

from the *Heart*



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Thank you for investing in the future of Martin County through the Children's Services Council of Martin County! For the cost of two large pizzas, homeowners are making a lasting impact on the most pressing needs of our community. The Children's Services Council not only administers these resources, but also provides oversight to ensure that funded programs are running efficiently and effectively.

In this monthly e-newsletter, we will introduce you to the Council's strategic process and analysis of community needs. Our work is designed to ensure the health, safety and education of our youth through well-researched provision of resources based on specific priorities. Each of the 34 programs that receive Council support work to provide a comprehensive, coordinated and accountable system of care that is responsive to the needs of children and their families in our community.

Martin County's children deserve this safety net, so on behalf of the more than 10,000 children who benefit from this funding, thank you!

The Need:

Prenatal Care

Early and regular prenatal care is one means of increasing the number of Martin County's future citizens who are born healthy -- but in 2004, we ranked 64th out of the state's 67 counties for the percentage of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancy. Babies who are born too small, too soon can be expensive to deliver and care for, causing increased burdens on their families and taxpayers. The good news is that in five years we've seen more than an 18% increase in the number of Martin County women accessing prenatal care in their first trimester. We are still 5% below state average, so we must continue to improve to help ensure all babies have a healthy start in life.

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The Children's Services Council of Martin County is an independent special district, approved by voters by referendum in 1988, to enhance the lives of the children of Martin County and to enable them to attain their full potential by supporting 34 impactful programs for youth in our community. Learn more about your agency at: www.csmc.org and www.facebook.com/csmc.

The Response: Prenatal Care



Healthy Start:

- Bellybutton Program
- Community Health Education
- Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies
- Prenatal Care for the Uninsured

Martin County Healthy Start Coalition uses a variety of methods to increase the percentage of expectant mothers receiving prenatal care. They run the Prenatal Outreach Center in Port Salerno, where a coordinator funded by the Children's Services Council assists expecting mothers with finding a doctor and completing any necessary paperwork to access insurance coverage -- and importantly, makes sure the mother is able to stay under doctor's care for her entire pregnancy and delivery.

Healthy Start also offers *Baby Basics* instruction during client home visits and through classes at the Health Department, at high schools and in Mary's Shelter to teach families what to expect when they're expecting. Healthy Start collaborates with doctors' offices and 38 agencies, as well as participates in many community outreach events, to assist women in receiving prenatal care as early as possible.

Through Healthy Start, the Children's Services Council funds programs that closes the gap in services to women and infants to help ensure healthy births for every family in Martin County.



Martin County Health Department:

School Health Program

While also working to reduce the occurrence of teen pregnancy, school nurses are still often the first to know when a student is pregnant. As part of the collaborative effort encouraged by the Children's Services Council, nurses inform these students about Whole Child Connection and 2-1-1, both agencies that educate about prenatal programs available in the community.



Helping People Succeed

Helping People Succeed: Healthy Families Martin

With referrals from a number of agencies including the Martin County Health Department, Healthy Families Martin offers a parenting program through voluntary home visits, starting prenatally and lasting up to the child's fifth birthday. While addressing such concerns as healthy parent-child interaction, family stressors, immunization and parenting skills, this program provides a support system to county residents so they can be the best parents possible.



Whole Child Connection: 211:

Internet-based referrals | Phone-based referrals

By logging on to www.wholechildmartin.com or calling 211, expectant mothers can alert program providers about their need for prenatal care. These services are vital for connecting agencies with residents who can utilize their programs to improve the health of our future citizens.



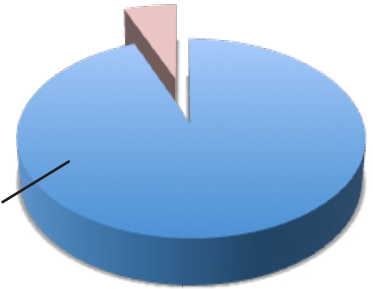
2 For contact information for these and other programs funded through the Children's Services Council, log on to:
www.cscmc.org

The Impact: Prenatal Care

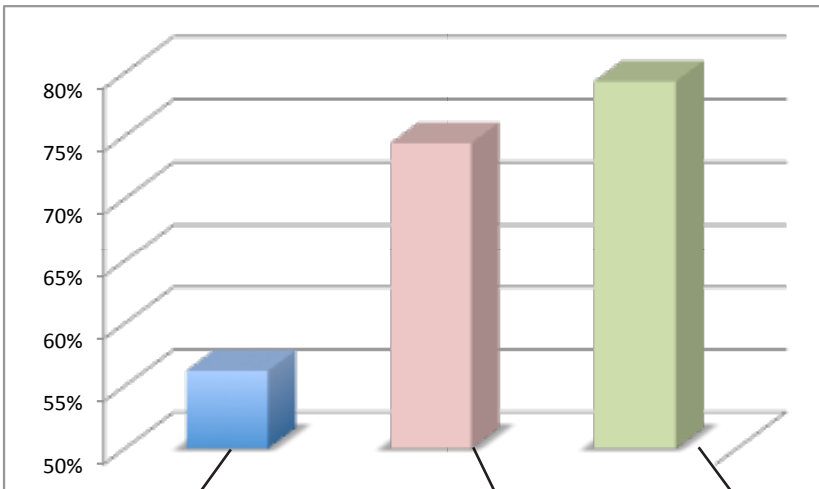
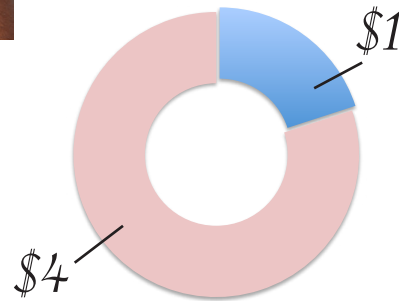


In Healthy Start's Prenatal Program for the Uninsured, 94% of clients shared in the cost of their services, leveraging cost and increasing impact for the taxpayer:

94% of eligible clients pay \$450 toward their prenatal care



Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies is a matching program that brings \$4 into the community for prenatal care for every \$1 spent.

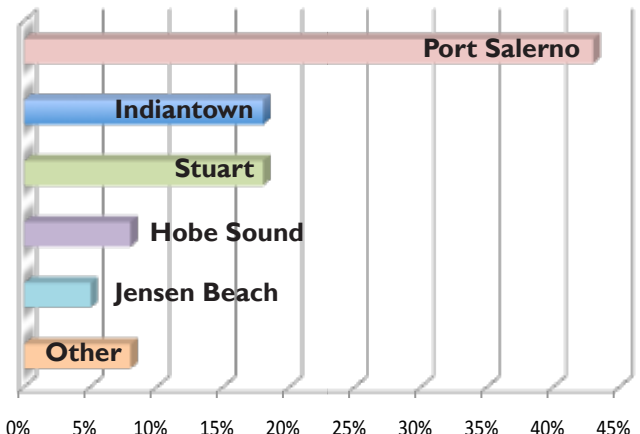


2005 Baseline:
56.2% of Martin County women entered prenatal care in the first trimester.

2010 Results:
74.4% of Martin County women entered prenatal care in the first trimester.

2010 Comparison:
79.3% of Florida women entered prenatal care in the first trimester.

A quick look at where clients for Healthy Families Martin live:



Success story

When Dee* arrived at Healthy Start's Prenatal Outreach Center in January 2011, she was unemployed, pregnant and kicked out of her parent's home. Her relationship with her baby's father was casual, at best. She was struggling and didn't know what to do.

Lisa Wilson, the Prenatal Outreach Coordinator, first helped Dee submit her application for Medicaid. Even before her application was approved, Dee was sent to a private provider to receive her first prenatal care appointment.

Also during Dee's initial visit, Lisa worked to address the other issues in her life. Lisa gave her a number to the local women's shelter and invited her to bring her mother to the Prenatal Outreach Center to discuss her living situation. Two weeks later, Dee and her mother returned. Her mother agreed to let Dee stay at home as long as she fully accepted all the prenatal care, parental training and services Healthy Start provided. During this visit, Lisa also helped Dee's mother apply for additional services for her family.

When Dee gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Lisa was one of the first people to hear the good news. By November, Dee had solidified her relationship with her son's father, and they now live together as a family. They are both employed, and Dee has returned to school to study business with support from her workplace. As a result, Dee and her family are less dependent on state assistance.

Today, Dee is thankful for the support and guidance she received from the Prenatal Outreach Center. With Lisa's help, she has gained self-respect, developed a stronger relationship with her mother and is now working everyday to be the best mother she can be.

* Name changed to protect privacy

Events & Meetings

Jan. 23: Council Meeting (no meeting in December)

Date To Be Announced: State of the Martin County Child Symposium (stay tuned to learn more!)

Have you heard?

The Children's Services Council of Martin County's complete Annual Report is available for downloading!

Just log on to <http://www.cscmc.org/annual-reports> to learn more about the good work we're doing every day for the benefit of Martin County's Children!

Council News

We are excited to complete our staff with two additions: Sarah Gosney, (below left) the Director of Policy & Operations, and Suzanne Wentley, the Public Education Coordinator. Both have extensive experience working



with programs locally that support the development, health and well-being of children. Stay up to date with Council News by joining our email list at www.cscmc.org!

Contact Us

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