



HEALTHY START FACTS

- Healthy Start was signed into law on June 4, 1991.
- Healthy Start begins with preconception counseling and includes prenatal care, postpartum care, delivery, infant care and targeted support services that address identified risks.
- Healthy Start offers universal screening for all Florida pregnant women and infants to ensure that early care is targeted to those families where there is the best chance of preventing or minimizing adverse outcomes. During 2009, a total of 177,976 women and 193,630 infants were screened for Healthy Start.
- The range of Healthy Start services available to identified women and infants include:
 - Information and referral
 - Comprehensive assessment of service needs in light of family and community resources
 - Ongoing care coordination and support to assure access to needed services
 - Psychosocial, nutritional and smoking cessation counseling
 - Childbirth, breastfeeding and parenting support and education
 - Home visiting
 - Interconception education and counseling
- Many health indicators for mothers and children are improving:
 - The percentage of 2-year-olds completing their immunizations rose from 63.2% in 1991 to 85.6% in 2008.
 - The infant mortality rate declined from 8.9 per 1,000 live births in 1991 to 7.2 in 2008, with a decline in the black population from 16.3 in 1991 to 12.9 in 2008.
 - Fewer teenagers are having babies with the rate of births to teens ages 15-17 dropping from 45.3 per 1,000 in 1991 to 20.4 per 1,000 in 2008.
 - The percentage of women beginning prenatal care during the first trimester rose from 74.9% in 1991 to 76.9% in 2008. The method for calculating trimester of entry changed in 2004. The new method of calculation brought the rate down, so the improvement in trimester entry rate is actually greater than indicated by these rates.
 - The percentage of women reporting tobacco use during pregnancy has declined since Healthy Start began, from 17% in 1991 to 6.8% in 2008.
- There are 30 Healthy Start Coalitions that cover 64 of the 67 counties in Florida, to ensure local leadership and planning for a system of care and promote optimum health outcomes for pregnant women and infants. Healthy Start services are available in all 67 counties, as Desoto, Gadsden, and Seminole counties provide Healthy Start services through the county health department.
- The toll-free *Family Health Line*, 1-800-451-BABY, provides statewide information and referral to the general public as a way of increasing access to prenatal and infant care.