

Maternal Health Care Among Immigrant New Yorkers¹

Access to health care before, during and after pregnancy provides women² with healthier pregnancies and childbirth experiences as well as the ability to maintain their health beyond pregnancy. But current Medicaid rules limit the availability of health care to women before and after pregnancy depending on their immigration status.

Compared to women born in the U.S., women who are immigrants are:

- **Less likely** to have a visit with a family doctor or obstetrician/gynecologist (OB/GYN) before pregnancy
- **Less likely** to receive dental care before or during pregnancy
- **More likely** to lose health insurance after giving birth

Women who are immigrants may also experience poorer access to maternal health care if they:

- Have been in the U.S. for less than five years
- Immigrated from Central America, South America, Sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia



What can you do for yourself and for your community?

Learn more about accessing health care services before, during and after pregnancy through the following services and programs:

- Visit nyc.gov and search for **Everyone Can Get Health Care Services in NYC** for information about your right to health care in NYC regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.
- Visit nyc.gov/ochia and search for **immigrants** or **pregnant** to learn about health insurance options for New Yorkers who are immigrants or pregnant.
- Visit nyc.gov/health and search for **health insurance enrollment support** for help enrolling in health insurance.
- Visit nyc.gov/health and search for **respectful care at birth** to learn more about the **NYC Standards for Respectful Care at Birth**.
- Visit nyc.gov and search for **Services for Recently Arrived Immigrants** to access services for recently arrived immigrants or refugees.
- Visit nyc.gov and search for **actionNYC** or call 800-354-0365 for free, safe immigration legal help.
- Learn more about how to advocate for policies that can impact your community and improving these health outcomes, visit everymothercounts.org/advocacytoolkit.
- Visit nyam.org/hd4nyc/our-work for information about Health Data for New York City projects.

¹This flyer presents results from the following Health Data for New York City research project, which uses data from the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (NYC PRAMS), 2016–2018: Maru S, Glenn L, Belfon K, et al. Utilization of maternal health care among immigrant mothers in New York City, 2016–2018. *J Urban Heal*. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-021-00584-5>

²Survey participants were not asked about their gender identity; due to this limitation, the terms “woman” and “maternal” in this flyer include any person capable of being pregnant.