

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.¹



Factors That Affect Maternal & Child Health²

- **Heavy drinking and/or smoking:** In 2012, nearly 11% of Pinellas births were to women who smoked during pregnancy (6.6% FL).
- **Mother’s weight:** In 2012, 22.5% of Pinellas mothers were overweight and 19.4% obese at the time pregnancy occurred (23.8% and 20.6% FL).
- **Prenatal Care:** In 2010-12, 74.2% of Pinellas births were to mothers with adequate prenatal care. →
- **Access to and use of well-woman care:** In 2010, 52.4% of females over the age of 17 had a pap smear in the previous year (57.1% FL).
- **Health insurance:** In 2010-12, 5.9% of Pinellas births were to uninsured women (8.4% FL), and 51.1% of births were covered by Medicaid (49.9% FL).
- **Breastfeeding:** In 2010-12, 75.6% of Pinellas women initiated breastfeeding (80.2% FL).

HOW IS PRENATAL CARE MEASURED?

-The adequacy of prenatal care is measured by two factors: **when a mother first receives prenatal care**, as well as **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%. In 2012, Pinellas met this expectation, with 79.9% of mothers receiving early prenatal care.

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 2012²

2.9

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

68.0

Percentage of black mothers who received early prenatal care, compared to 78.8% of Hispanic mothers and 82.9% of white mothers in Pinellas.

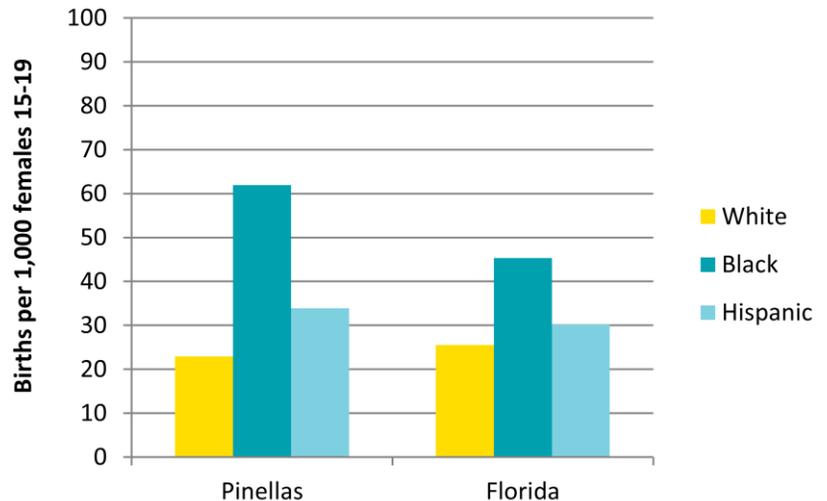
83.9

Percentage of births to unwed black mothers, compared to 44.2% of white mothers and 60.6% of Hispanic mothers in Pinellas.

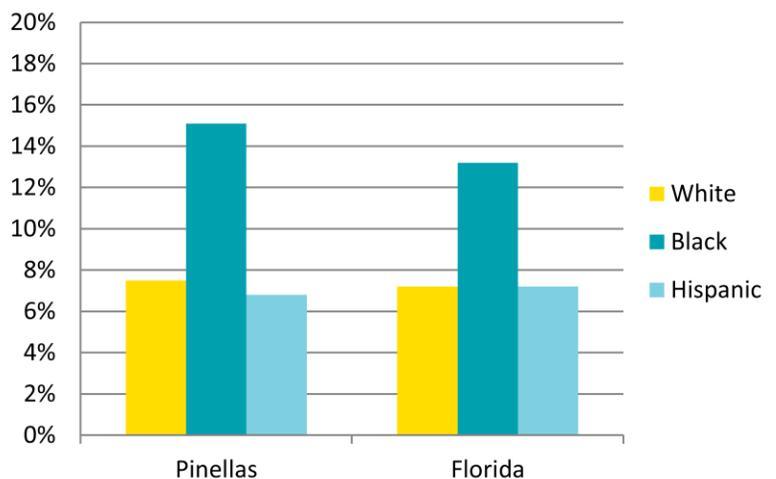
20.1

Percentage of births to black mothers without a high school education, compared to 12.1% of white mothers in Pinellas.

Births to 15-19 Year Olds in Pinellas, 2010-2012²



Low Birth Weight Infants in Pinellas, 2010-2012²



¹ Report: "The Under-five Mortality Rate." http://www.unicef.org/sowc08/docs/sowc08_panels.pdf. Accessed October 24, 2013.

² Florida CHARTS website. <http://www.floridacharts.com>. Accessed October 24, 2013.