

WHAT IS “MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH?”

Maternal and Child Health concerns 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

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 mothers who receive early prenatal care, which begins in the first trimester of pregnancy, is **77.9%**. The Pinellas rate is currently **80.5%**.²

- **Heavy drinking and/or smoking:** In 2015, 9.5% of Pinellas births were to women who smoked during pregnancy (5.8% FL).
- **Mother's weight:** In 2015, 23.1% of Pinellas mothers were overweight and 20.2% obese at the time pregnancy occurred (24.5% and 21.9% 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:** In 2015, 80.5% of Pinellas births were to mothers with early prenatal care (79.3% FL).
- **Health insurance:** In 2015, 3.3% of Pinellas births were to uninsured women (6.4% FL), and 49.9% of births were covered by Medicaid (48.8% FL).
- **Breastfeeding:** In 2015, 83.0% of Pinellas mothers initiated breastfeeding (85.2% 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

All data 2013-15²

2.56

Factor by which black infants in Pinellas County were more likely to die during their first year of life than white infants.

69.8

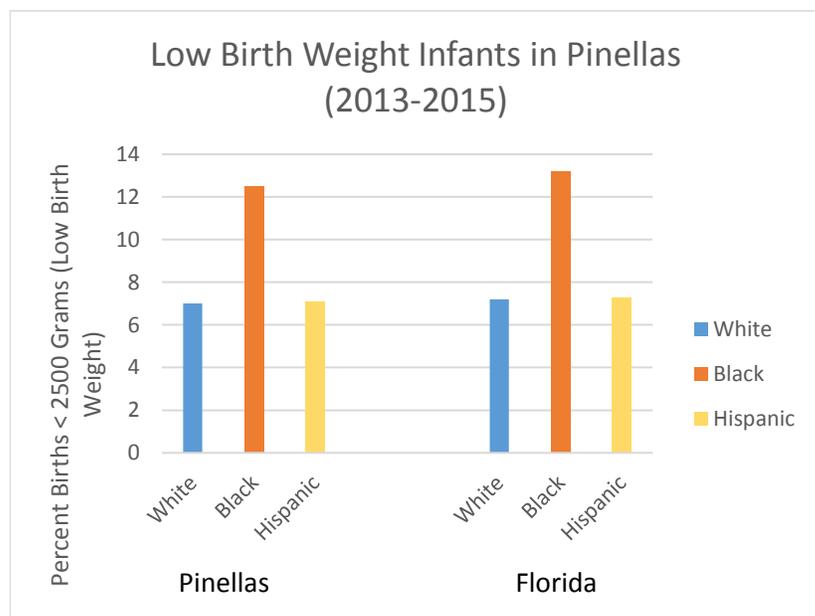
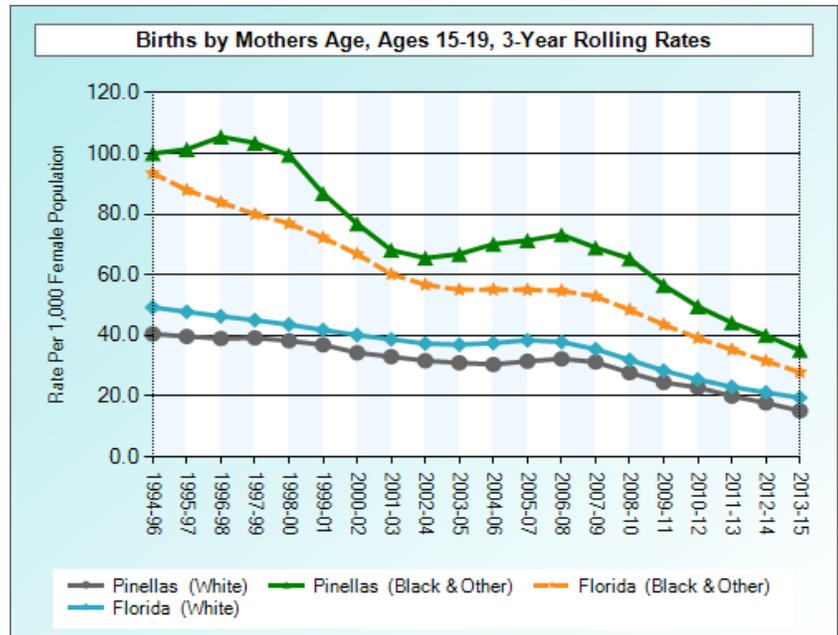
Percentage of black mothers who received early prenatal care, compared to 78.6% of Hispanic mothers and 82.3% of white mothers in Pinellas.

84.9

Percentage of births to unwed black mothers, compared to 43.5% of white mothers and 57.4% of Hispanic mothers in Pinellas.

24.1

Percentage of births to Hispanic mothers without a high school education, compared to 10.1% of white mothers and 18.0% of black mothers in Pinellas.



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¹ UNICEF Report: "The Under-five Mortality Rate." http://www.unicef.org/sowc08/docs/sowc08_panels.pdf. Accessed 1/3/2017.

² Florida CHARTS. <http://www.floridacharts.com>. Accessed 1/3/2017.

