

Strategy: **Promote environmental justice** **to limit exposure to** **environmental threats**



The Mom and Baby Action Network is building cross-sector partnerships that invest in, influence and leverage collective action to lead broad changes in policy, research, funding and systems to address the root causes of inequities in maternal and infant health. Our common agenda includes five overarching strategies, with several solutions contained within each strategy.

This strategy focuses on addressing inequities in toxic exposures and climate change threats. Pregnant people exposed to high temperatures and air pollution are more likely to give birth prematurely or to underweight or stillborn babies, as well as suffer from eclampsia and preeclampsia.

People of color and low-income populations are inequitably affected by environmental toxins and climate threats both at home and in the work place compared to white & mid/high income populations.

Involvement in the environmental justice movement is crucial for a healthier tomorrow for all birthing people and their babies.

Work Group Focus

Advocate for policies and programs that support community education, exposure identification, prevention and remediation of environmental threats. Support review and expansion of workplace accommodations for pregnant people. Promote data collection on birth outcomes to help identify major environmental hazards and advocate for action.

Solutions Overview

Examples below demonstrate the types of solutions identified that the National workgroup and local collective impact sites may choose to pursue.

- **Policy & Legislative Change**
 - *Limit air pollution/emissions with incentives and enforcement of sanctions.*
 - *Increase funding to the EPA and HUD specifically for community grants focused on lead, water, air quality testing and ongoing monitoring and remediation.*
- **System & Institutional Change**
 - *Require rentals and property sales to disclose and appropriately educate on potential toxic exposures and associated health risks.*
 - *Require ongoing monitoring of community toxins (air, water, soil) and reporting.*
 - *Engage regulators, manufacturers, retailers, and suppliers to improve safety of consumer products that have been associated with higher risks for adverse birth outcomes.*
- **Communication & Training**
 - *Promote and act on birth outcomes studies that focus on environmental hazards and support local coalitions for action when links to poor health outcomes are identified.*
- **Research & Data**
 - *Research connection between redlined neighborhoods, heat vulnerability and poor birth and maternal outcomes.*

*This list is not exhaustive, see the full Strategy report.