



Florida's Health Well-Being

Domain Rank **47**

Low-birthweight babies – 2014	Children without health insurance – 2014	Child and teen deaths per 100,000 – 2014	Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs – 2013/2014
8.7%	9%	26 per 100,000	6%
or 19,065 babies	or 377,987 children	or 1,131 deaths	or 80,000 teens
<i>The U.S. average rate of 8.0% is slightly better than Florida's rate.</i>	<i>At a rate of 9%, Florida has fewer children with health insurance than the U.S. average rate of 6%.</i>	<i>Florida's teen death rate is worse than the U.S. average rate of 24 per 100,000.</i>	<i>Nationally, there are fewer teens who abuse alcohol or drugs (5%) than in Florida.</i>
<i>The #1 ranked state had 94.1% of their babies born at a normal birthweight. To move from 91.3% of births at a normal birthweight to 94.1%, Florida needs 6,100 more babies born at a normal birthweight.</i>	<i>In the #1 ranked state, 98% of children had health insurance. To equal this rate, Florida must increase the number of insured children by almost 300,000.</i>	<i>The #1 ranked state rate had 15 teen deaths per 100,000. To achieve this, Florida must prevent 500 additional child and teen deaths per year.</i>	<i>To equal the #1 ranked state, in which only 4% of their teens did not abuse alcohol or drugs, Florida needs to prevent alcohol and drug abuse for 26,000 more teens.</i>

**Due to rounding, event totals are calculated approximations.*

The sad news is that Florida ranks 47th out of the 50 states. The good news we have improved all of the health indicators since 2008. We just haven't improved enough as much as other states have. So let's get to work!

A Call To Action

Low-birthweight babies – The number of babies born at low birthweights continues to decline in Florida, as it does nationwide. When examined by race and ethnicity, however, the proportion of African American babies born at low birthweights remains higher than their White and Hispanic peers. To continue to make improvements and increase the number of healthy Florida babies, the focus must remain on expanding policies that promote proper prenatal care and nutrition, and provide parenting resources to those most in need. Programs that focus on families in at-risk communities, such as Healthy Families models, have demonstrated success in Florida and nationally.

Children without health insurance – More children have insurance than ever before and the numbers have increased since 2008. Just this summer, access to Medicaid without a five year wait was approved for lawfully residing immigrant children, so those numbers should continue to improve. We need to make sure these families know their children are eligible and are able to get the help they need applying for insurance. When our new legislators arrive in January, let's remind them that 98% of children in Massachusetts and Vermont are insured and keep the pressure on until we meet or exceed this here in the Sunshine state.

Child and teen deaths – Who wants to talk about this sad topic? No one, but we must. There are so many opportunities to prevent avoidable injury and death. In Florida, we must continue to expand our efforts to spread the news on how to prevent injury and death due to co-sleeping, drowning, and car safety in our hottest months especially, to protect our smallest citizens. For our older children and teens, car safety awareness efforts such as texting and driving is essential. And let's just say it, gun violence is a preventable source of teen deaths. We need to do what it takes to keep guns out of the reach of children and adolescents.

Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs – Again with the good news, the number of teens abusing substances, including alcohol, continues to decline here and nationwide. To keep this trend going in the right direction, let's insist on policies that promote and expand universal prevention efforts in schools and communities. For those youth who are struggling with substance use, let's identify and ensure access to evidence based treatment at the earliest possible moment. Oh yeah, and how about preventing those risk factors that lead to substance abuse (and lots of other poor outcomes!) like child abuse prevention, and promoting those resiliency factors that decrease or mitigate the effects of exposure to violence. Let's also get our youth engaged in their communities and connected to those caring, mentoring adults who can help them succeed.

Low-birthweight babies is the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). The data reflect the mother's place of residence, not the place where the birth occurred.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics.

Children without health insurance is the percentage of children under age 18 not covered by any health insurance. The data are based on health insurance coverage at the time of the survey; interviews are conducted throughout the calendar year.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Child and teen deaths is the number of deaths, from all causes, to children between ages 1 and 19 per 100,000 children in this age range. The data are reported by the place of residence, not the place where the death occurred.

*SOURCES: Death Statistics: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics.
Population Statistics: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates.*

Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs is the percentage of teens ages 12 to 17 reporting dependence on or abuse of either illicit drugs or alcohol in the past year. Illicit drugs include marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants or prescription drugs used non-medically. These data are based on a two-year average of survey responses.

SOURCE: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health.



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