

# HEALTHY START

## Community Action to Improve Pregnancy Outcomes

### WHAT is Healthy Start?

Healthy Start is a federal program **dedicated to reducing disparities in maternal and infant health** status in high risk communities.

Healthy Start supports women **before, during, and after pregnancy** by addressing their health and social service needs, strengthening family resilience, and engaging community partners to enhance systems of care.



Healthy Start works to assure access to **culturally competent, family-centered and comprehensive** health and social services for women, infants and their families.

### WHO does Healthy Start serve?

Healthy Start works in communities with **infant mortality rates at least 1.5 times the national average**, and high rates of low birth weight, preterm birth, and maternal mortality.



Healthy Start serves women of reproductive age, pregnant women, mothers who have just given birth, and infants and families from birth to the child's second birthday. Healthy Start involves fathers throughout, and supports couples with reproductive life planning.

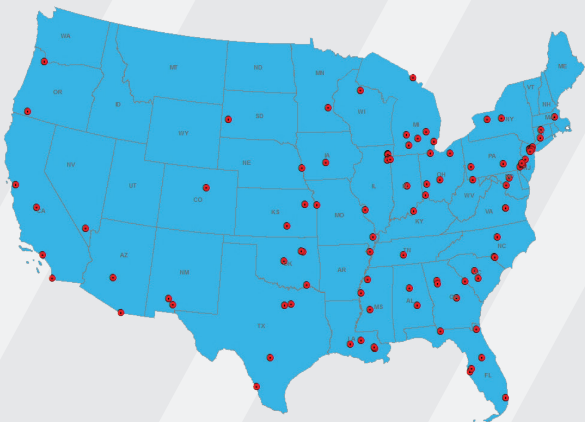
### Healthy Start is rooted in the COMMUNITY

Healthy Start provides a forum for the **community voice** in efforts to improve the health of mothers and babies.

Healthy Start programs participate in **Community Action Networks (CANs)** that mobilize health care, social service and other providers to coordinate services, and steer local action to address social determinants of health related to poor birth outcomes.



### REACH of the Healthy Start Program



Healthy Start currently funds 100 organizations in **37 states and DC**, including health departments, community-based organizations, health centers and universities.

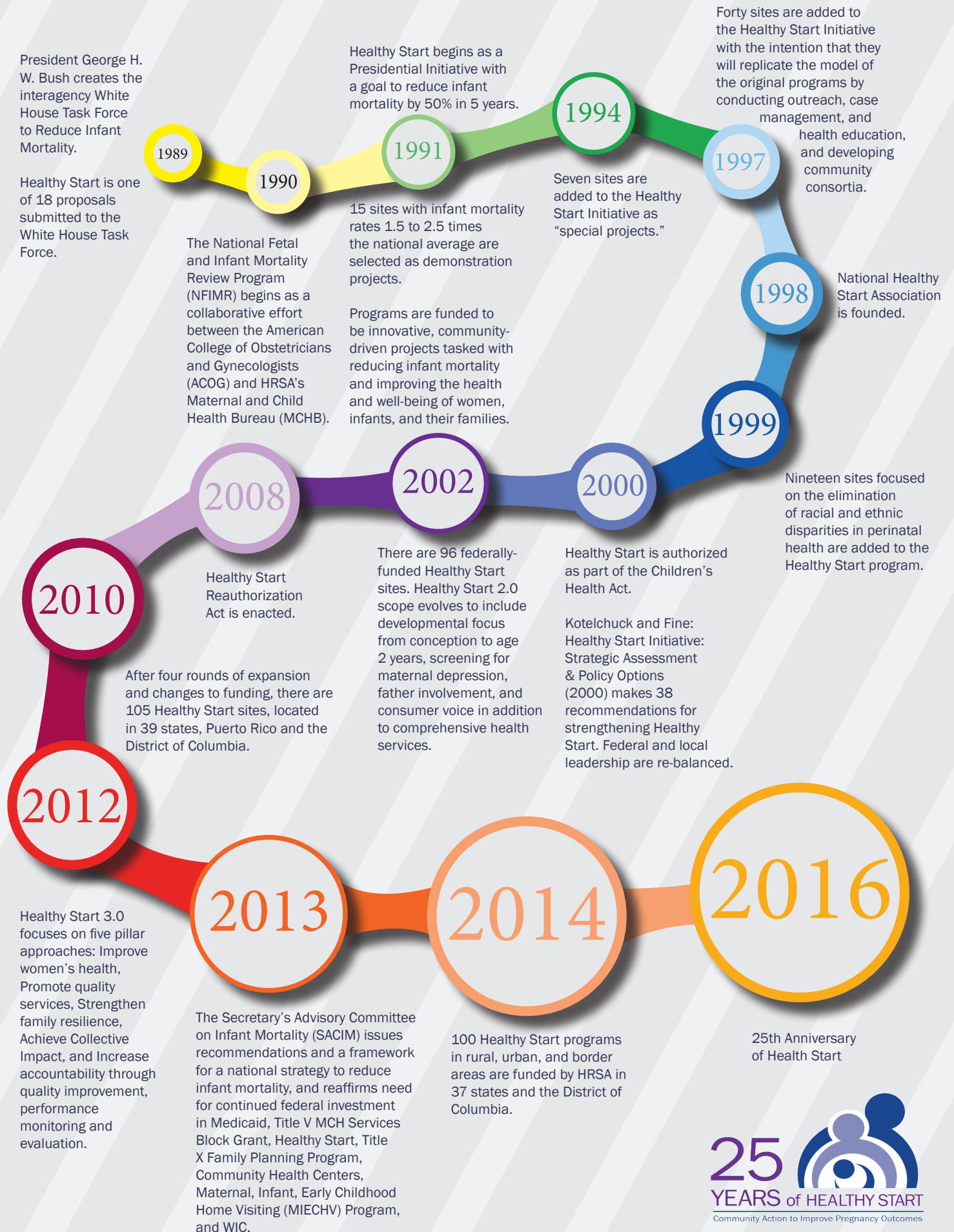
**75** local Healthy Start Programs are based in **Urban** areas (including **1 Border** community).

**25** serve **Rural** communities (including **4 Border** and **3 Tribal** communities).



Developed by JSI for the Healthy Start EPIC Center

# A Brief History of Healthy Start



## References

- National Healthy Start Association (NHSA). Federal Healthy Start Initiative: A national network for effective home visitation and family support services. 2010. [http://www.nationalhealthystart.org/site/assets/docs/NHSA\\_WhitePaper.pdf](http://www.nationalhealthystart.org/site/assets/docs/NHSA_WhitePaper.pdf)
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- Healthy Start Initiative: Eliminating Disparities in Perinatal Health FOA issued Feb 14, 2014
- Kotelchuck, M. (2012). Reflections on the History of the Healthy Start Initiative. <http://www.hrsa.gov/advisorycommittees/mchbadvisory/InfantMortality/Meetings/20120710/reflectionsinitiative.ppt>
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- Report of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (SACIM): Recommendations for HHS Action and Framework for a National Strategy. 2013. <http://www.hrsa.gov/advisorycommittees/mchbadvisory/InfantMortality/Correspondence/recommendations-jan2013.pdf>