

HRSA Gives Children and Families a HEALTHY START

HRSA's Maternal and Health Bureau wants all U.S. children to reach their maximum potential. Healthy Start helps by improving the health of America's mothers and children before, during, and beyond pregnancy. It reduces infant mortality rates, increases access to early pre-natal care, and removes barriers to healthcare access.

Celebrate the **Healthy Start program's 25th anniversary.** Our achievements include:

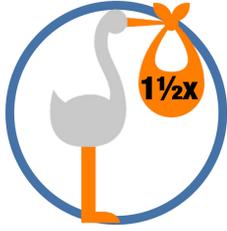


Reducing infant mortality



Addressing the differences in health between the general population and racial/ethnic minorities

We serve communities with:



Infant mortality rates at least **1½ times** the U.S. national average



Maternal and infant health issues including low birth weight, pre-term delivery, maternal morbidity and mortality



High rates of poverty, low education, limited access to care, and other socioeconomic factors

Infant mortality is a major issue within racial or ethnic minority groups. There are significant racial differences in the rates of pre-term birth and infant death in the U.S.

In 2015, the pre-term birth rate was¹:



In 2013, the pre-term related infant mortality rate was²:



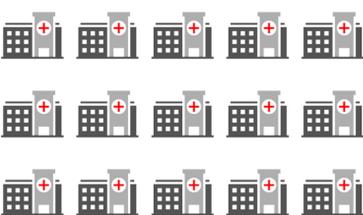
Our services begin before a woman becomes pregnant and follows her and her child for two years after the end of her pregnancy.



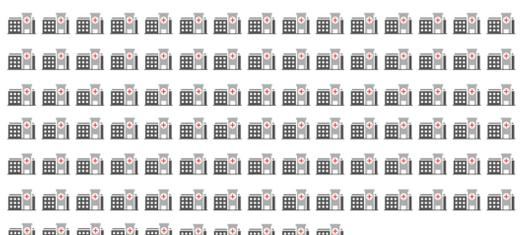
We give pregnant women and new parents information, resources and support to ensure a healthy pregnancy, and help nurture their children.

Program Growth

1991 - 15 sites



2016 - 100 sites



The Healthy Start Impact

Over the past 25 years, our programs have impacted families and communities across the US through:



A reduction in infant mortality rates

In 2015, Healthy Start reduced infant mortality rates among Healthy Start program participants to **5.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births** — lower than the national rate of **5.96**.



Increasing access to early pre-natal care

In 2015, **68.3%** of Healthy Start participants initiated pre-natal care during the first trimester.



Removing barriers to healthcare access

Healthy Start helps eligible women and children enroll in Medicaid or in private insurance through their state's health insurance marketplace. In 2014, over **92%** of our participants had some form of health insurance.³

Learn More



At Healthy Start, we make mothers and babies our priority. We ensure more babies reach their first birthday—all while making strides to improve their mothers' health.

[Learn more about the Healthy Start program.](#)

¹Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Osterman MJK. Births in the United States, 2015. NCHS data brief, no 258. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2016.

²Mathews TJ, MacDorman MF, Thoma ME. Infant mortality statistics from the 2013 period linked birth/infant death data set. National vital statistics reports; vol 64 no 9. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2015.

³All numbers and percentages are derived from the number of participants served in calendar year 2015, which is 67,509. These figures are based on monthly reports submitted by grantees.