

Last fiscal year (2017-2018) in Florida, Healthy Start:

- Helped more than 170,374 at-risk pregnant women and babies up to age 3.
- Screened 96% of infants and 73% of pregnant women for health risks.

Locally, Healthy Start Coalition of Orange County:

- Served 6,693 women and 11,370 infants, and
- Screened 99% of infants and 73% of pregnant women.

Data Sources: HMS Services, Healthy Start Reports, Interconceptional Care Reports, Prenatal Screen and Adhoc Reports, Infant Screen and Adhoc Reports, and Healthy Start Network Reports

## Every Baby Deserves a Healthy Start . . .

### Because a Healthy Start can last a lifetime.

*Research has shown that children born healthy are more likely to be ready for school, more likely to succeed in school, and less likely to end up in the juvenile justice system.*



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## Healthy Start Overview

The goals of the Healthy Start Program are to reduce infant mortality, reduce the number of low birth weight babies and improve health and developmental outcomes for babies and young children.

Services include: access to prenatal care; home visitation; education and support on breastfeeding, childbirth, parenting, smoking cessation, and nutrition; psychosocial counseling; depression screening; fatherhood education; health and developmental screenings; and community referrals.

Universal prenatal and infant screening is a cornerstone of the Healthy Start legislation<sup>1</sup> and we are the only state in the nation who has such a comprehensive system.

## Impact

Since the implementation of the Healthy Start legislation in 1991, strides have been made in maternal and infant health in Florida. Infant mortality is a sentinel indicator of the general health in any community. It has decreased from 9.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 6.1 in 2017, a 36.5% decrease.<sup>2</sup> We can estimate that 791 more babies survived in 2017 as compared to 1990 due to the positive change in the infant death rate<sup>3</sup>.

Florida currently leads Southern States in low infant mortality rates and is the only state with universal risk screening for pregnant women and infants. Screening pregnant women and newborns for risk in order to target resources where they are most needed has been a hallmark of the Healthy Start System.

Healthy Start's risk screening identification process, provision of risk-appropriate care, and facilitation of access to prenatal and postpartum care have contributed to Florida's better birth outcomes, saved babies, and reduced the costs associated with poor birth outcomes.

## Healthy Start's Message:

1. **26 years of legislation has resulted in untold lives saved and over a million families helped by Healthy Start.**
2. **Racial disparities still exist in birth outcomes. Ongoing funding is needed to continue to address this issue.**
3. **If you have questions regarding maternal-child health issues in our community or the effect legislation might have on this issue, please call us.**

<sup>1</sup> Florida Statutes Title XXIX. Public Health § 383.14

<sup>2</sup> FloridaCHARTS.com, Florida Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics. Note: Deaths occurring within 364 days of birth.

<sup>3</sup> Calculated 223,579 births in 2017 \* .0096 = 2,146 estimated deaths less 1,355 actual deaths = 791 babies saved.