

BIRTH OUTCOMES *UPDATE*

State of the Child in Palm Beach County



Some Birth Outcomes Data Better in 2005

The rate of teen births, the percentage of low birthweight deliveries and fetal and infant mortality in Palm Beach County have improved. The areas that remain a concern are early entry into prenatal care, preterm deliveries, repeat teen births, births to unwed mothers, and racial and ethnic disparities.

These figures are the latest released by the Florida Department of Health in its 2005 Florida Vital Statistics Report. This recently released report provides an overview of state and county level data. Data includes population statistics, data on live births, fetal and infant deaths, other deaths, terminations of pregnancy, and marriages and dissolution of marriages.

It is worth noting that, although births to teens ages 14 years and younger, the percentage of low birthweight babies; and fetal deaths all increased last year, this latest

report shows these indicators have taken a positive turn. The only 2004 positive outcome that became a negative in 2005 is the percentage of repeat teen births.

Each year Children's Services Council (CSC) examines this outcome data, which provides the organization and its partners the opportunity to evaluate trend data and explore where the county has improved and where challenges remain in relation to various indicators of child well-being. The data also provides invaluable information for planning and advocacy on behalf of children and families in our community.

CSC consistently monitors and evaluates outcomes for the children it serves through the Healthy Beginnings System, a system whose key goal is to optimize opportunities for healthy birth outcomes by identifying and coordinating services for families at-risk for poor child and fam-

ily outcomes. This identification process occurs primarily through Healthy Start Risk Screens. These screens are completed both prenatally (Healthy Start Prenatal Risk Screen) and postnatally (Healthy Start Infant Risk Screen). Once women and/or their infants are identified as having risk factors, services targeted to assisting them can be provided.

Funding to support the Healthy Beginnings System is provided by CSC, Department of Health/Healthy Start Coalition, the Ounce of Prevention Florida, and Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA). Other public and private sources provide periodic funding for specific areas of the system. Providers within this system focus on services for women and their families, preconception through birth, to ensure that they receive comprehensive support during the early years of their child's life.

Looking Ahead

As always, CSC will continue to monitor trends, since many of these outcomes are at the core of the organization's prevention and early intervention strategies. However, it is also understood that we cannot do it alone. We hope that policymakers, funders, government and provider agencies/organizations, and other community partners will review this data. This is critical so that we can all work together to determine effective solutions, as well as continue with current programs and initiatives that appear to make a constructive difference in the lives of children and families in Palm Beach County.

One of the major areas of work being completed at this time by CSC, Florida State University, community partners and other consultants is a needs assessment and strategic plan for maternal/child health care in Palm Beach County. One aspect of the plan is process mapping, used to identify key processes so that any barriers can be removed and improvements made. Currently, process mapping is focused on the Healthy Beginnings System of prenatal and postnatal care, resources, identifying and engaging clients, care coordination, system integration, and support and service provision. This planning is critical to making a difference in the work of the Healthy Beginnings System and will ultimately affect birth outcomes for the families we serve by helping to target resources where they are needed most.

Demographics

The following pages provide data on some of the key indicators of healthy birth outcomes. In order to put it in proper perspective, first we offer general 2005 data on the women who are giving birth. According to the Florida Office of Vital Statistics, there were 15,160 resident live births recorded in Palm Beach County, a slight increase from the number in 2004 (15,020). We were able to examine birth data in more detail utilizing data from the Palm Beach County Health Department and found that when broken down by race/ethnicity, 40.6% were white non-Hispanic, 29.4% were Hispanic, and 15.8% were black non-Hispanic.

Screening of At-Risk Mothers

Recent data from the Healthy Beginnings System shows some positive findings in regards to low birthweight and preterm delivery. The primary goal of the Healthy Beginnings System is prenatal care access. Two components of this system are the Prenatal Healthy Start Risk Screen (completed during a prenatal visit) and the Healthy Start Infant Risk Screen (completed in the hospital after birth). These screening tools give providers a risk score that helps identify those considered at-risk. A referral can then be made to the Healthy Beginnings System, which will follow up with the family and offer needed services.

In 2005, according to the Vital Statistics report, of the 15,160 births in the county, 65 percent (9,822) were to mothers who were eligible for and consented to services provided by the Healthy Beginnings System. A total of 5,313 (54%) of those women completed only the post-

natal screen, meaning they entered the system after their child was born, while 4,509 (46%) completed the prenatal screen, entering the system while they were pregnant. Screening of pregnant women provides greater opportunities for detecting potential risk factors than after the baby is born. But it is evident from the results of the screens, whether completed before or after birth, that the Healthy Beginnings System is identifying women at risk and getting them into care.

Data shows that more women are being identified prenatally as having demographic risk factors than those identified through the infant screens after birth. For example, a higher percentage of pregnant women who were identified through the prenatal screen had less than a high school diploma and incomes below \$15,000. The outcomes for those who entered the system prenatally, specifically low birthweight and preterm deliveries, were better than those that entered after the baby was born, providing further support for early outreach and prevention.

Other Positive Outcomes

Teen Births

Over the past seven years the teen birth rate has steadily declined, with an additional decline from 37.5 births per 1,000 females 15-19 years old in 2004 to 36.4 in 2005. Furthermore, we have consistently remained lower than the state's rate for over 10 years. In 2005, Florida's rate was 41.9 compared to 36.4 in Palm Beach County. In terms of percentages, 8.9% of births in Palm Beach County were to teens ages 15-19 years and 10.7% of births were statewide.

Births to Females Ages 14 Years and Younger

In 2004, we reported a significant increase in the number of births to teens ages 14 years and younger; however, this fluctuation was quite similar to that of other years. It is viewed as substantial because it was the highest number in the last 10 years. The number of births has ranged from 46 births in 1995 to the fewest number of births, 21, occurring in 2003.

While the number of births in Palm Beach County recently decreased from 42 in 2004 to 28 in 2005, Florida saw an increase from 404 births to adolescents 14 years and younger to 415 in 2005. Interestingly, when births are examined by geographic area, the Glades area is notable. Although only 4% of all births are to mothers residing in this area, approximately 25% of all births to mothers ages 14 years and younger are to mothers who live in the Glades.

Low Birthweight

The percentage of low birthweight deliveries decreased, although minimally, from 9.3 (1,390) in 2004 to 9.2% (1,395 births) in 2005. This was the first downward turn we have seen in the past six years, since 1999 when the rate was 7.7%. Florida's trend continued as in the past with a slight increase between 2004 and 2005. Palm Beach County's rate continues to remain higher than the statewide rate.

Palm Beach County's percentage of very low birth-weight deliveries, those weighing less than 1,500 grams, also decreased between 2004 and to 2005, from 1.8% (272) to 1.6% (244).

Fetal Deaths

The fetal death rate (of 20 or more weeks' gestation) decreased slightly at both the local and statewide levels. In Palm Beach County, the rate declined from 7.7 per 1,000 live births plus fetal deaths (117 deaths) to 7.6 (116 deaths). At the state level the rate declined from 7.7 (1,701 deaths) to 7.2 (1,650 deaths).

Infant Mortality

An infant death is defined as a death occurring during the first year of life. In 2005, Palm Beach County's rate decreased once again from 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2004 to 6.3 in 2005. This is the lowest rate we have seen since 1999 (6.2). Included in the infant death rate are neonatal deaths or those occurring within the first 27 days of life. The rate of these deaths also decreased between 2004 and 2005 from 4.4 deaths per 1,000 live births to 3.2. The county also remains lower than the state, which showed an increase between 2004 and 2005.

Recent analysis of infant deaths has shown that almost 70% of infant deaths in 2004 were to babies born low birthweight. A variable often linked with low birthweight is multiple births. In 2004, 11.2% of all infant deaths were multiples. Lastly, approximately two out of three infants who died within their first year of life were born premature or preterm.

Negative Outcomes

Prenatal Care Access

Early entry into prenatal care continues to be a concern in Palm Beach County, as well as the state. Between 2004 and 2005, the percentage of women receiving care in their first trimester decreased from 72.3% to 67.7% in Palm Beach County and from 81% to 78.5% statewide. Those receiving late (third trimester) or no care increased. At the local level, the increase was slightly greater, 8.1% to 9.4% and 4.3% to 5.3% across the state.

Preterm Births

The goal is to decrease the number of preterm or premature births (less than 37 weeks). Because there has been no change over the past year, remaining at 12% of births, we are considering this a negative outcome. Of this 12%, 10.2% (1,538) were born between 32 and 36 weeks, a slight increase from the 9.8% born at this gestational age in 2004. Also, 1.1% (169) babies were born very preterm, or between 28 and 31 weeks and 0.7% were considered extremely preterm or born before 28 weeks gestation. State data on preterm births is not available for comparison.

Repeat Teen Births

While we reported a decline in the percentage of repeat teen births in the last update, unfortunately we cannot do

the same according to 2005 data. In Florida, the percentage remained the same between 2004 and 2005 at 18.6%, meaning that 18.6% of births to teens ages 15-19 years were repeat births for a total of 4,494 births. This past year, Palm Beach County cannot report an improvement in the percentage of repeat teen births, with an increase from 19.9% (270 births) to 21.7% (293 births). Also worth noting is that the highest percentages of repeat teen births occurred to mothers residing in the Glades, Lake Worth, and Delray Beach.

Births to Unwed Mothers

The percentage of births to unwed mothers has steadily increased since 2002 for both Palm Beach County and the state. More recently, the rate increased from 39.2% in 2004 to 40.6% in 2005 in Palm Beach County and from 41.3% to 42.8% across Florida. Locally, in 2005, a total of 6,154 births were to women who were unmarried. Conversely, Palm Beach County's rate does remain lower than Florida's rate, and has for more than 10 years.

Racial/Ethnic Disparities

After examining 2005 data, racial and ethnic disparities remain an issue of critical concern in Palm Beach County. As indicated in the on page 7, whites continue to have better birth outcomes in all categories than black mothers. However, there were some interesting trends noticed when reviewing data between 2004 and 2005. That is, while whites showed poorer outcomes over time, black mothers were showing a positive trend. For example, between 2004 and 2005, white mothers had an increase in low birthweight deliveries and the percentage of black mothers having low birthweight babies decreased. The same positive trends for black mothers, but not for white mothers were seen in the rate of births to teens ages 15-19 years, the percentage of births to mothers who did not graduate from high school, births to college educated women, and the rate of infant deaths, including a significant decline in neonatal deaths.

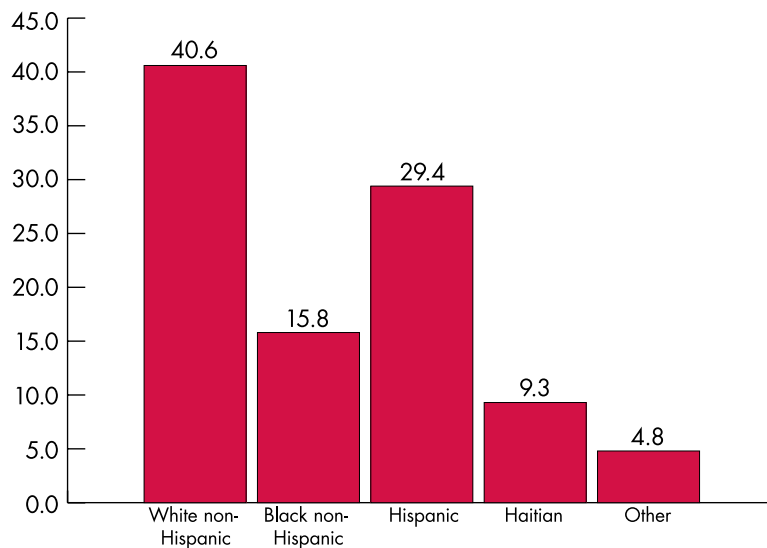
Although not shown in the table on page 4, using preliminary 2005 data from the Palm Beach County Health Department, there are also disparities when exploring preterm deliveries. Eleven percent of white non-Hispanic mothers had a preterm birth (673) compared to 11.3% of Hispanics (500), 12.7% of Haitians (179), and 15.9% of black non-Hispanics (382).

Comparisons Among the Seven Largest Counties in Florida

As shown in the on page 7, Palm Beach County is ranked last of the seven largest counties in Florida in terms of repeat teen births and prenatal care access. Locally, the county has the highest percentage of repeat teen births (ages 15-19 years), the lowest percentage of women receiving care during their first trimester and the highest percentage of women receiving either late or no prenatal care.

Data

Resident Births by Race/Ethnicity Palm Beach County, 2005



Note: Unknown - .1% (19 births)

Source: Children's Services Council created this figure using data from the PBC Health Department, Division of Epidemiology and Disease Control, Preliminary Birth Data, 2005

At a Glance: Birth Outcomes Palm Beach County and Florida, 2005

Indicator	Palm Beach County	Florida
Total Births	15,160	226,219
Teen Births (rate per 1,000 females 15-19 years)	36.4	41.9
Repeat Teen Births (percent of births to females ages 15-19 years)	21.7%	18.6%
Number of Births to Females Ages 14 Years and Younger	28	415
Low Birthweight (2,500 grams or less)	9.2%	8.8%
Fetal Deaths (rate per 1,000 live births plus fetal deaths)	7.6	7.2
Infant Deaths (rate per 1,000 live births)	6.3	7.2
First Trimester Prenatal Care Access	67.7%	78.5%
Late or No Prenatal Care Access	9.4%	5.3%
Preterm Births (less than 37 weeks)	12%	--
Births to Unwed Mothers	40.6%	42.8%

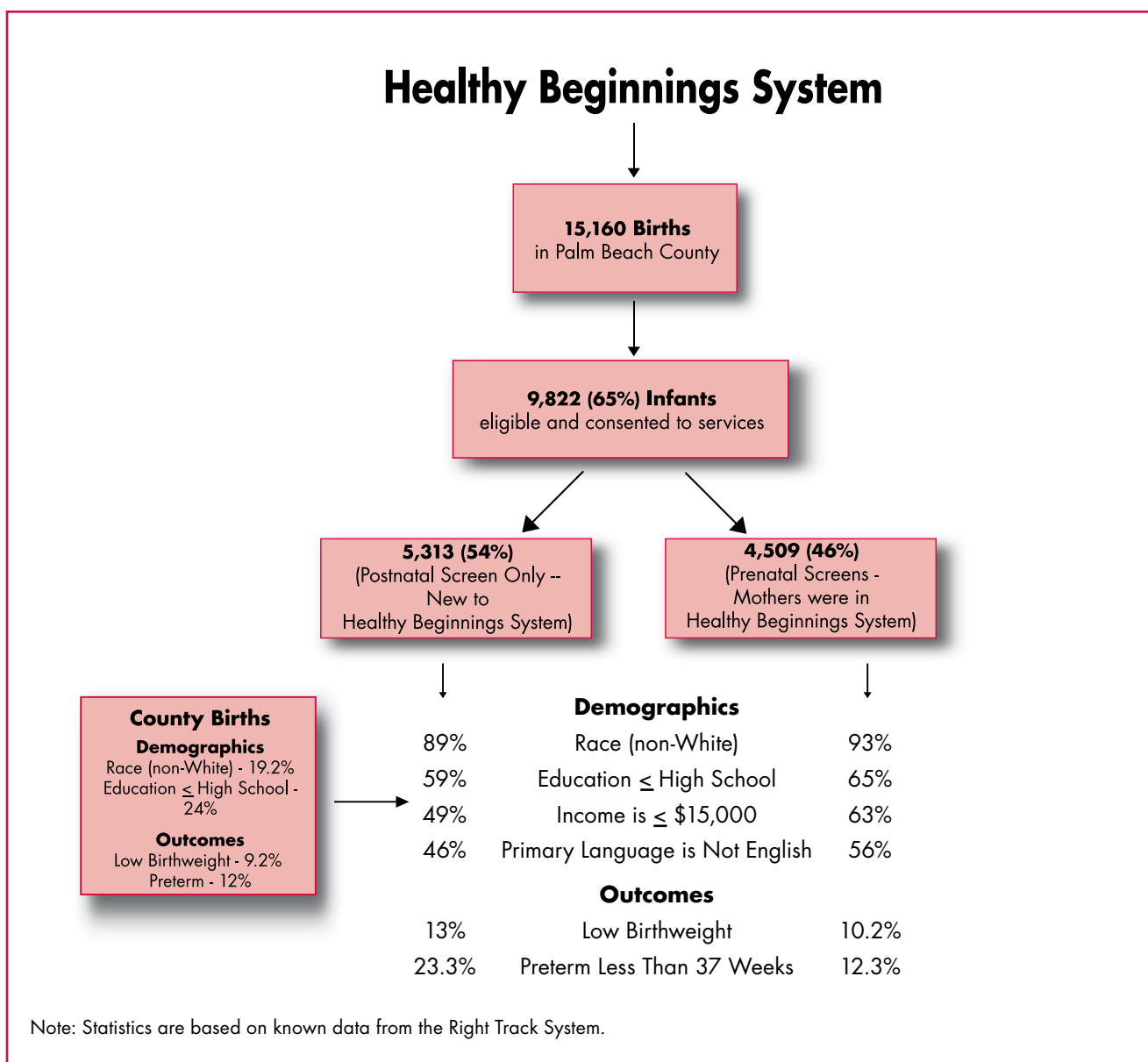
Source: Children's Services Council created this table using data from the Palm Beach County Health Department, Division of Epidemiology and Disease Control, Preliminary Birth Data, 2005 and the Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Annual Report 2005, Website: <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VBOOK/pdf/2005/vscomp.pdf>

At a Glance: Birth Outcomes

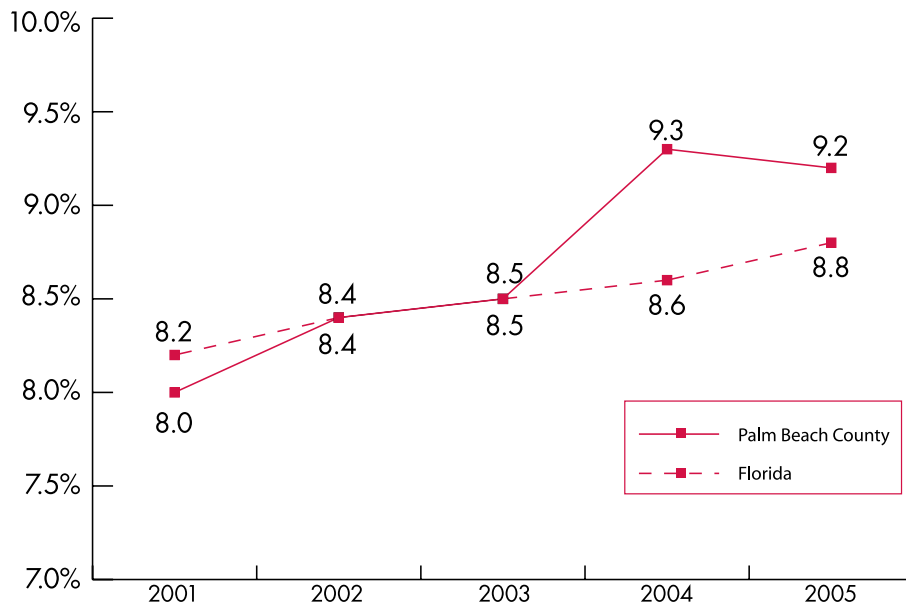
Palm Beach County, Florida, and Clients Served by the Healthy Beginnings System, 2005

Indicator	Palm Beach County	Florida	Healthy Beginnings System	
			Clients Served Prenatally	Clients Served Postnatally Only
Low Birthweight (2,500 grams or less)	9.2%	8.8%	10.2%	13.0%
Preterm Births (less than 37 weeks)	12%	--	12.3%	23.3%

Source: Children's Services Council created this table using data from the Palm Beach County Health Department, Division of Epidemiology and Disease Control, Preliminary Birth Data, 2005 and the Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Annual Report 2005, Website: <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VBOOK/pdf/2005/vscomp.pdf>

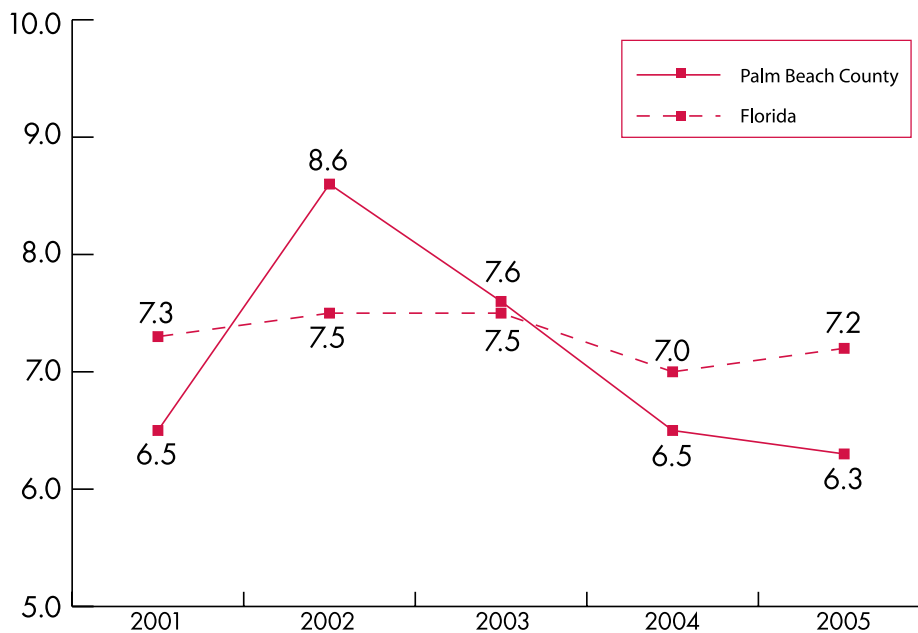


Low Birthweight Babies (5 lbs., 8 ozs. or 2,500 grams or less)
Palm Beach County vs. Florida, 2001-05



Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Annual Reports from 2001-2005, Table B-5
Website: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/statistical_report.htm

Infant Deaths (rate per 1,000 births to infants less than 1 year)
Palm Beach County vs. Florida, 2001-05



Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Annual Reports from 2001-2005, Table F-5,
Website: <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VBOOK/pdf/2005/vscomp.pdf>

Racial Disparities by Indicator Palm Beach County, 2004-05

Births (Number)	2004				2005			
	Total	White	Black	Other	Total	White	Black	Other
	15,020	10,423	3,924	657	15,160	10,562	3,788	795
Birthweight (Percent)								
<2,500 grams	9.3	7.4	14.2	9.4	9.2	7.7	13.2	10.6
Trimester Care Began (Percent)								
First trimester	72.3	76.1	60.9	77.7	67.7	71.7	54.3	77.8
Third trimester or no care	8.1	7.3	10.4	7.2	9.4	8.5	12.6	7.1
Teen Births								
Teens (per 1,000 females 15-19 years old)	37.5	28.4	66.1	15.7	36.4	29.2	56.3	33.9
Teens (number of births to females ages 14 years and younger)	42	13	29	0	28	9	17	2
Mother's Education Level (Percent)								
Did not graduate high school	23.8	21.8	31.1	12.2	24.0	22.6	30.4	12.8
High school graduate	26.4	21.7	39.6	21.9	25.6	21.6	38.0	20.3
College educated	49.0	55.7	28.4	65.8	49.5	55.0	30.6	66.0
Mortality (Rate)								
Neonatal - under 28 days (rate per 1,000 live births)	4.4	3.2	8.4	0	3.2	2.7	4.5	3.8
Fetal deaths - of 20 or more weeks gestation (rate per 1,000 live births plus fetal deaths)	7.7	5.6	13.3	3.0	7.6	4.6	15.1	5.0
Infant (rate per 1,000 live births)	6.5	4.4	12.5	3.0	6.3	4.5	10.8	8.8

Note: Other includes designation such as biracial, non-white, and mixed race.

At a Glance: Birth Outcomes Seven Largest Counties in Florida, 2005

Indicator	PBC	Broward	Dade	Duval	Hills-borough	Orange	Pinellas
Total Births	15,020	23,127	32,365	12,974	16,753	16,556	9,065
Teen births (rate per 1,000 females 15-19 years)	36.4	32.5	35.0	49.5	47.4	44.9	37.6
Repeat teen births (percent of births to females ages 15-19 years)	21.7%	15.7%	16.7%	19.5%	20.6%	18.1%	16.7%
Number of births to females ages 14 years and younger	28	26	47	23	33	37	14
Low birthweight (2,500 grams or less)	9.2%	9.3%	9.0%	9.6%	9.0%	8.9%	8.4%
Fetal deaths (rate per 1,000 live births plus fetal deaths)	7.6	7.6	8.3	7.9	6.2	8.4	6.7
Infant deaths (rate per 1,000 live births)	6.3	6.2	5.4	11.6	8.9	7.7	8.5
First trimester prenatal care access	67.7%	79.1%	85.0%	77.5%	85.8%	85.1%	80.8%
Late or no prenatal care access	9.4%	6.3%	3.7%	5.0%	3.5%	3.5%	4.3%
Births to unwed mothers	40.6%	38.9%	45.4%	44.3%	43.4%	43.0%	44.2%

Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Annual Report 2005, Website: <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VBOOK/pdf/2005/vscomp.pdf>

Birth Outcomes: Overview

Positive Outcomes

Teen births (ages 15-19) ●

Teen births (ages 14 years and younger) ●

Low birthweight ●

Fetal deaths ●

Infant deaths ●

Negative Outcomes

Prenatal care access (first trimester) ●

Repeat teen births ●

Births to unwed mothers ●

Preterm births ●

● Indicator data shows improvement over the past year.

● Indicator data shows no change over the past year.

● The indicator data shows a decrease in improvement over the past year.

References

Dave Klater Consultants, Inc. (In partnership with Dr. L. Beitsch from Florida State University – College of Medicine). Prenatal Process Maps and Assessment (May 2006) and Postnatal Process Maps and Assessment (June 2006).

Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics. (September 2006). Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report 2005. Online at <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VISBOOK/VISBOOK.aspx>

Written by:

Lisa Williams-Taylor, Planning and Policy Analyst II

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