

## WHAT IS “MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH?”

Maternal and Child Health is concerned with the health of mothers, infants, and children.

Maternal and Child Health is often a good **indicator of a community's overall health**. UNICEF explains that child mortality is the result of factors including the **nutritional status** and **health knowledge** of mothers, level of **immunization**, availability of maternal and child **health services** (including prenatal care), **income** and **food availability** in the family, availability of safe **drinking water** and basic **sanitation**, and the overall **safety** of the child's environment.<sup>1</sup>



## Factors That Affect Maternal & Child Health<sup>2</sup>

### HOW IS PRENATAL CARE MEASURED?

-The adequacy of prenatal care is measured by **two factors**:

1. When a mother first receives prenatal care.
2. Whether she received the correct number of visits during pregnancy.

-The national Healthy People 2020 goal for early prenatal care, which begins in the first trimester of pregnancy, is 77.9%. The Pinellas rate (79.5%) exceeds this goal.

- **Heavy drinking and/or smoking:** From 2011-13, 11% of Pinellas births were to women who smoked during pregnancy (6.6% FL).
- **Mother's weight:** From 2011-13, 22.7% of Pinellas mothers were overweight and 19.7% obese at the time pregnancy occurred (23.9% and 20.8% FL).
- **Access to and use of well-woman care:** In 2013, 55.2% of Pinellas females over the age of 17 had a pap smear in the previous year (51.4% FL).
- **Prenatal care:** From 2011-13, 79.5% of Pinellas births were to mothers with early prenatal care.
- **Health insurance:** From 2011-13, 5.1% of Pinellas births were to uninsured women (7.8% FL), and 52.0% of births were covered by Medicaid (50.9% FL).
- **Breastfeeding:** From 2011-13, 75.4% of Pinellas mothers initiated breastfeeding (81.0% FL).

# MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

## Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Pinellas

Even though Pinellas meets the overall Healthy People 2020 goal for early prenatal care, the county faces significant ethnic and racial disparities in maternal & child health.

### FAST FACTS: 2011-13<sup>2</sup>

## 2.9

Factor by which black infants died in their first year of life compared to white infants in Pinellas.

## 68.2

Percentage of black mothers who received early prenatal care, compared to 77.7% of Hispanic mothers and 82.5% of white mothers in Pinellas.

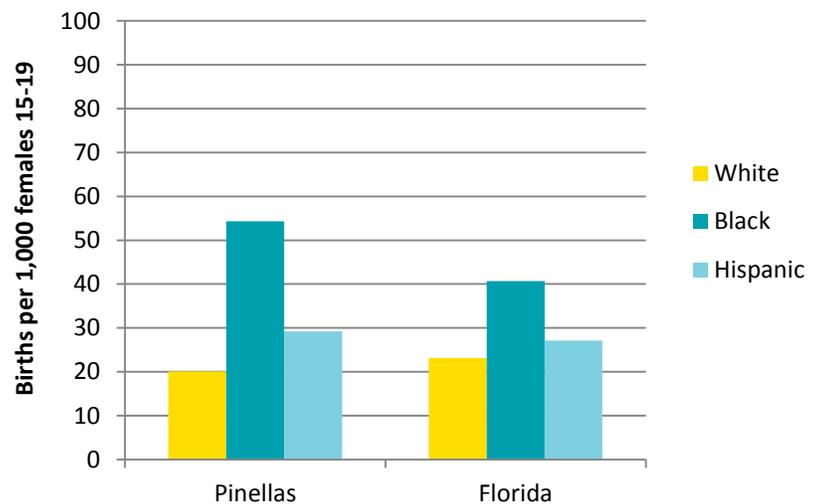
## 84.5

Percentage of births to unwed black mothers, compared to 43.7% of white mothers and 59.2% of Hispanic mothers in Pinellas.

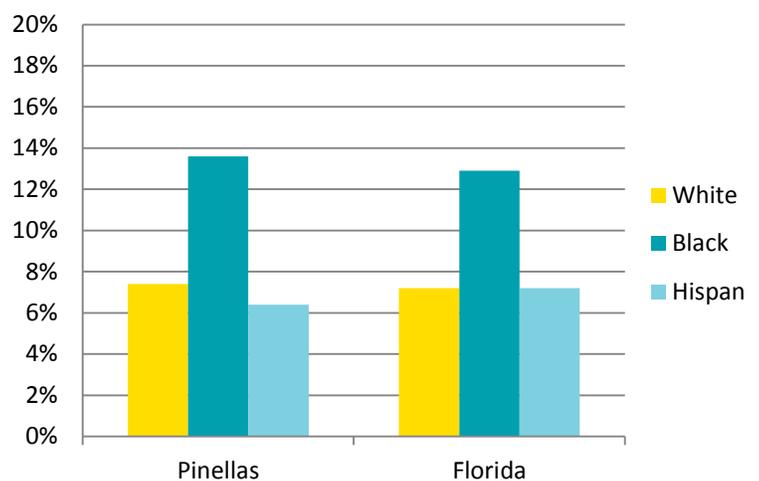
## 27.4

Percentage of births to Hispanic mothers without a high school education, compared to 11.5% of white mothers and 19.8% of black mothers in Pinellas.

### Births to 15-19 Year Olds in Pinellas, 2011-2013<sup>2</sup>



### Low Birth Weight Infants in Pinellas, 2011-2013<sup>2</sup>



Revised February 2015

<sup>1</sup> Report: "The Under-five Mortality Rate." [http://www.unicef.org/sowc08/docs/sowc08\\_panels.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/sowc08/docs/sowc08_panels.pdf). Accessed February 13, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Florida CHARTS website. <http://www.floridacharts.com>. Accessed February 13, 2015.