

Discrimination and Mistreatment Among Pregnant and Postpartum People

NEW YORK CITY FACT SHEET

Key Messages

1 in 4

Black non-Latina birthing people **report experiencing mistreatment** during childbirth.

Nearly

2 in 3

Black non-Latina birthing people **report high levels of medical mistrust**.

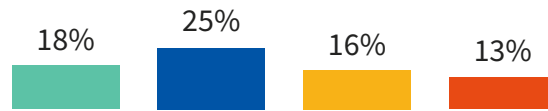
PAHS Indicators

Mistreatment by Care Providers in Childbirth (MCPC)

● white non-Latina ● Black non-Latina ● Latina ● Asian/PI non-Latina

17%

of birthing people in NYC reported mistreatment by care providers in childbirth.



The MCPC scale is a patient-designed and validated measure of mistreatment during childbirth spanning multiple domains: physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, neglect and abandonment, poor rapport between women and providers, loss of confidentiality, and lack of supportive care.

Top 3 Types of Mistreatment by Care Providers during Childbirth

Health care clinicians ignored you, refused your request for help, or failed to respond to requests for help in a reasonable amount of time

10%

Health care clinicians (doctors, midwives, or nurses) shouted at or scolded you

7%



Your physical privacy was violated (for example, being uncovered or having people in the delivery room without your consent)

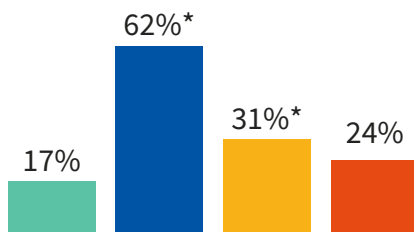
3%

High Levels of Medical Mistrust

● white non-Latina ● Black non-Latina ● Latina ● Asian/PI non-Latina

32%

of postpartum people in NYC reported high levels of medical mistrust.



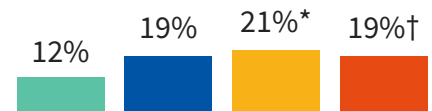
Medical mistrust is measured using the Group-Based Medical Mistrust Scale (GBMM), a 12-item instrument that assesses suspicion, experiences of discrimination, and lack of support in the health care setting. A high level of mistrust is defined as being in the top quartile of the GBMM scale among all PAHS respondents (across 6 states and NYC).

Daily Experiences of Discrimination

● white non-Latina ● Black non-Latina ● Latina ● Asian/PI non-Latina

18%

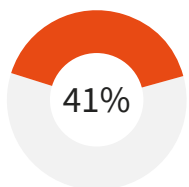
of postpartum people in NYC reported experiencing discrimination in their daily lives.



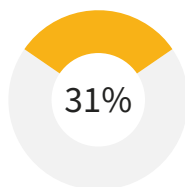
Daily experiences of discrimination is defined as reporting being treated with less respect or courtesy than other people 'sometimes' or 'often' in day-to-day life.

Top 5 Reported Reasons for Daily Discrimination

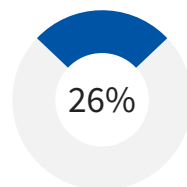
Race/ethnicity, or skin color



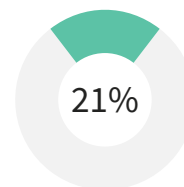
Gender/sex



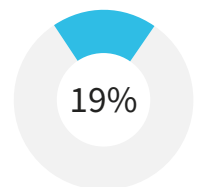
Language/accents



Income level



Body weight



Notes on Specific Values: *Significant difference relative to white non-Latina reference group †Interpret with caution — small sample size (< 60) or wide confidence interval (> 20%)

Data sources: PAHS indicators are self-reported by 645 NYC respondents to the 2020 Postpartum Assessment of Health Survey (PAHS) at 12-14 months after giving birth. Data was collected from January 2021 to March 2022. Results are weighted to be representative of all postpartum people who had a live birth in NYC in 2020.

Acknowledgments: PAHS is a research collaboration between Columbia University and seven city and state departments of health, including the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The 2020 PAHS was undertaken by the Columbia World Project, Leveraging policy to improve maternal health in the fourth trimester, Columbia University in the City of New York. More information about PAHS is available at <https://worldprojects.columbia.edu/postpartum-assessment-health-survey-pahs>