



Newsletter

A publication of the Healthy Start Coalition of Brevard County | Winter 2021-2022



The Healthy Start Coalition of Brevard County is a local, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that works to make sure that all moms and babies have the services they need to begin healthy lives together. Healthy Start provides moms, newborns and families with the resources, help and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby through a home visiting program. Free services are based on risk factors, not on income or insurance.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Due to the impact of COVID-19, Healthy Start is still taking every precaution we can for the safety of our staff and our moms and babies of Brevard, while working within the best practices set forth by the CDC, the Florida Department of Health, and the State of Florida. Our “home-visiting” services are currently being provided via video/phone conferencing and transitioning to in-person visits. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 321.634.6101.

MARCH OF DIMES 2021 REPORT CARD



The 2021 Report Card highlights the latest key indicators to describe and improve maternal and infant health in the U.S. It features grades for preterm birth and measures on infant mortality in addition to social drivers of health, low-risk Cesarean births and inadequate prenatal care. Their Supplemental Report Card highlights the stark disparities across race and ethnicity within these factors.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, pre-existing health disparities have been magnified. Comprehensive data collection and analysis of these measures, and the resulting disparities, inform the development of policies and programs that move us closer to health equity. The Report Card looks at policies like Medicaid expansion and programs like Maternal Mortality Review Committees, that can help improve equitable maternal and infant health for families across the country.

FLORIDA

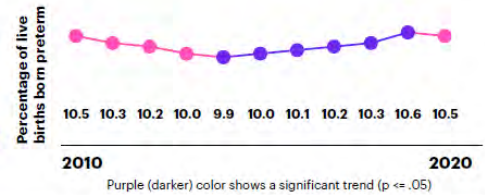
INFANT HEALTH

PRETERM BIRTH GRADE

D+

PRETERM BIRTH RATE

10.5%



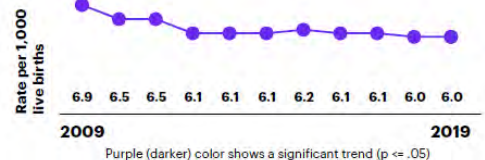
INFANT MORTALITY

5.6

Infant mortality rates are an indication of overall health. Leading causes of infant death include birth defects, prematurity, low birth weight, maternal complications and sudden infant death syndrome.

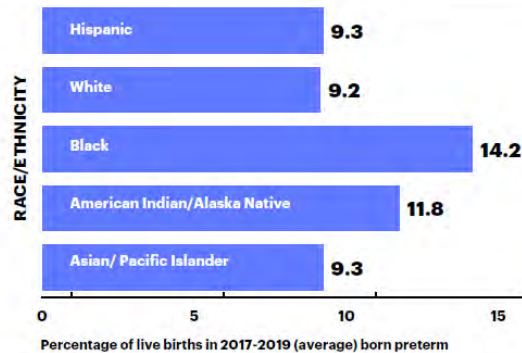
INFANT MORTALITY RATE

6.0



PRETERM BIRTH RATE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

The March of Dimes disparity ratio measures and tracks progress towards the elimination of racial/ethnic disparities in preterm birth. It's based on Healthy People 2020 methodology and compares the group with the lowest preterm birth rate to the average for all other groups. Progress is evaluated by comparing the current disparity ratio to a baseline disparity ratio. A lower disparity ratio is better, with a disparity ratio of 1 indicating no disparity.



In Florida, the preterm birth rate among Black women is 53% higher than the rate among all other women.

DISPARITY RATIO:

1.18

CHANGE FROM BASELINE:

No Improvement

MORE INFORMATION: MARCHOFDIMES.ORG/REPORTCARD

March of Dimes recommends state policy actions that are rooted in addressing disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes. For details on data sources and calculations, see their full report card, url above.

To learn how they are working to reduce preterm birth visit www.marchofdimes.org.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY CONNECT?



Community Connect provides a one-stop entry point for needed services. Community Connect contacts, assesses, provides information, and makes referrals to home visiting programs and other community services. Eligibility for Community Connect begins when a pregnant woman or infant is screened and referred by their health care provider or hospital through the prenatal and infant risk screens.

Services and Resources:

- Childbirth education
- Newborn care instruction
- Breastfeeding education and support
- Child development education and support
- Parenting education and support
- Help to quit smoking
- Counseling services
- Home visiting programs:
 - Healthy Families, Healthy Start, & Nurse Family Partnership
- Nutritional education
- School readiness
- Family planning education
- Car seat safety
- Infant safety

Connect Today! Call 321-634-6101

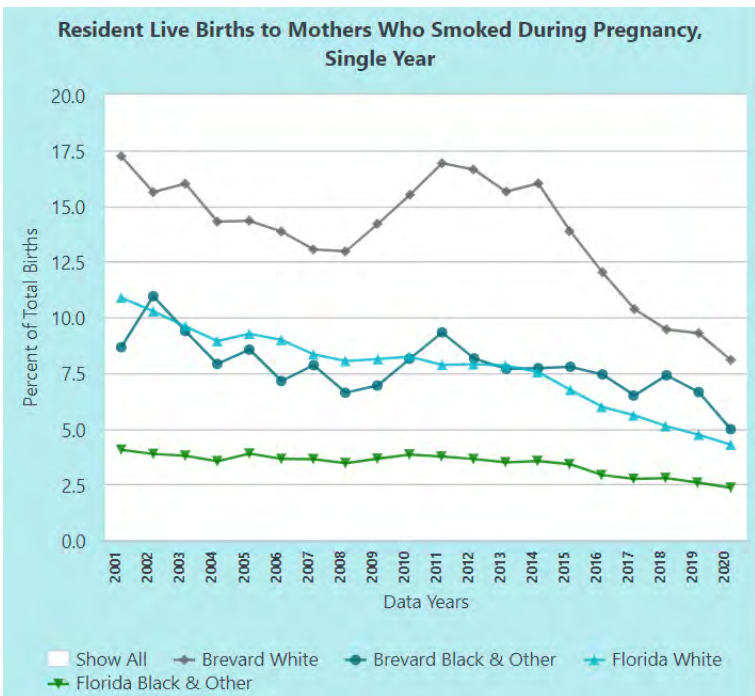
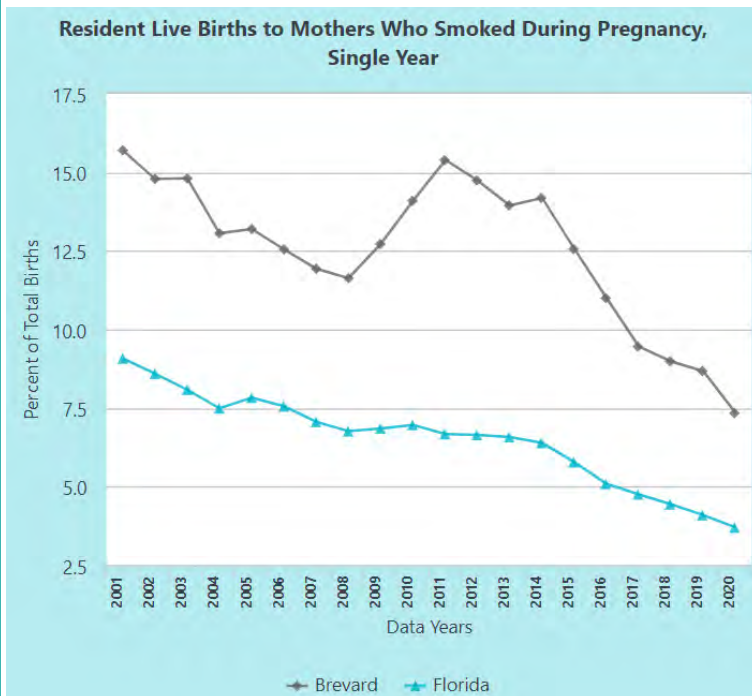
CREATING A SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT

Smoking during pregnancy is associated with increased risk of low birth weight and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Eliminating smoking before pregnancy is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of low birth weight, SIDS and other infant health problems.

The below charts measure the number of mothers who smoked during pregnancy in Brevard vs Florida. It is expressed as a percentage of births. In the most recent data available in 2020, in Brevard County, the percent of total births that were Resident Live Births to Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy (All) was 7.3% compared to Florida at 3.7%. While this number is drastically lower than it was 10 and 20 years ago, Brevard is still twice as high as the state average.

Healthy Start can help your patient to quit smoking and create a smoke-free environment for their baby. Tobacco cessation services are available to your patient, their partner and their family. They can make a plan to quit with their Healthy Start Care Coordinator during a home visit.

Healthy Start Can Help Create A Smoke Free Environment: 321-634-6101



Data: <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/>