

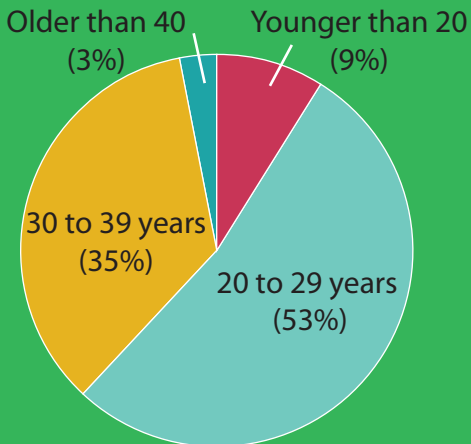


florida children's council

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS

BIRTHS IN FLORIDA

Many factors can affect pregnancy and birth: health of the mother, age, access to appropriate care, level of education, and poverty.¹



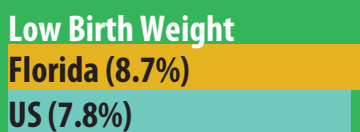
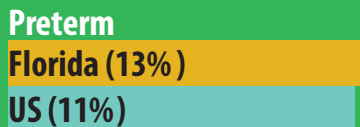
Babies Born in 2012

| County | Births in 2012 |
|--------------|----------------|
| Miami-Dade | 30,479 |
| Broward | 21,169 |
| Hillsborough | 16,404 |
| Orange | 15,729 |
| Palm Beach | 13,936 |
| Duval | 12,456 |

In an Average Week in Florida²

535 babies are born preterm

356 babies are born low birth weight



Improving the well-being of mothers, infants, and children is an important public health goal for Florida and our nation - their well-being determines the health of the next generation.¹

Poor birth outcomes have large scale societal impact - emotionally, socially and economically. In the United States - the annual societal economic cost including medical, educational, and lost productivity associated with preterm birth alone has been estimated at **\$26.2 billion**.²

Hospital charges for babies with a primary diagnosis of prematurity/low birth weight delivery average \$75,000 per child as compared to charges for babies without complications at \$1,300 per child.³ The costs to the family, child and society are exponential throughout a child's lifetime and cannot be measured in dollar amounts.

In 2012, Florida welcomed nearly 215,000 newborns - 6 counties alone account for more than 50% of all Florida births.⁴

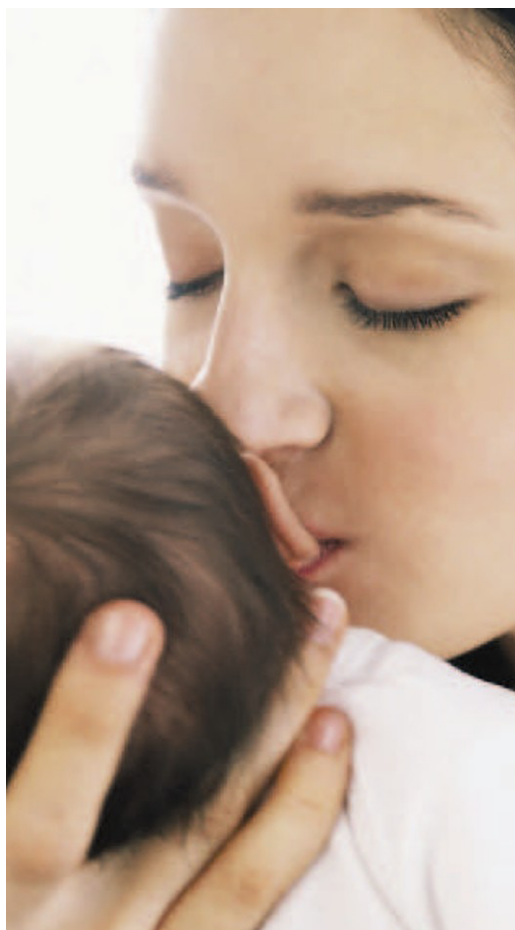
97%

 of Florida's newborns were screened in 2012

Florida Success Universal Newborn Screening

Healthy birth outcomes and early identification and treatment of health conditions among infants can prevent death or disability and enable children to reach their full potential.

Nearly 15 years ago, the Florida Legislature created the Newborn & Infant Hearing Screening program with the goal of screening all newborns. The program has grown to include more than 36 conditions and is designed to screen infants shortly after birth for conditions that are treatable, but not clinically evident. The screening process helps find and treat conditions early which can prevent serious problems. When screening results are abnormal, the Florida Department of Health's Children's Medical Services (CMS) contacts the parent and doctor for next steps.⁵





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The Florida Children's Council works to ensure that all Florida's children are healthy and central to this achievement are evidence-based prevention and early intervention strategies. Local Children's Services Councils invest in a variety of programs proven to positively impact the number of healthy pregnancies and births including: Parenting Education, Violence Prevention, Breastfeeding Education & Support, Nutritional Counseling, Mental Health Counseling and Healthy Start. Each local Children's Services Councils leads the way in innovative prevention and early intervention strategies aimed to address healthy development during pregnancy, at birth and throughout childhood.

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Premature Birth

Advances in medicine have dramatically increased survival after preterm birth which occurs before 37 weeks of gestation, full-term babies are born between 38 and 41 weeks. However, every baby born preterm is at higher risk for long-term and chronic lung problems, arterial hypertension and type 2 diabetes; which predicts accelerated aging, cardiovascular disease and early death.^{6,7}

- In a decade, the rate of babies born preterm in Florida increased more than 2%

Low Birth Weight

Low birth weight (less than 5 ½ pounds) is a major risk factor for both mothers and babies and is the #1 risk factor for death in the 1st year of life and for life-long health problems.

- 1 in 12 babies (8.7%) are low birth weight
- In a decade, the rate of infants born low birth weight increased 6%⁸
- More than 60% of low birth weight babies are premature³

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is a complex issue and is viewed as an overall indicator of a community's quality of life and health status of residents.

- 1,527 infants died in Florida before their 1st birthday ranking Florida 29th in the country
- Florida's rate has slightly improved over a decade from 7.3 per 1,000 to 6.9⁸
- 50% of Florida counties (34 of 67) have rates higher than the state rate
- The gap between white and black preterm births remains significant with black infants dying at 2.2 times the rate of white infants⁹

Prenatal Care

Research shows women who received prenatal care while pregnant were found to have significantly better birth outcomes, including fewer low-birth-weight infants, fewer very-low birth-weight infants, fewer preterm infants, and fewer infants transferred to the neonatal intensive care units.¹⁰

- 1 in 18 infants was born to a women receiving late or no prenatal care
- 1 in 6 infants was born to a women receiving inadequate prenatal care
- 73% of births in Florida were born to women receiving adequate prenatal care⁸

Florida Landscape

In 21 years, many health indicators for mothers and children have improved.¹¹

- Teen pregnancy is down from 45.3 per 1,000 to 12
- The percentage of women beginning prenatal care in the 1st trimester has risen to 80%
- The percentage of women reporting tobacco use during pregnancy has declined from 17% to 7%

