

HEALTHY BABIES & HEALTHY MOTHERS IN UPTON/DRUID HEIGHTS



Baltimore babies die at a rate that is among the worst in America. In 2010 alone, 98 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 are the West Baltimore communities of Upton and Druid Heights.

An ongoing initiative – B'more for Healthy Babies – is tackling this problem by bringing a range of new resources into this area. The goal is to prevent infant deaths and promote better family health throughout Upton and Druid Heights.

A Community Strategy

The University of Maryland's School of Medicine and School of Social Work has developed a community-based strategy to ensure that all mothers in Upton/Druid Heights have the care they need to deliver healthy babies. The School of Social Work created Promise Heights – a family-based community intervention model – that is working in partnership with a range of community service providers and neighborhood institutions, including churches, businesses, and schools. With new resources from the citywide B'more for Healthy Babies initiative, this effort is focused on better coordination and collaboration among existing service providers in the area.

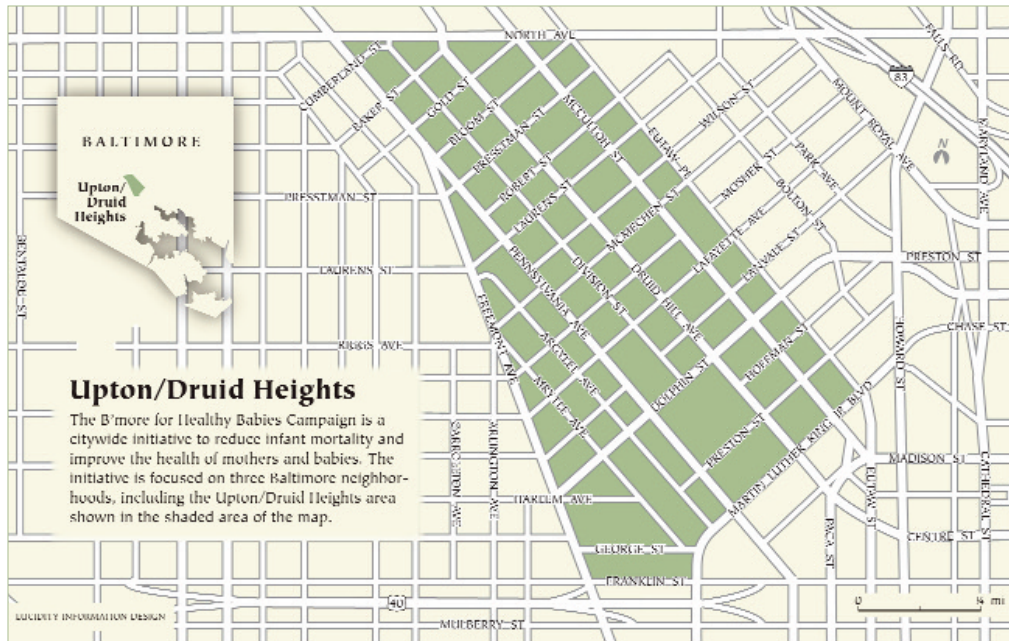
A key goal is identifying all women who become pregnant in the community and working with them to make sure they receive the prenatal care they need at such service-providers as Women's Health Care Associates at Maryland General Hospital, Total Health Care, and the University of Maryland Women's Health at Western Penn and Edmondson. DRU/Mondawmin Healthy Families, a local non-profit, is providing long-term in-home services and supports to pregnant women and families. Master of Social Work students from the School of Social Work are assisting with the outreach effort, case management, and facilitation of groups. Residents with the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the School of Medicine are working with families at Furman L. Templeton Preparatory Academy.

The campaign will provide a range of supports to pregnant women, including use of the Baby Basics program, which gives women innovative materials to help them make good decisions during their pregnancies. "Moms' Clubs" offer pregnant women and new moms the chance to share their experiences and provide support to others. The campaign also helps find help for pregnant women who are battling substance abuse or domestic abuse.

Churches and local businesses are spreading the word about the campaign, and Furman L. Templeton Preparatory Academy – a community resource school and newly created charter school – has donated office space.

Upton/Druid Heights

This unprecedented community effort is focused on the residents of the historic communities of Upton and Druid Heights, bordered roughly by Pennsylvania Avenue, North Avenue, McCulloh Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The area is home to just under 10,000 people and, each year, an average of 223 babies are born to women in these neighborhoods. While the area has a high rate of poverty, it also has an extremely resilient population working to improve the area's conditions.



Our Partnership

The initiative is being led by the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Social Work. Key partners include:

Bethel AME Church
Douglas Memorial Community Church
Druid Heights Community Development Corporation
DRU/Mondawmin Healthy Families
Furman L. Templeton Preparatory Academy
Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church
Providence Baptist Church

Union Baptist Church
University of Maryland School of Medicine
University of Maryland School of Social Work
University of Maryland Women's Health at Western Penn and Edmondson
Linden Medical Group Women's Healthcare Associates

For More Information

Call Resource Moms, 410-706-6131 or Contact Stacey Stephens LCSW-C, 410-396-0882 x1097 or visit www.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 City Health Department, the Family League of Baltimore City Inc., with major funding support from CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield.

