

# SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY & MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

A Rutgers University-led study investigated geographical variation in Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) within New Jersey and associations between various types of municipal government expenditures and SMM using linked birth and maternal hospital discharge records (2008-2018).

Maternal death is "just the tip of the iceberg." For every maternal death, 100 birthing people experience severe maternal morbidity (SMM).



## What is SMM?

SMM includes a range of life-threatening complications that result in significant short- or long-term consequences to a birthing person's health.\*

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Acute Renal Failure



Cardiac Arrest



Blood Transfusion



Respiratory Distress Syndrome



Intravascular Coagulation



US: 144.0 PER 10,000 BIRTHS

NJ: 199.3 PER 10,000 BIRTHS

RATE OF SMM IN USA & NJ



During the period of this study, there was substantial variation in SMM rates across NJ municipalities.

## HIGHEST & LOWEST RATES OF SMM BY MUNICIPALITY PER 10,000 BIRTHS:

Westfield

107.5

Bridgeton

378.5

0 100 200 300 400

## Associated with Better Maternal Outcomes:



Public Health | Housing | Fire & Ambulance | Transportation | Libraries

Each additional \$1000 annual expenditure per person in these categories was associated with 35% to 67% lower odds of SMM.

## Associated with Worse Maternal Outcomes:

Each additional \$1000 annual expenditure per person on police was associated with 15% higher odds of SMM.



Based upon findings published in Muchomba, F. M., Teitler, J., Kruse, L., & Reichman, N. E. (2021). Municipality-Level Variation in Severe Maternal Morbidity and Association With Municipal Expenditures in New Jersey. JAMA Network Open, 4(11), e2135161-e2135161.

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