NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE
QUALITY INSTITUTE

# Raising the Bar:
# Using Data to Strengthen Maternal and Infant Health

## What is the Maternal Health Benchmarking Survey?

The **Maternal Health Benchmarking Survey** supports hospitals and health systems in using data to **strengthen clinical, operational, and organizational practices** to improve maternal health. Through structured self-assessment and comparison to statewide and national, evidence-based standards, the survey helps organizations better understand how maternal health care is delivered across inpatient, outpatient, and community settings.

The survey was jointly developed by the **New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute** and **Ariadne Labs**. It is grounded in recommendations from the **Raising the Bar for Maternal Health Equity and Excellence** framework, national guidelines, state policies, and best practices.

## What Does the Maternal Health Benchmarking Survey Measure?

The survey includes **86 questions** and is complemented by interviews with hospital leadership, staff, and community representatives.

### The survey gathers information across four key areas:

- **Health System Profile:**
  - Leadership structure, staffing, and organizational demographics.
- **Maternal Health Services:**
  - Access to and delivery of maternal health services before, during, and after childbirth.
- **Social Drivers of Health and Inclusion:**
  - How the health system addresses social needs, cultural responsiveness, and inclusive care practices.
- **Clinical Measures and Outcomes:**
  - Data and performance related to quality, safety, and patient outcomes.

Together, these areas provide a holistic view of how hospitals support maternal health and provide insight into where focused action can drive meaningful change.

## How Do Hospitals and Health Systems Use Findings From the Survey?

Hospitals have used their results to:

- **Talk with staff and community partners** about what is and is not working well.
- **Guide quality improvement efforts** by setting measurable goals informed by data.
- **Support strategic planning** through identifying strengths and areas for growth across leadership, care delivery, and patient support.
- **Track progress and shared learning** by monitoring improvements and sharing best practices.

The Maternal Health Benchmarking Survey supports hospitals in using data and community feedback to drive meaningful improvement. As a result of completing the benchmark survey process, hospitals have:

- Expanded doula outreach.
- Increased access to mental health resources.
- Made policy and practice changes informed by patient experiences.
- Refined educational materials to be more inclusive and responsive.

These efforts reflect a strong commitment to patient and community-centered care and continuous quality improvement.

*To learn more about the Maternal Health Benchmarking Survey, visit **www.njhcqi.org** or contact **info@njhcqi.org**.*