



# PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF



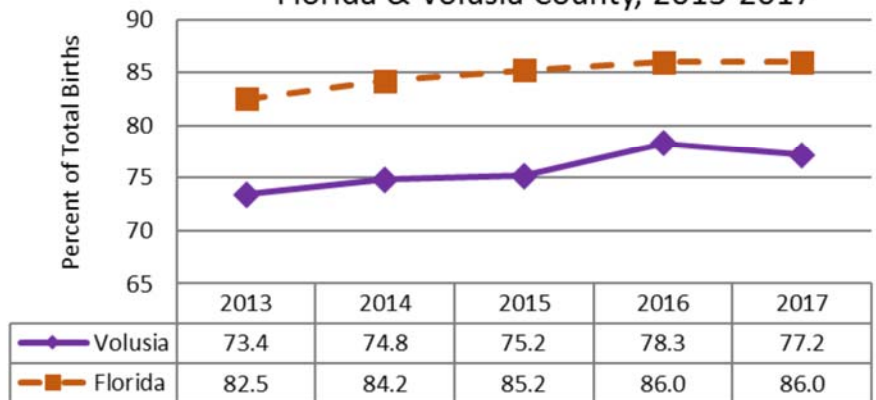
## BREASTFEEDING AND WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, there is no better food than breast milk for a baby’s first year of life. Among all racial/ethnic groups, higher education and older age can largely account for variations in breastfeeding rates at the population level. In an effort to help support breastfeeding mothers and increase breastfeeding percentages in the United States, the U.S. Surgeon General released *The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding* in 2011. This call to action set out clear action steps that communities, health care systems, health care providers, employers, public health professionals, other organizations, and individuals could take to support mothers and make breastfeeding easier. Over the years, there has been consistent evidence showing that breastfeeding provides many health, nutritional, and emotional benefits to baby and mother. The WIC program promotes and supports breastfeeding among women of child bearing age. Mothers are encouraged to breastfeed to improve the nutritional status of their infants.

- Mothers initiating breastfeeding in Volusia County and Florida increased by 3.8 percentage points and 3.5 percentage points, respectively, from 2013 to 2017.
- The percent of Volusia County mothers initiating breastfeeding was consistently lower than Florida and the HP2020 target, 81.9 percent, from 2013 to 2017.

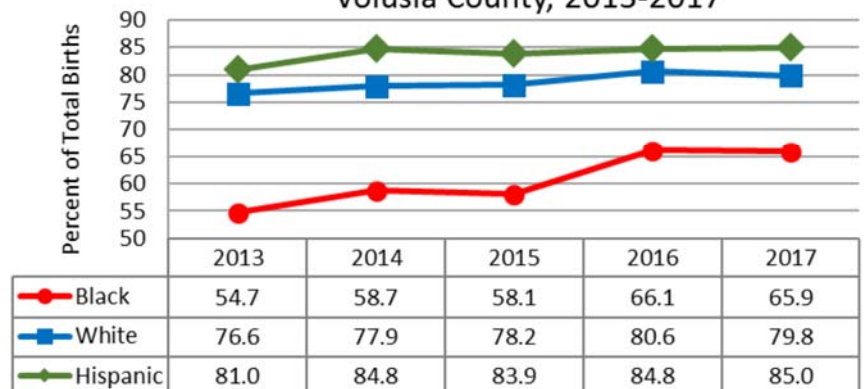
**Source:** Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2013-2017

Breastfeeding Initiation in Florida & Volusia County, 2013-2017



- The Volusia County breastfeeding initiation rate increased among all racial/ethnic groups from 2013 to 2017.
- The disparity in breastfeeding initiation among racial/ethnic groups in Volusia County was most evident among black mothers who had consistently lower rates each year.
- Hispanic mothers were the only racial/ethnic group in Volusia County who exceeded the HP2020 breastfeeding target (81.9%) from 2014 to 2017.

Breastfeeding Initiation by Race/Ethnicity in Volusia County, 2013-2017



## Percentages of Breastfeeding WIC Eligible & non-WIC Eligible Mothers, Volusia County, 2017

Zip Code	WIC Eligible (72% Initiated Breastfeeding)				non-WIC Eligible (83% Initiated Breastfeeding)			
	Black	Hispanic	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	White	Total
32114	54%	85%	59%	59%	59%	82%	64%	65%
32117	67%	72%	59%	65%	59%	58%	64%	62%
32118	80%	82%	72%	73%	100%	91%	82%	83%
32119	59%	88%	75%	71%	69%	82%	82%	80%
32124	0%	100%	100%	83%	83%	50%	89%	86%
32174	71%	80%	66%	67%	55%	94%	80%	79%
32176	100%	50%	73%	70%	—	100%	91%	90%
32130	100%	83%	50%	73%	—	85%	74%	78%
32180	—	73%	89	79%	—	86%	63%	73%
32190	100%	71%	100%	78%	100%	100%	100%	100%
32720	65%	68%	74%	70%	67%	95%	90%	87%
32724	70%	74%	82%	75%	68%	83%	82%	81%
32744	100%	100%	91%	93%	—	100%	86%	87%
32127	67%	86%	66%	67%	33%	83%	83%	82%
32128	0%	—	75%	68%	83%	80%	84%	84%
32129	75%	80%	63%	65%	70%	100%	81%	81%
32132	50%	50%	83%	79%	100%	100%	68%	71%
32141	67%	100%	67%	70%	100%	0%	87%	87%
32168	30%	100%	78%	70%	67%	100%	85%	86%
32169	—	100%	67%	70%	—	—	85%	86%
32759	—	—	78%	78%	100%	—	60%	67%
32713	100%	91%	81%	85%	33%	100%	93%	93%
32725	90%	88%	78%	84%	84%	89%	93%	91%
32738	72%	92%	72%	80%	91%	92%	89%	89%
32763	75%	94%	82%	85%	71%	80%	87%	84%
32764	100%	—	70%	73%	100%	100%	56%	62%

- Breastfeeding percentages were higher among non-WIC eligible mothers than WIC eligible mothers.
- Hispanic mothers had the highest breastfeeding percentages among WIC & Non-WIC eligible mothers.
- ZIP code 32744 had the highest breastfeeding percentage (93%) among WIC eligible mothers.

Contact the Volusia County Breastfeeding Peer Counselors for breastfeeding support:

- ◆ East Volusia  
(386) 274-0676
- ◆ West Volusia  
(386) 457-6288
- ◆ New Smyrna Beach  
(386) 424-2074