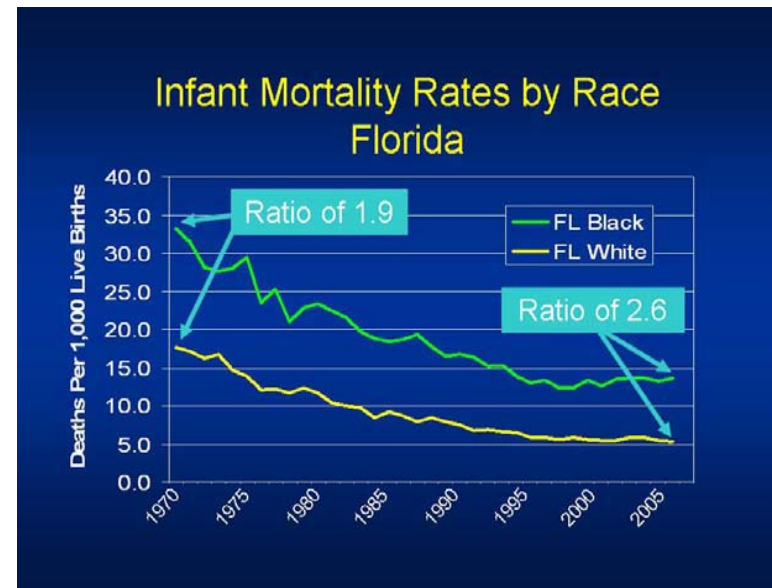
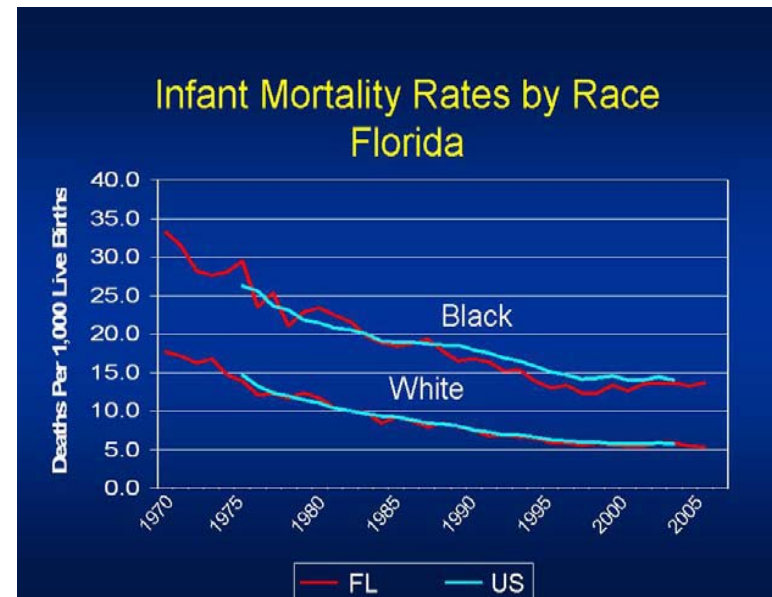


Infant Mortality

Florida has a multifaceted approach to addressing infant mortality which includes research into the root causes of infant mortality, supporting women to reduce health risks and behaviors that impact infant health before women become pregnant, ensuring early quality prenatal and infant health care, and promoting Safe Sleeping practices for all infants. Interventions are focused on at-risk populations and tailored to address the broad cultural, economic, and educational diversity found in Florida's population.

Why is this Important?

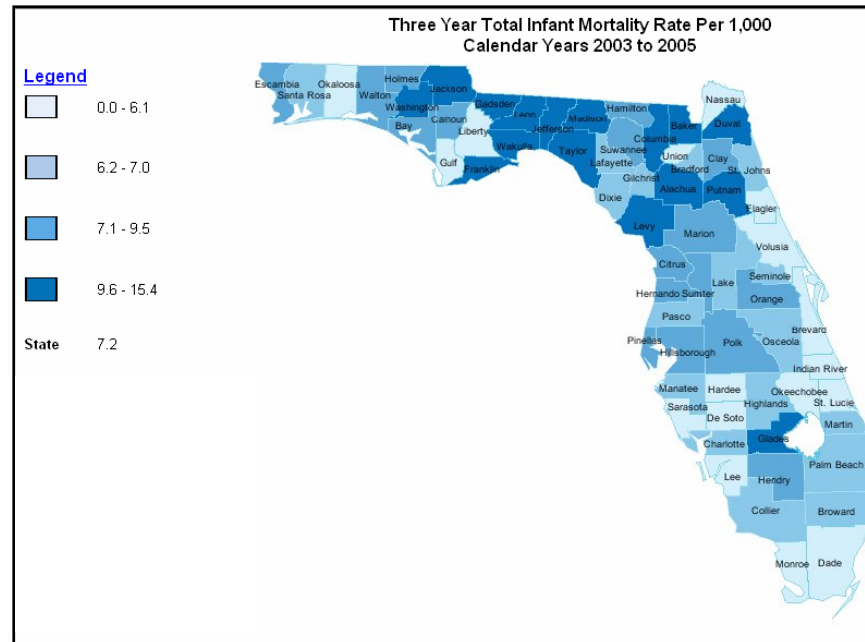
- Infant mortality reflects the baseline health of the population's reproductive age women as well as the quality of prenatal, birth and infant health care available to citizens.
- Infant mortality information is used by local county or city governments to identify areas in need and designate available resources.



Infant Mortality, cont'd

How is Florida Doing?

- Florida's Infant Mortality Rate has remained between 7.0 and 7.5 per 1000 live births for 10 years. This trend is consistent with national trends. The black infant mortality rate is approximately 2.5 times the rate of the white infant mortality rate.
- Conditions related to pregnancy and birth, chromosomal and congenital birth defects, prematurity and extreme low birth weight are the three leading causes of infant mortality in Florida.
- Florida's 1st trimester entry into prenatal care was at a high of 85.8% in 2003, but decreased to 78.55% in 2005.
- Smoking has been strongly and consistently shown to contribute to low birth weight and premature births. Births to women who smoked during pregnancy was 9.6 % in 2005.



Infant Mortality, cont'd

What Influences Infant Mortality?

- The prepregnancy health status of women of reproductive health age greatly influences pregnancy outcomes and the health and developmental outcomes of the infant.
- Obesity, substance use, smoking, and untreated chronic disease or infections can cause a baby to be born to early or with serious health or developmental conditions.
- Poverty, domestic violence and educational delays may prevent a woman or infant from receiving timely prenatal and infant health care.

What is the State's Role?

States can

- Support systems that analyze root causes and identify system gaps that contribute to infant mortality.
- Provide a safety net for gaps in direct services like primary, prenatal and infant health care through county health department, Healthy Start coalitions and other community stakeholders.
- Investigate cost effective models that provide quality primary care, prenatal and infant health care and education especially for at risk populations.
- Promote and support prevention oriented activities that decrease a woman's health risks prior to becoming pregnant.
- Encourage women to space births at least 18 months apart by assuring family planning services are available and encouraging breastfeeding.
- Educate on the health benefits of safe sleep practices.



Florida Initiatives

Florida has a Healthy Start Medicaid

Waiver that supports Healthy Start Services throughout the state which include:

- Universal prenatal and infant risk screening
- Care Coordination Services
- Community based prenatal and infant health care coalitions responsible for ensuring a coordinated integrated system of maternal and child health care for their area.



Florida also has 5 Federal Healthy Start programs in the state.

Family Planning Medicaid Waiver that allows women up to 185% of poverty level to obtain free family planning services for 2 years after the birth of a child.

Closing the Gap Grants fund projects that address racial disparities in maternal and child health .