Purpose

In response to Miami-Dade County’s alarming disparities in infant mortality, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County conducted a County Infant Mortality Analysis to review infant mortality rates, examine maternal and infant health factors, and assess the most recent rates and information for social determinants of health. The Florida Healthy Babies Community Meeting will consist of a formal presentation highlighting the County Infant Mortality Analysis, as well as an open dialogue with the public, community leaders, organizations, and officials to brainstorm root causes and solutions around disparities and develop an action plan to improve the health of all babies in Miami-Dade County.

Meeting Objectives

Examine potential approaches to reduce infant mortality based on local and state data
Identify the role of social determinants of health
Engage the community to identify root causes and solutions around disparities
Develop an action plan to reduce disparities and achieve health equity among all ethnicities in Miami-Dade County
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HELPFUL INFORMATION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENDA</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUEST SPEAKERS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANELISTS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACKGROUND</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIAMI–DADE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMARY TABLE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEY FINDINGS AND TABLES</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCLUSION</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HELPFUL INFORMATION

County Infant Mortality Analysis
The complete County Infant Mortality Analysis can be found at HealthyMiamiDade.org.

Community Action Plan
As a result of the meeting’s brainstorming session, a community action plan will be developed. The action plan will be available at HealthyMiamiDade.org.

Lunch
Lunch will be provided at 12:30pm in the lounge.

Breakout Sessions
Concurrent breakout sessions are arranged by theme as a guide to help you select the session that best meets your needs. Please see session descriptions for details on page six.

CEUS, CMES, and Conference Evaluation
Continuing education credits will be available for dieticians, health educators, nurses, physicians, social workers, mental health professionals, teachers, and general attendees. To receive a certificate of attendance for the guest speaker and panel sessions, please complete the evaluation available in your welcome packet.

Presentation Slides and Handouts
Handouts and presentations slides are available online as presenters have made them available. Please visit HealthyMiamiDade.org to access the presentations.

Photographs
DOH will take photographs throughout the meeting to use for promotional materials. Please ensure you have completed the photo release form available at the registration desk.

Nursing Room
Space is available for your use if you are nursing. Please pick up and return the key at the front desk.
AGENDA

Registration & Breakfast 8:30-9:30am

Welcome 9:30-9:35am
Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN, PhD
Administrator
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

Video 9:35-9:50am
Raising of America

Introduction 9:50-10:15am
Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN, PhD
Administrator
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

Guest Speaker 10:15-11:15am
William Sappenfield, MD, MPH, CPH
Director, Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies
Co-Director, Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative
University of South Florida

Break 11:15-11:30am

Panel 11:30-12:30pm
Nelson Adams, MD
OB/GYN
President & CEO Metro-Miami OB/GYN Association

Yogi Hernandez Suarez, MD, MPH
VP & Chief Medical Officer-Integrated Care Delivery Organization, Humana, Inc.

Manny Fermin, MPA
Chief Executive Officer, Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade

Lunch 12:30-1:30pm

Breakout Sessions 1:30-3:00pm
Disease & Chronic Conditions
Nutrition
Modifiable Health Risk and Access to Care
Maternal and Child Health

Closing Remarks 3:00-3:30pm
Karen Weller, RN, BSN, MBA-HSM
Assistant Community Health Nursing Director
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

Adjournment 3:30pm
TOGETHER
WE CAN ENSURE
A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR
OUR BABIES
Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN, PhD  
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County  
Administrator

Dr. Rivera is the Administrator of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, where she is responsible for the oversight and supervision of public health programs throughout the county. She is charged with the administration of a $70 million budget and approximately 800 employees. Formerly, she was appointed by Surgeon General Dr. Ana M. Viamonte Ros as Deputy State Health Officer with the Florida Department of Health in Tallahassee. Her responsibilities included overseeing 67 county health departments and championing the deployment of performance excellence model within the Department of Health.

Ms. Rivera has also held the position of Executive Community Health Nursing Director, where she was responsible for public health nursing and co-administration of the daily operations of the Miami-Dade County Health Department. She held practice positions as associate head nurse, head nurse, assistant director of nursing, and director of nursing at the Public Health Trust of Jackson Memorial Medical Center in Miami. She also held the position of Nursing Director in Puerto Rico with the Department of Health. Ms. Rivera earned both BSN and MSN degrees from the University of Puerto Rico and a PhD in Health Administration from Warren National University. She is certified as a Health Care Risk Manager and is a graduate of the Executive Institute for Community Health Nurses (UNC-Chapel Hill), a fellow of the Nurse Executive Program/Robert Wood Foundation and the National Public Health Leadership Institute 2003. She serves as President for the Florida Sterling Council, Advisory Group Member for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Pipeline to Practice: Nurse Leader on Boards program and Nursing Circle Advisory Council Member for the American Academy of Nursing. During Dr. Rivera’s ten years with the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade, the organization became a three-time recipient of the prestigious Governor’s Sterling Award for performance excellence. In recognition of her leadership and commitment to public health, Dr. Rivera received the 2016 Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce’s Healthcare Hero Award.

William Sappenfield, MD, MPH, CPH  
Director, Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies  
Co-Director, Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative  
University of South Florida

Dr. Sappenfield joined the faculty at the University of South Florida (USF) in the College of Public Health, Department of Community and Family Health, in 2011. He serves as the Chair of the Department and teaches maternal and child health, epidemiology, and public health practice. His current research projects include: maternal and infant mortality, chronic diseases during pregnancy, assistive reproductive technology, unintended pregnancy and contraceptive use, non-medically indicated deliveries prior to 39 weeks, population-based perinatal quality improvement efforts, access to childhood preventive dental care, and use of data file linkages in maternal and child health.

His teaching and research over the years has focused on maternal and child health, epidemiology, and public health practice. Major contributions to the field include early efforts to develop community-based fetal and infant mortality reviews, to adapt the perinatal periods of risk approach to assess infant mortality in U.S. communities, and to propose state preconception health indicators. He has published extensively on maternal and infant mortality, morbidity and related health issues. He has also focused on mentoring and teaching young professionals to serve as maternal and child health epidemiologists in governmental public health agencies at a local, state and national level and training multidisciplinary teams of public health practitioners and community members to effectively use data to improve maternal and child health. Dr. Sappenfield continues to mentor CDC’s senior MCH epidemiologists assigned to public health agencies around the nation. He mentors on best practices in applied public health epidemiology and assists with conducting policy and program relevant MCH epidemiological research.


**PANELISTS**

**Nelson Adams, MD**  
President & CEO Metro-Miami OB/GYN Association

Nelson L. Adams, M.D., a native of Miami, Florida and a product of its public school system, is a medical leader passionately committed to eliminating racial and ethnic inequality in health. An exceptional achiever, earning high recognition both scholastically and among medical peers, Dr. Adams is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Honorary Doctor of Laws.

An esteemed alumnus of Howard University, Dr. Adams has been recognized in *Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities*. He earned his medical degree at Meharry Medical College, where he was named Student of the Year in his freshman class and served as President of the Student National Medical Association. Dr. Adams completed his four-year residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Emory University in 1982. Prior to returning home to Miami, Dr. Adams practiced in Mobile, Alabama for three years.

A board certified Obstetrician-Gynecologist, Dr. Adams has a vibrant and challenging practice in North Miami-Dade County. He was the first African-American Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the first African-American Chief of Staff of North Shore Medical Center. In 1992, he founded the Maternal Child Health Initiative (MCHI), an award-winning model for providing care to at-risk, low-income, pregnant women.

Today, Dr. Adams is the Chairman of the Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Jackson North Medical Center, President of N. L. Adams, M.D. and Associates and Chairman of the board of the Sunshine State Health Plan. He was also the founder, President and Chairman of Access Health Solutions (AHS), a managed care company providing services in 26 counties in Florida. Additionally, Adams is a Clinical Professor at the FIU, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, in the Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

**Yogi Hernandez Suarez, MD, MPH**  
VP & Chief Medical Officer-Integrated Care Delivery Organization  
Humana, Inc.

Dr. Yogi Hernandez Suarez is VP and CMO for Humana’s Integrated Care Delivery Organization. In that role she has oversight of over 200 primary care physicians providing senior focused care to more than 100,000 patients in Florida, Texas, and South Carolina. She previously held the positions of Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education at FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and Chief Medical Officer for FIU Health. She also served as interim CEO for FIU Health. She takes pride in her ability to build bridges between hospitals, academia and the community to create value for systems, patients and learners. Dr. Hernandez Suarez was born and raised in New York City, and attended Swarthmore College and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She trained in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, and spent several years on the faculty at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, teaching residents and students. She holds a Master’s of Business Administration with specialization in Health and Administration and Policy from the University of Miami, and is the Founding Chair of the Miami-Dade Health Action Network and a 2008 National Public Hospital Fellow “Future Leader of Public Hospitals.”

**Manny Fermin, MPA**  
Chief Executive Officer, Healthy Start Coalition-MDC

Manuel E. Fermin, MPA received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts & Science, majoring in Sociology from the University of Florida. He obtained a Master’s in Public Administration from Florida International University. He has served on numerous panels, advisory committees and governing boards as well as being a guest presenter or lecturer at conferences, academic institutions and functions. Mr. Fermin is the immediate Past President and serves as an officer on both the Executive Committees of the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions (FAHSC) and the Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade (HSCMD) which is a community-based non-profit organization designated by the State of Florida’s Department of Health to serve as Miami-Dade County’s prenatal and infant care coalition. HSCMD’s primary goals are to reduce infant mortality, reduce the number of low birth weight and pre-term births, and improve maternal and child health developmental outcomes. Through partnerships with local community-based organizations and healthcare professionals HSCMD plans, coordinates and provides high quality health and education services to women of childbearing age, children to age 3, and their families. HSCMD currently serves approximately 30,000 pregnant women and 31,000 infants in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Fermin is married and the proud father of four children.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout Room 1: Disease and Chronic Conditions

In this session, attendees will review the association of chronic disease and negative birth outcomes. Topics discussed will include HIV/AIDS, STDs, mortality, and hospitalization.

Facilitators

Guoyan Zhang, MD, MPH
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

Lakisha Thomas, MPH
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

Kira Villamizar, BS, MPH
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

Breakout Room 2: Nutrition

This session will explore the role of nutrition in infant mortality and identify areas where nutrition interventions can make a difference in reducing infant mortality. Topics discussed will include nutrition education, breastfeeding, food deserts, and obesity.

Facilitators

Heidi Agostini, PhD, IBCLC
Foundation for Breastfeeding

Eriko Grover, MS-MPH, RD LD/N
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

Cheryl Lorie, IBCLC, RLC
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

Alina Soto
Florida Department of Children and Families

Breakout Room 3: Modifiable Health Risks and Access to Care

This session will evaluate the modifiable factors that are highly related to poor birth outcomes, and assess the impact of access to care on infant mortality. In this session, participants will also address the high rate of C-sections in Miami-Dade County. Topics discussed will include reducing modifiable risk factors and improving access to quality care.

Facilitators

Yogi Hernandez Suarez, MD, MPH
Integrated Care Delivery Organization Humana, Inc.

Marisel Losa, MHSA
Health Council of South Florida

Karen Weller, RN, BSN, MBA-HSM
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

Breakout Room 4: Maternal and Child Health

Participants will learn about factors affecting maternal and child health. Topics discussed will include prematurity/low birth weight, substance abuse/mental health, and prenatal care.

Facilitators

Connie Morrow, PhD
Associate Director, Perinatal CARE Program

Amy Olen, LM, CLC
Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade

William Sappenfield MD, MPH, CPH
Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies
Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative
University of South Florida
Health is determined in part by social conditions in the places where residents live, learn, work, and play (CDC, 2015). These social conditions are known as social determinants of health and they affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. Social determinants correlate with individual health, and are main drivers significantly influencing exposures to risk and protective factors. As levels of social disadvantage increase, levels of poor health outcomes and health status tend to also increase.

Social determinants include (among others): socioeconomic status; availability of resources to meet daily needs; access to educational, economic and job opportunities; access to health care services; quality of education and job training; opportunities for recreational and leisure-time activities; exposure to crime, violence, and social disorder; residential segregation; language/literacy; and culture.

Miami-Dade County has significant health and socioeconomic disparities to address. Miami-Dade County, Florida's largest county, has a population of 2,592,710 residents, representing 13.3% of the State's population. The population is comprised of 66% Latino or Hispanic residents, 19% Non-Hispanic Black, and 15% Non-Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic (Community Health Needs Assessment, 2013). According to Florida Charts, in 2014, over sixteen percent of Miami-Dade County families lived in poverty. The Non-Hispanic White median household income is $45,409 while the Non-Hispanic Black median household income is $33,596, representing a difference of $11,813. The percentage of Non-Hispanic Black families in poverty (26.4%) exceeds both the Non-Hispanic White (14.9%) and Hispanic (17.2%) percentage by 77.1% and 53.4%, respectively.

Other community level characteristics of Miami-Dade County include:

Poverty
- During 2010-2014, 35.9% of households in poverty were female headed
- Home ownership by Non-Hispanic Black owners is at a percentage of 13.9. When compared to the ownership by Non-Hispanic White owners (81.1), ownership by Non-Hispanic Black owners is lower by a significant 82.8%
- The Non-Hispanic Black civilian unemployment rate of 18.3 is 46.9% higher than the Non-Hispanic White civilian unemployment rate of 9.7

Education
- 63% (2014) of Miami-Dade grade 4 students are at achievement level in FCAT reading
- The district public school graduation rate is 78.1%
- Non-Hispanic Black students have the lowest graduation rates in Miami-Dade with 70.4% (2014-2015)
- 26.4% (2010-2014) receive a Bachelor’s degree or higher
- 15.3% of Non-Hispanic Black infants are born to women with less than a high school education

Health Care
- 75.5% (2014) WIC eligible are served
- 1.7% (2015) births occur at Baby Friendly Hospitals
- 68.0% of adults have any type of health care insurance coverage

Neighborhood
- 69.8% (2010) of the population is within ¼ mile of a public recreational space/parks
- 66.2% (2013) of the population is within ¼ mile of a healthy food source
- The total crime index is 4,703.8 per 100,000 population

Inequities
- 38% (2010-2014) of children are residing in a census tract of concentrated disadvantage

Interpersonal Level
- 23.8% (2013) of the population is obese
- The smoking rate is 14% among the population
- 42.8% (2010-2014) of births with maternal residence are within a census tract of concentrated disadvantage
- 1.6% of infants are born to women < 18 years old

* Data presented in this section has been extracted from the Infant Data Workbook, Florida Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance Management, Bureau of Community Health Assessment unless other source has been directly credited.
INTRODUCTION

Infant mortality is a death of a child that occurs in the first year of life (or a death between 0 and 364 days). Infant mortality represents a long-standing concern of public health and serves as a key indicator of population health. The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs notes that the infant mortality rate is not only seen as a measure of the risk of infant death, but it is used more broadly as a crude indicator of: community health status, poverty and socioeconomic status levels in a community, and the availability and quality of health services and medical technology (Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, 2007). Though Miami-Dade County has seen declining infant mortality rates, persistent racial and ethnic disparities exist. Moving residents towards health equity and eliminating racial and ethnic differences is important to the work and efforts of the Florida Department of Health.

Health Equity is defined as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities (Healthy People 2020, 2016).

Health Disparity is defined as a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systemically experienced greater obstacles to health, based on their racial or ethnic group, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, age, mental health, disability, geographic location, or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion (Healthy People 2020, 2016).

The Florida Department of Health launched the Florida’s Healthy Babies initiative statewide during 2016. The collaborative initiative engages numerous partners to address the complex health inequities reflected in the racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality and works to positively influence social determinants with evidence-based interventions. As part of the initiative, Miami-Dade County received additional funding to support Baby Steps to Baby Friendly, a program aimed to enhance hospital maternity care to support and promote exclusive breastfeeding.

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County conducted a County Infant Mortality Analysis to review infant mortality rates (IMRs), infant mortality ratios, and cause-specific infant mortality rates, examine select infant and maternal health factors, and assess the most recent rates and information for social determinants of health (SDoHs).
MIAMI–DADE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

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<th>Group</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>South Dade/Homestead</td>
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<td>Miami Shores/Morningside</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Kendall</td>
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<td>Downtown/East Little Havana/Liberty City/Little Haiti/Overtown</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>Westchester/West Dade</td>
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<td>Hialeah/Miami Lakes</td>
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<td>Coral Gables/Kendall</td>
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<td>Opa-Locka/Miami Gardens/Westview</td>
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<td>Brownsville/Coral Gables/Coconut Grove</td>
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<td>North Miami/North Miami Beach</td>
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<td>Coral Gables/Coconut Grove/Key Biscayne</td>
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<td>Aventura/Miami Beach</td>
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<td>Doral/Miami/Springs/Sunset</td>
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* Miami Dade County Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) 2013-2018 Community Health Priorities, goals, and strategies.
SUMMARY TABLE

The following table provides a neighborhood group comparison between Maternal and Child Health Indicators and Demographic Characteristics, Age-Adjusted Preventable Hospitalization Rate, Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Reported HIV/AIDS Rate, Tuberculosis Incidence, Substance Abuse and Tobacco Use. Data for the subsequent sections is available at miamidade.floridahealth.gov, under Miami-Dade Interactive GIS Maps.

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<th>Maternal and Child Health Indicators</th>
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<td>High % of Unwed Mothers</td>
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<td>Low Median Household Income</td>
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<td>High % of Poverty</td>
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<td>Low % of Individuals with High School Diploma</td>
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<td>Age-Adjusted Preventable Hospitalization Rate</td>
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- Neighborhood groups with the highest maternal and child health indicators
- Neighborhood groups with the highest reported HIV/AIDS rate
- Neighborhood groups with the highest age-adjusted preventable hospitalizations rates
- Neighborhood groups with the highest age-adjusted mortality rates
- Neighborhood groups with the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases
- Neighborhood groups with the highest percentages of substance abuse
- Neighborhood groups with the highest percentages of tobacco use
KEY FINDINGS

The key findings of the County Infant Mortality Analysis include:

- The total infant mortality rate (IMR) in Miami-Dade County is 4.6. The rate decreased by 24% during the last 10 years.
- Miami-Dade County's infant mortality rates are below Florida and national infant mortality rates.
- Miami-Dade County demonstrates rather favorable infant mortality rates when compared to large Florida counties like Hillsborough County, Broward County, and Palm Beach County.
- Although it decreased, births with inter-pregnancy interval <18 months remains the highest maternal factor.
- There is a strong correlation between neighborhood groups with high LBW percentages and neighborhood groups with high infant mortality rates.
- Areas with high levels of increasing social disadvantage also demonstrated high infant mortality rates.

Persistent racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality rates exist including:

- Non-Hispanic Black IMR was consistently and significantly above a 9.2, with the highest rate of 11.2 in 2005-2007.
- The Non-Hispanic Black-Non-Hispanic White IMR 2012-2014 ratio exceeds the Florida ratio by 25%.
- Fetal deaths in Miami-Dade County are decreasing, but the Non-Hispanic Black fetal rate is more than double the Non-Hispanic White fetal rate.
- Neonatal deaths are steadily declining over time, but the Non-Hispanic Black neonatal rate is over half of the Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic IMR.
- Total post-neonatal IMR steadily are decreasing, but Non-Hispanic Black post neonatal IMR is almost 4 times higher than that of Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic infants.
- The Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) rate for Non-Hispanic Black infants has increased over the last 10 years and the Non-Hispanic Black ratio was consistently 3 times as much as the Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic rate.
- Non-Hispanic Black women obese at pregnancy had significantly higher rates when compared with Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic women obese at pregnancy.
- Rates of breastfeeding initiation among Non-Hispanic Black mothers were significantly lower when compared to initiation rates of Non-Hispanic White mothers.
- During the years 2012-2014, 81.5% of Non-Hispanic Black mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester compared to 88.7% of Non-Hispanic White mothers.
- Although low birthweight (LBW) has remained constant between 2005-2007 and 2012-2014 for individual racial/ethnic groups, average rates of LBW for Non-Hispanic Black infants were two times that of Non-Hispanic White infants.
KEY FINDINGS TABLES

**Fetal Mortality Rates in Miami-Dade County, 2005-2014**

![Fetal Mortality Rates Chart]

**Neonatal IMRs in Miami-Dade County, 2005-2014**

![Neonatal IMR Chart 1]

![Neonatal IMR Chart 2]
KEY FINDINGS TABLES

Postneonatal IMRs in Miami-Dade County, 2005-2014

Cause Specific Infant Mortality Rates in Miami-Dade County, 2005-2014

Preterm Births, Low Birth Weight (LBW), and VLBW Births in Miami-Dade County, 2005-2014
KEY FINDINGS TABLES

Infant Mortality Rate by Neighborhood Groups in Miami-Dade County, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area and Group</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000 live births</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opa-Locka/Miami Gardens/Westview (Group K)</td>
<td>8-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Downtown/East Little Havana/Liberty City/Little Haiti/Overtown (Group I)</td>
<td>7-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Miami/North Miami Beach (Group M)</td>
<td>6-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Dade/Homestead (Group A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kendall (Group B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownsville/Coral Gables/Coconut Grove (Group E)</td>
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<td>Coral Gables/Kendall (Group D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hialeah/Miami Lakes (Group J)</td>
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<td>Aventura/Miami Beach (Group N)</td>
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<td>Miami Shores/Morningside (Group H)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coral Gables/Coconut Grove/Key Biscayne (Group F)</td>
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CONCLUSION

Miami-Dade County has made strides in the last ten years in reducing the infant mortality rate. The infant mortality rate in Miami-Dade County is currently below the state and national rate. However, this Infant Mortality County Analysis displays persistent racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality rates. The findings in this analysis show that infant mortality rates vary greatly by race and ethnicity. Non-Hispanic Black infants demonstrate elevated infant mortality rates when compared to Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic infants. There exists a disparity between Non-Hispanic Black infants almost two times that of Non-Hispanic White infants. The data suggests that not all races/ethnicities have benefited equally from social and medical advances.

The analysis reveals that most infant deaths are due to Congenital Anomaly/Birth Defect, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), and Prematurity/Low Birth Weight. The neighborhood groups with staggering infant mortality rates also demonstrated levels of increasing social disadvantage. The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County plays a prominent role in addressing the social determinants of health.

Based on the analysis, some recommendations to consider include:

- Increase prematurity prevention efforts and strategies
- Increase prevention of preterm birth
- Reduce the number of teen pregnancies
- Increase access to adequate prenatal care for women during pregnancy
- Increase the number of mothers that breastfeed
- Decrease exposure to second hand smoke
- Reduce the number of women using drugs or alcohol during pregnancy
- Increase the number of women at a healthy weight during pregnancy
- Reduce planned C-sections and medically induced labors
- Achieve health equity and improve quality of life for all residents in Miami-Dade County

This analysis serves as a preliminary step in the continuing efforts of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County and our partners to reduce infant mortality. The entire Florida Healthy Babies initiative is a collaborative effort of many organizations that have partnered to have a positive influence on the health of all babies in Miami-Dade County.
“Infant mortality rates help us assess the health status of our community. The Florida Department of Health is committed to enhancing strategies to reduce infant mortality and improve quality of services for women, children, and families.”

Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN, PhD
Administrator/Health Officer
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County
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Office of Community Health and Planning
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Telephone: (305) 278–0442
HealthyMiamiDade.org