

**Fetal and Infant Mortality Review  
(FIMR) Project**

**2020 Annual Deliberations**  
***Supplemental***  
***Report***

*A supplement to the 2020 FIMR Deliberations Report published August 25, 2021*



*Publication Date: May 25, 2022*



# Florida Healthy Start

Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition

*The Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition (CAHSC) is dedicated to reducing fetal and infant mortality in Leon and Wakulla counties. This mission requires knowing what factors contribute to those heart-breaking outcomes and working hard to mitigate or eliminate them. The CAHSC facilitates the Capital Area Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Project to identify factors that contribute to fetal and infant losses in Leon and Wakulla counties.*

*On August 25, 2021, the CAHSC published our 2020 Annual Deliberations Report. That publication included a compilation of data from 30 fetal and infant deaths cases that occurred in our two counties and were reviewed by our FIMR Project, local data on all 57 infant and fetal deaths that occurred in 2020 in our two counties, recommendations by our FIMR Case Review Team for the year, and information about the FIMR process and CAHSC initiatives.*

*This publication is a **supplemental report** to the August 25, 2021, publication and consists of State and local data from the Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool (FL CHARTS). Due in part to the pandemic, 2020 data was not available in FL CHARTS at the time of our 2020 FIMR Deliberations Report publication.*

*FL CHARTS contains data from birth and death certificates in Florida. It is important that we compare local FIMR findings with overall State and county statistics as we work on selecting and implementing local initiatives to mitigate issues being seen locally.*



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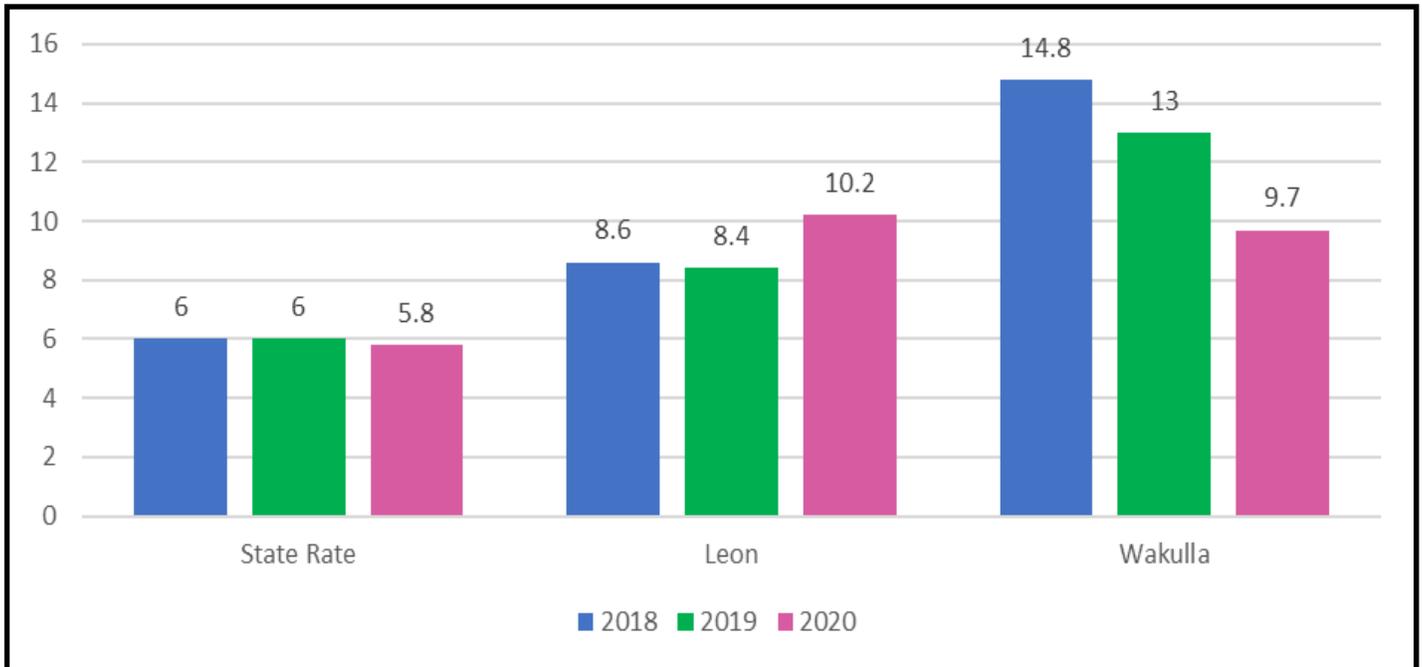
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*All data in this publication came from Florida CHARTS. Data from the Coalition’s FIMR project is referenced in some of the narratives below the data charts and graphs.*



## Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births

Florida CHARTS, Calendar Years 2018, 2019, 2020



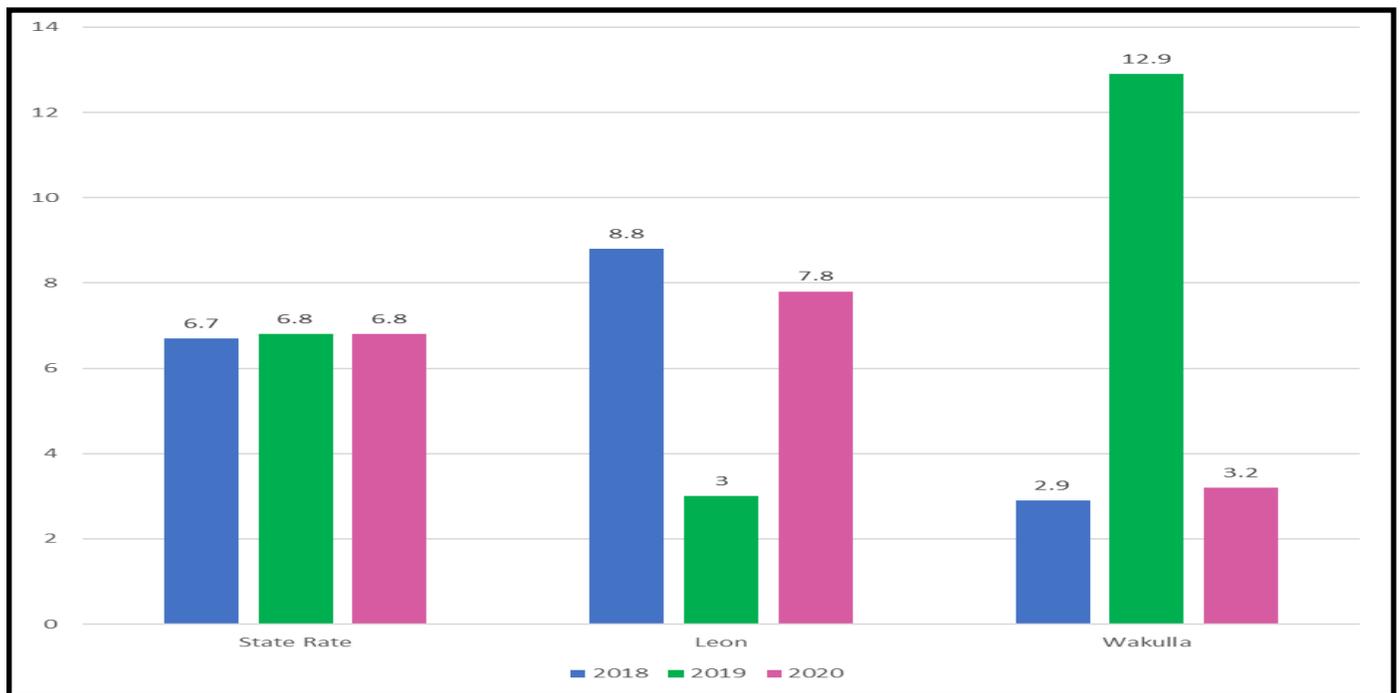
The definition of an infant death is when a baby is born alive and takes at least one breath but, sadly, dies before their 1st birthday. Infant mortality rates are an important factor in determining the overall health of a community. The infant mortality rates in the state of Florida have remained fairly consistent from 2018 through 2020. However, while the infant mortality rate in the State had slightly decreased in 2020, the rate in Leon County increased. Additionally, the infant mortality rates in both Leon and Wakulla counties were higher than the State rate in all three years. In 2018, there were 1,334 infant deaths in Florida, 25 in Leon, and 4 in Wakulla. In 2019, the number of infant deaths were 1,328 in Florida, 25 in Leon, and 4 in Wakulla. Florida had 1,213 infant deaths 2020, Leon had 30, and Wakulla had 3.

*It is important in looking at rates to note that in smaller counties, such as Wakulla County, one death increases the rate more dramatically than in larger counties. Leon County is considered to be a mid-sized county. Florida also has large and very large counties that are given these designations based on population.*



## Fetal Deaths per 1,000 Deliveries

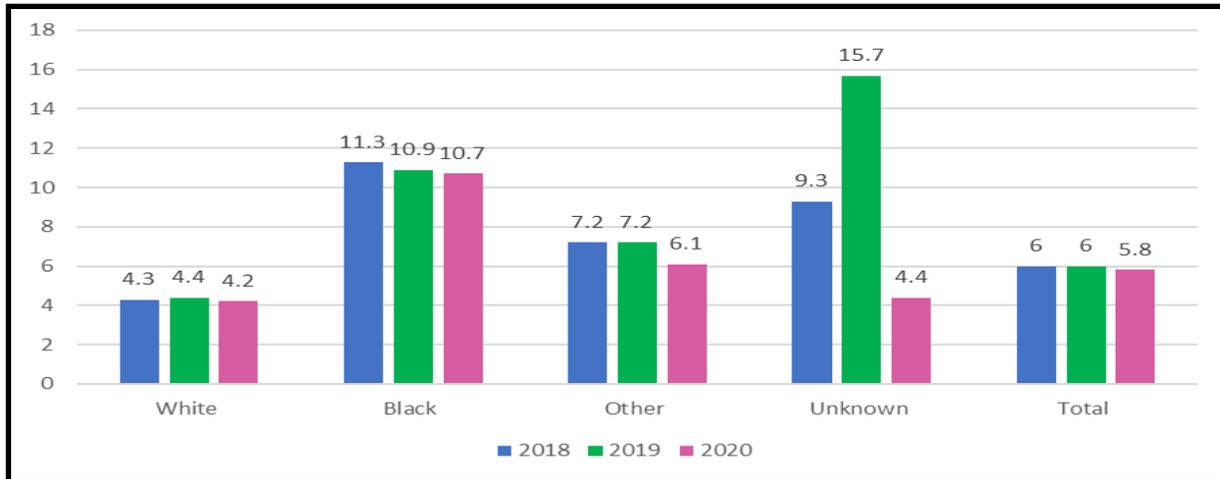
Florida CHARTS, Calendar Years 2018, 2019, 2020



A fetal death occurs when a baby is delivered after 20 weeks gestation but is not born alive. Deliveries prior to 20 weeks are considered to be miscarriages and are not reported to Vital Statistics nor counted as a fetal deaths in Florida. In 2020, the fetal mortality rate for Leon County increased quite a bit from 2019 but was still lower than in 2018. In Leon County, there were 26 fetal deaths in 2018, 9 in 2019, and 23 in 2020. In Wakulla County, there was 1 fetal death in 2018, 4 in 2019, 1 in 2020. Although there were the same number of fetal deaths in Wakulla County in 2020 as in 2018, the rate is higher in 2020 because less babies were delivered in 2020 than in 2018 (309 vs. 339).

## Florida Infant Mortality Rate by Maternal Race

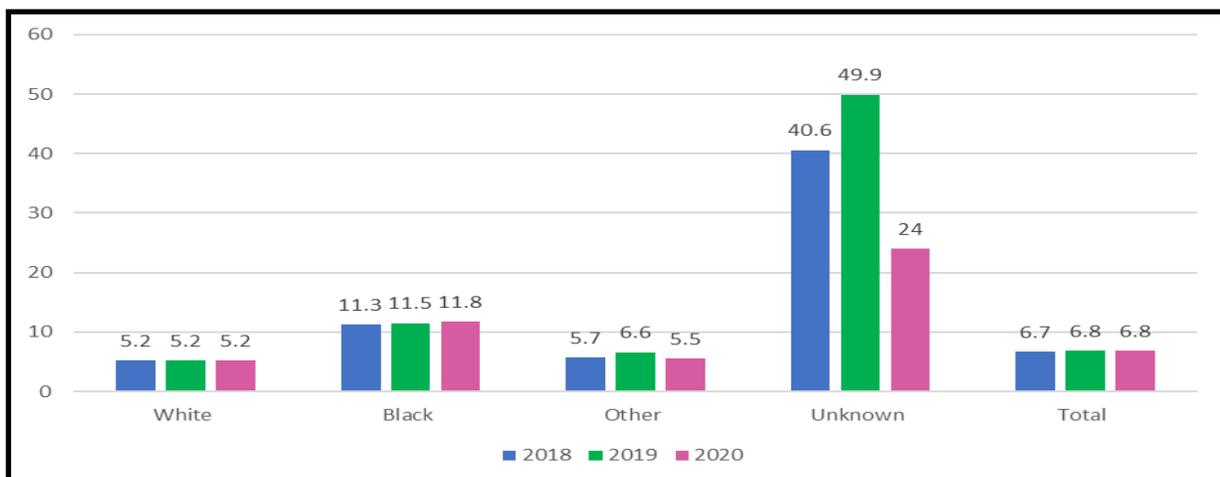
Per 1,000 live births FL CHARTS, Calendar Years 2018, 2019, 2020



The infant mortality rate decreased in 2020 for all women in the state of Florida. However, the rates for Black women were significantly higher than for other women in all three years except for women who gave birth in 2019 whose race was not known.

## Florida Fetal Mortality Rate by Maternal Race

Per 1,000 deliveries FL CHARTS, Calendar Years 2018, 2019, 2020

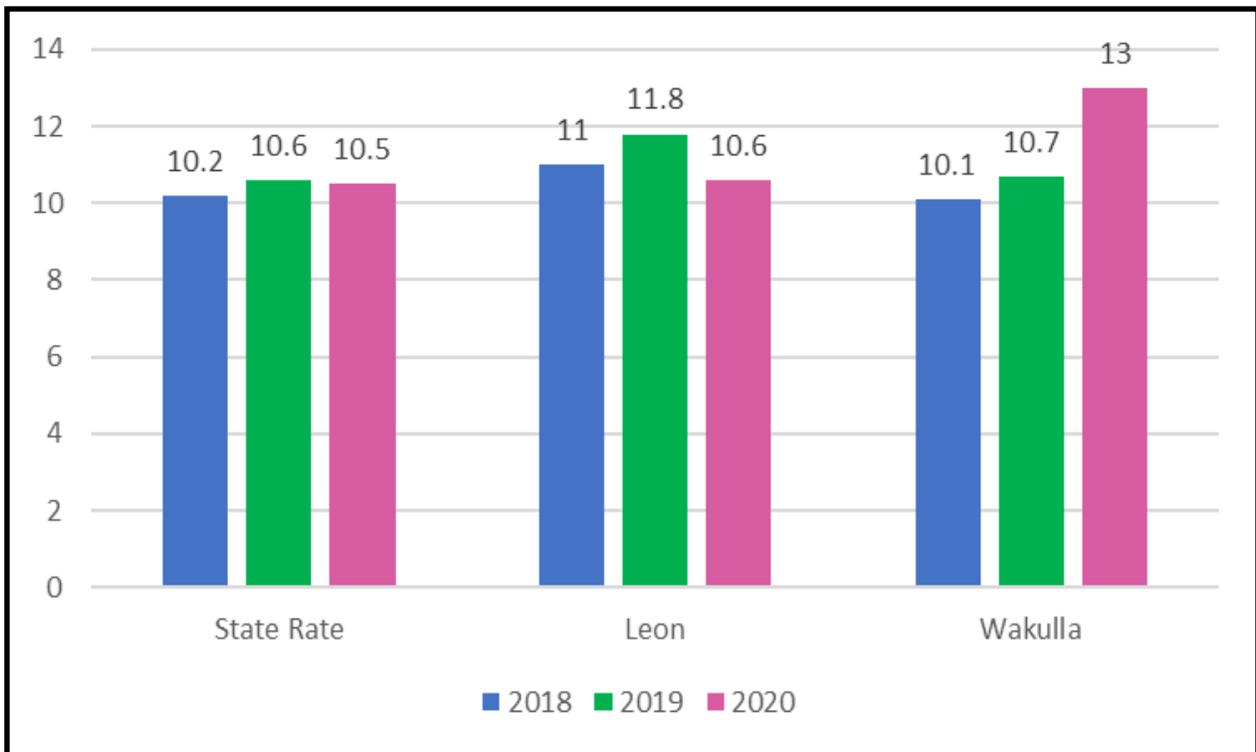


In all three years, Black women in Florida had over twice the rate of fetal losses than White women and nearly double the rate of all women in Florida whose races were identified.

*See pg. 9 in the August 25, 2021, FIMR Deliberations Report for data on local infant and fetal deaths.*

**Florida Infant Mortality Rate** *per 1,000 live births*  
**Prematurity**

FL CHARTS, Calendar Years 2018, 2019, 2020

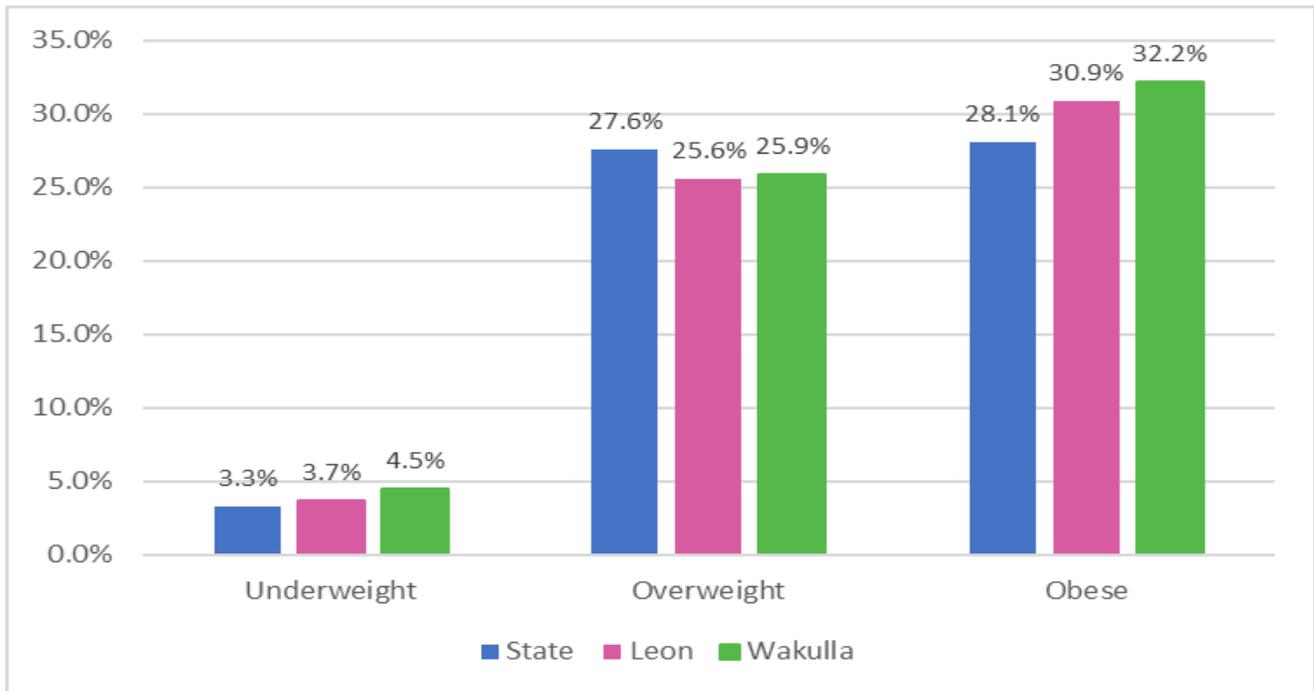


Prematurity is defined as the birth of a baby prior to 37 weeks gestation. Prematurity is the leading cause of infant deaths. The chart above shows the rates of babies being born premature in our FIMR area (Leon and Wakulla counties) as compared to the State. The number of babies born early in our two counties were: 2018: Leon-321, Wakulla-34; 2019: Leon-351; Wakulla-33; and 2020: Leon-312, Wakulla-40.

*See pg. 14 in the August 25, 2021, FIMR Deliberations Report for local FIMR data.*

**Percentage of Births to Mothers Who Were Underweight, Overweight or Obese When the Pregnancy Began**

FL CHARTS, Calendar Year 2020



The rate of maternal obesity in our two counties was higher than the State rate. Florida CHARTS uses the following BMIs to calculate weight: *Underweight* <18.5, *normal weight* 18.5-24.9, *overweight* 25-29.9, *obese* >30. FL CHARTS does not report on the rates or number of women who had a normal weight or on the number/rates where the weight was not known. We have found through our FIMR project that there often is no maternal pre-pregnancy weight listed on infant birth certification. Since FL CHARTS data for maternal weight comes from those birth certificates, we cannot assume that women not captured in the data above were of normal weight.

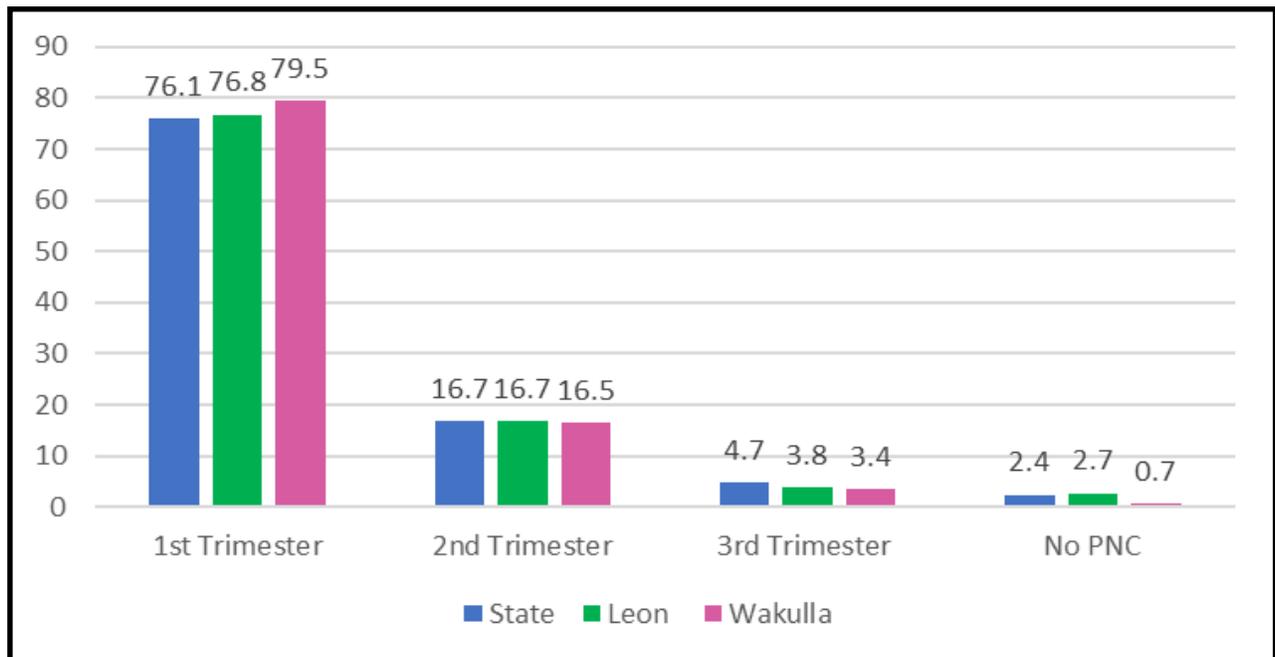
A significant FIMR finding locally was that although the obesity rates for all pregnant women in Leon and Wakulla counties were 30.9% and 32.2% respectively, 53% of women who had an infant or fetal loss in the 30 cases reviewed by the FIMR Project were obese. Research shows that obesity can contribute to, or can be caused by, conditions that can affect pregnancy outcomes such as diabetes and hypothyroidism.

*See pg. 16 in the August 25, 2021, FIMR Deliberations Report for local FIMR data.*



## Mother's Trimester of Entry into Prenatal Care

FL CHARTS, Calendar Year 2020

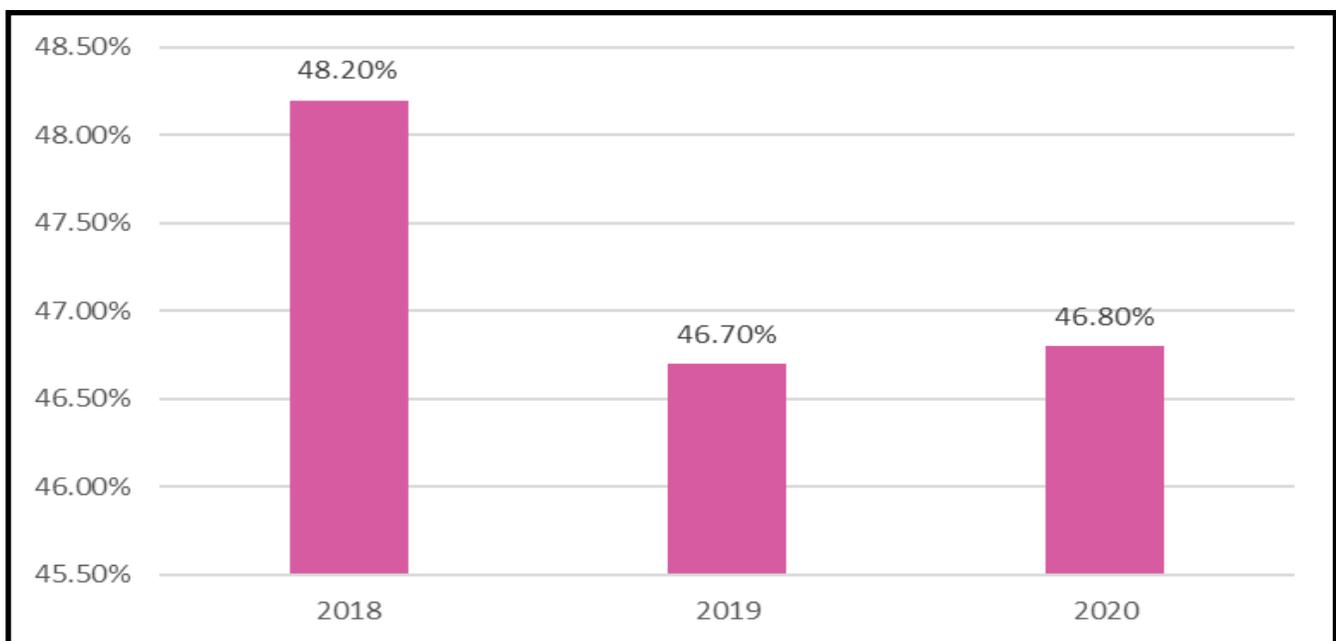


Per FL CHARTS, the percentage of women who received early prenatal care in Leon and Wakulla counties, and had a live birth, is higher than the State rate. Information on entry into prenatal care is not available in FL CHARTS for fetal deaths as this is not recorded by Vital Statistics. Per case findings from our local FIMR program, only 51% of the women who had an infant or fetal loss in 2020 received early prenatal care.

*See pg. 16 in the August 25, 2021, FIMR Deliberations Report for local FIMR data.*

## Percentage of Births Covered by Medicaid

FL CHARTS, Calendar Years 2018, 2019, 2020



Nearly half of all pregnant women in Florida utilized Medicaid as their health insurance during their pregnancy. In 2020, 57% of the women in the 30 cases reviewed by the FIMR project had Medicaid as their health insurance.

*See pg. 19 in the August 25, 2021, FIMR Deliberations Report for local FIMR data.*