

*Johns Hopkins Women, Infants and Children Program
Humanin
Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning
Kennedy Krieger Southeast Early Head Start*

For More Information

Contact Pam Brown at Baltimore Medical System, 410-558-4946, or visit healthybabiesbaltimore.com.

Consider how you can help. B'more for Healthy Babies recognizes that bringing down the city's infant mortality rate will require support from everyone -- whether it's the leaders of the 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 Health Department, the Family League of Baltimore City Inc., with major funding support from CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield.

