



Brief:

The fossil fuel cycle worsens inequities in maternal and newborn health

Through a long legacy of environmental racism, the land and bodies of marginalized communities have been extracted from, dumped on, exploited, and sacrificed for fossil fuels.

Failing to see the connections between the health crisis for pregnant people, its disparities and continued fossil fuel use hinders our collective ability to advance meaningful change for birthing families.

MATERNAL HEALTH

- Fossil fuel extraction is associated with lower fertility.
- Pregnancy loss has been linked to prenatal exposure to oil spills.
- Fossil fuel activities have been linked to a risk for hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and gestational diabetes.

46% of housing for low-income populations is within 1 mile of factories with toxic emissions.

INFANT HEALTH

- Exposure to oil and gas well sites is associated with preterm birth, low birth weight, small for gestational age, and congenital heart and neural tube defects.
- Exposure to oil spills *in utero* increases the risk for infant mortality.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support phasing out use of fossil fuels and investing in a just transition to a clean energy economy.
- Advocate for clean, renewable energy access in your workplaces and communities in alignment with a just phase-out of fossil fuels.
- Join us: [IgnitingImpactTogether.org](https://www.ignitingimpacttogether.org)