

# Worcester Department of Public Health

## Closing Racial Gap in Maternal Health Outcomes

Through Public Health Excellence (PHE) funds, the Worcester Department of Public Health has expanded Maternal and Child Health education, strengthened the local doula workforce, and launched a new data dashboard – all to drive better health outcomes for mothers, infants, and families across Worcester.



## Expanding Access to a Diverse Doula Workforce

The Department is deeply committed to addressing disparities in maternal outcomes, particularly among Black and Brown mothers – and a well-trained, culturally responsive doula workforce is a key part of that work. The Department facilitated a doula training series in collaboration with Worcester Addresses Childhood Trauma and the UMass Doula Program, providing 30 doulas with continuing education in trauma-informed care and self-regulation to strengthen their work in the community.



## A Dashboard Built to Drive Change

Improving outcomes for mothers and families starts with understanding the full picture. The Worcester Department of Public Health launched a Maternal and Child Health Dashboard, an interactive tool designed to increase transparency, inform public policy, and improve outcomes for mothers, infants, and families across Worcester, putting local data directly in the hands of residents and the policymakers who serve them.



“The City of Worcester Maternal Child Health Data dashboard proves our commitment to making public health data accessible to our residents. It has been an idea of the Department to have more focused dashboards since we released the e-CHA [Community Health Assessment] in 2023, and I am proud that it has finally come to fruition.”

**Nikki Nixon, Worcester Department of Public Health Acting Director**

