

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. 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-conferencing or over the phone. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 321.634.6101.



2020 RISK SCREENING RATES

PRENATAL RISK SCREENING RATES - 2020

Provider's Office	Processed Screens	Consent to Screen		Referred To Community Connect	
Beautiful Beginnings Midwifery	28	10	36%	1	10%
Brevard Health Alliance	176	160	91%	114	71%
Brevard Health Department - Melb	399	394	99%	139	35%
Brevard Health Department - Viera	356	317	89%	206	65%
Foster Womens Care	140	129	92%	14	11%
Health First - Dr Caplan	165	157	95%	156	99%
Health First - Dr Dance	252	238	94%	212	89%
Health First - Dr Raup	184	150	82%	142	95%
Health First Medical Group	908	839	92%	800	95%
Hibiscus Women's Center	408	275	67%	37	13%
Parrish OBGYN - Port St John	267	256	96%	249	97%
Parrish OBGYN - Titusville	196	180	92%	72	40%
Partners in Womens Health	183	177	97%	164	93%
Out of area offices	199	156	78%	85	54%
Total Brevard =	3,861	3,438	89%	2,391	70%
Total Florida =	151,797	137,168	90%	93,264	68%

Florida's Risk Screening process and Healthy Start services were enacted by state legislation in 1991 with the goals of reducing infant mortality, reducing the number of low birth weight babies and improving health and developmental outcomes for all Florida's babies.

Completing the Prenatal and Infant Risk Screening forms are valuable for all mothers and babies regardless of age, race, or economic status. Thank you to our local community partners for your support in the moms and babies of Brevard, without your support we would not be able to reach those in need of assistance.

The information below explains the table to the left:

PROCESSED SCREENS

This number should reflect the number of new patients seen in your office during the reporting period, as Florida Statute 383.14 requires that every prenatal patient receive a prenatal risk screening at her first visit.

CONSENT TO SCREEN

The consent-to-screen rate reflects the number of patients who consented to be screened.

In Brevard, 89% of all new pregnant women consented to the risk screening and 91% of all new moms consented to the infant risk screening at the hospital. 9 out of 14 prenatal offices had over 90% of their patients consent to the prenatal screen and 3 out of 4 of our birthing hospitals had over 91% consent to the infant risk screen.

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY CONNECT

This number reflects the number of patients that were marked referred on the risk screening.

These are the Brevard families that we contact by phone to let them know about home visiting programs and other community resources available to them as a pregnant woman and a mother with an infant. In 2020, 70% of all pregnant women and 49% of infants who consented to the screening were referred for community resources.

INFANT RISK SCREENING RATES - 2020

Birthing Hospital	# of Births	Consent to Screen		Referred To Community Connect	
Cape Canaveral Hospital	697	695	99%	190	27%
Holmes Regional Medical Center	2,586	2,344	91%	885	38%
Parrish Medical Center	515	382	74%	311	81%
Rockledge Regional Medical Center	565	565	100%	561	99%
Out of area Hospitals / Midwifery	521	465	89%	305	66%
Total Brevard =	4,884	4,451	91%	2,252	49%
Total Florida =	209,182	199,948	96%	82,921	41%

Statistics: Florida Department of Health, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/>

Racial Disparities In Health

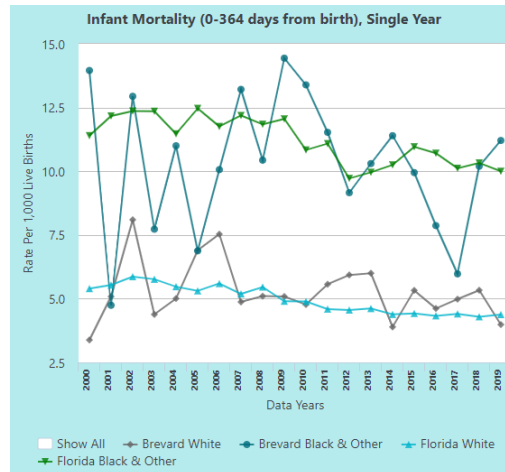
Health disparities are a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social or economic disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater social or economic obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, mental health, cognitive, sensory, or physical disability, sexual orientation, geographic location, or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.

- Prematurity is a leading cause of infant deaths in Florida and across the country, and can lead to life-long health issues for infants that survive. There are also considerable racial disparities in premature birth –the preterm birth rate. In Florida, the preterm birth rate among black women is 52% higher than the rate among all other women.

- Infant Mortality: Infant mortality is the death of an infant prior to their first birthday. National and state level data have consistently demonstrated that Black infants are twice as likely to die in infancy in comparison to White infants. Such a health disparity, or differing health outcome in a socially disadvantaged group, is concerning and should be addressed in order to ensure health and wellbeing of the population.

Infant mortality and the infant mortality rate reflect the health and well-being of the population's women of reproductive age and their infants as well as the quality of the health care available.

In 2019, in Brevard County: The rate per 1,000 live births of Infant Mortality (0-364 days from birth) (All) was 5.6 compared to Florida at 6.0. In 2019, in Brevard County, white infant deaths were at a rate of 4.0 and black/other infant deaths were at a rate of 11.2.



Florida Association of Healthy Start Solutions:

- Address Social Determinants of Health
- Enhance Medicaid Services
- Improve Family Leave Policies
- Prioritize Housing for Pregnant Women
- Support Infant Mortality Awareness Month
- Develop One-Stop Medical and Social Service Community Resources

Source: Healthy People 2020 glossary for phase I report U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008., www.flhealthcharts.com, Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, mibreastfeeding.org

Michigan Breastfeeding Network Presents FREE Training Webinars:

Check out these free training opportunities for anyone supporting babies, healthy birth outcomes and breastfeeding success!

The Michigan Breastfeeding Network provides continuing education credits at no cost for their webinars. Webinars are available to watch whenever and wherever for up to one year after the initial air date.

Several of the webinars being offered delve into the root causes of the racial disparities impacting infant and maternal mortality and breastfeeding.

Some of the topics being offered in an effort to address the racial gap are:

- “Demedicalizing Black Women’s Bodies”
- “Implicit bias: Race Based Disparities in Breastfeeding”
- “The Importance of Black Doulas in Pursuit of Black Maternal/Infant Health Equity”

For more specific information about upcoming webinars:
www.mibreastfeeding.org/webinars

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
- Counseling services
- Home visiting programs: Healthy Families, Healthy Start, & Nurse Family Partnership
- Help to quit smoking
- Nutritional education
- School readiness
- Family planning education
- Car seat safety
- Infant safety

Connect Today! Call 321-634-6101

Local Resources Spotlight

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
WIC is a federally funded nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children.

WIC provides the following at no cost:

- Healthy foods
- Nutrition education and counseling
- Breastfeeding support
- Referrals for health care & community services

Who is Eligible?

- Women who have recently been pregnant
- Infants and children under five years old
- You must be moderate or low income
- You do not have to be on public assistance to apply

To apply for WIC benefits, have your client/patient make an appointment at a WIC local office:
(321) 639-5793