



# Ready to Pop?: A Comparison of Availability of Pre- and Post-natal Care between Black and White Neighborhoods in Atlanta, Georgia

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## Introduction

While some may argue that age is a factor related to maternal mortality because women older than 35 years of age tend to have more complications during their pregnancy, research shows that this isn't the only factor. My research describes how race and age impact maternal mortality rates. The given data will allow me to make people of my community, southwest Atlanta, aware of programs that they have access to, and making recommendations for future efforts. Additionally, I will research the number of OBGYNs in a predominantly white area of Atlanta (Buckhead) versus a predominantly Black area (West Atlanta).

## Methods

My focus is **access**. For this study, I collected the number of OBGYNs, mid-wives, general physicians, and emergencies in select zip codes of both parts of Atlanta (Buckhead and West Atlanta).

## Results

As seen in **Figure 1**, the predominantly white areas collectively have more access to OBGYNs, midwives, and emergency rooms while the predominantly Black areas had more slightly more general physicians.

Although the sample size was relatively small, this preliminary analysis proves that additional work is needed to understand where gaps in physician availability exist in Atlanta. A statewide analysis of this type exploring all Georgia zip codes is a first step in the future of this very important reserach.

## Discussion & Conclusions

Limited access to healthcare providers in the Atlanta area is a factor in Black women's high numbers of maternal mortality. Predominantly white areas have more access to the doctors needed to assist in the process of growing and birthing a child. In efforts to lower the number of maternal mortalities, this research will assist in informing mothers, mothers to be, or future mothers the importance of making doctor appointments a priority.

The Black community is rightfully skeptical to trust the medical professionals that they need the most during the sacred process of family planning and while not all have these feelings, the innate sense to protect one's family and body is certainly heightened during pregnancy and birth.

The future of solid medical care for Black communities desperately depends on increasing the number of Black physicians in the workforce.

**Figure 1. Comparison of OB/GYN offices, midwives, physician offices, and EDs between predominately white and Black areas of Atlanta, Georgia**

