Addressing Maternal Health Inequities in Los Angeles County for Black Birthing Individuals

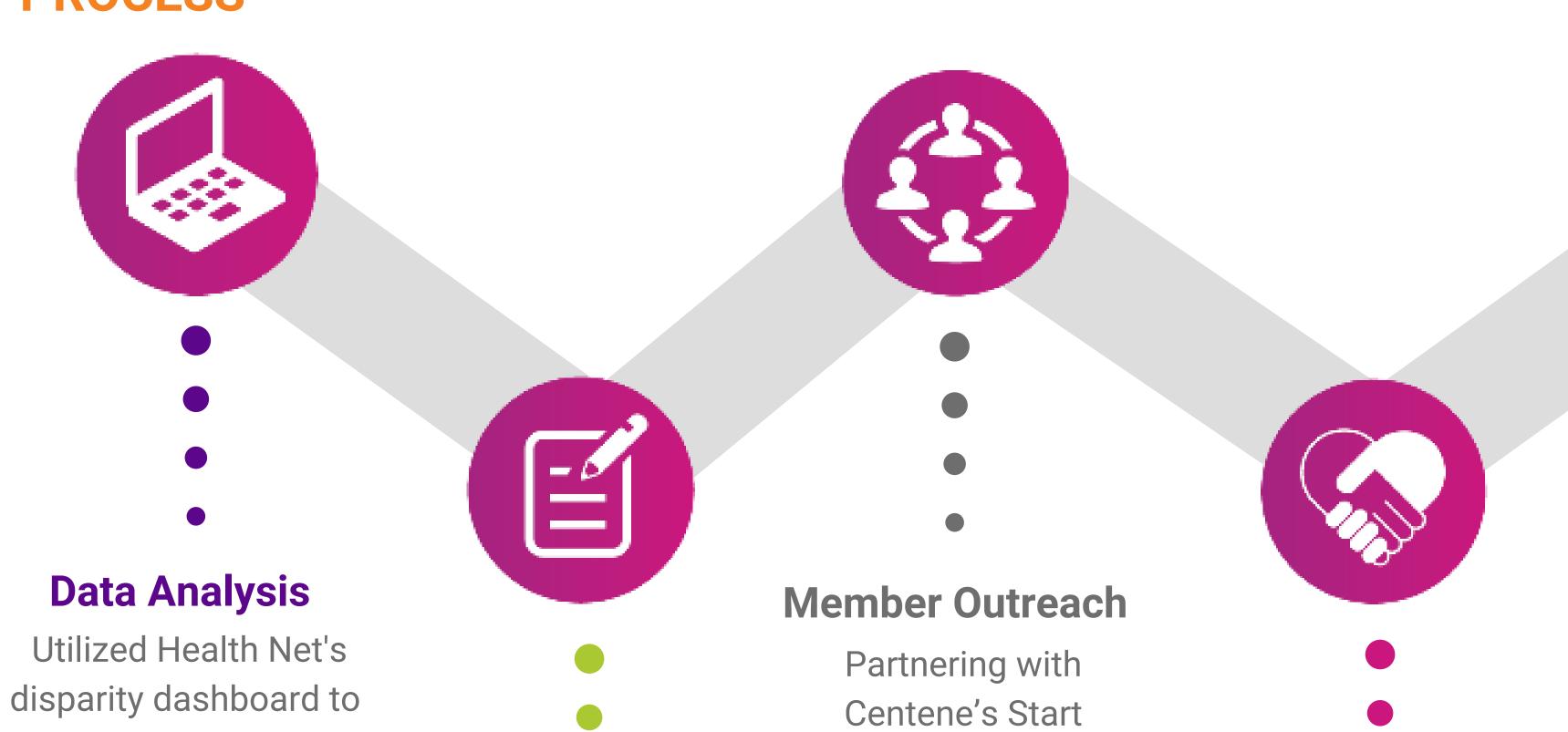


BACKGROUND

The United States has the highest rates of maternal mortality in the industrialized world. Birthing people are twice as likely to die from complications of pregnancy or childbirth in the U.S. than in Canada or the United Kingdom (1). For birthing people of color, the risk is higher. The maternal mortality for Black birthing people in the U.S. is three times higher than the rate for White birthing people (2).

Analysis of Health Net's disparity dashboard identified that Black Medi-Cal members living in Los Angeles county encounter the largest disparities with respect to the prenatal and postpartum measures. As a health plan, Health Net is committed to identifying and addressing the maternal care disparity gaps present in its members to promote birth equity for all.

PROCESS



disparity dashboard to identify maternal health disparities in Los Angeles County with respect to Race/Ethnicity (R/E), Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs), and Social Determinants of Health (SDoH).

Barrier Analysis

Completed provider and community leader key informant interviews, community and member focus groups and a literature review.

Partnering with
Centene's Start
Smart for Your Baby
Case Management
program to outreach
to Black pregnant
members in Los
Angeles County.

Community Partnership

Established a partnership with Black Women for Wellness, a Community Based Organization (CBO) that is local to the Los Angeles area.

Provider Training

Piloted a collaborative
Reproductive Justice
training with Black
Women for Wellness.
Training was focused on
Los Angeles maternal
health and pediatric
providers.

"COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO MATERNAL HEALTH"

NEXT STEPS



Continued member outreach through Start Smart for Your Baby

Build upon established community partnerships

Expand and replicate
Reproductive Justice
training webinar for
providers

1) Roosa Tikkanen et al., Maternal Mortality and Maternity Care in the United States Compared to 10 other Developed Countries (Commonwealth Fund, Nov 2020). 2) Hoyert DL. Maternal mortality rates in the United States, 2020. NCHS Health E-Stats. 2022.