

from the *Heart*



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The Need: Keeping kids safe

It's a sad tale told too often in the local news—a young child is found lifeless at the bottom of the pool. But these deaths, like many child deaths in Martin County, can be prevented. Prevention is a priority for the Children's Services Council of Martin County. The rate of child deaths has remained steady over the past decade, thanks to a variety of programs in our community. Nearly every program funded by the Council positively impacts the child death rate, from after-school and early learning programs that provide supervision and safe spaces, to child abuse prevention programs that teach parents the skills to better ensure a safe, healthy home. The Council is especially proud of its SPLASH program. Created in partnership with the Big Heart Brigade, it provides free swimming lessons and water safety education to qualifying children and their families. This simple program reduces the number of sad stories in our community each year. Together, we can work to keep our kids safe to succeed in life and beyond.



The Response:

Swimming lessons



**American
Red Cross**

American Red Cross:

SPLASH

Administered by the American Red Cross, the SPLASH (Swimming Provides Learners with Aquatic Safety & Health) program was created in response to tragedies in Martin County neighborhoods where many residents don't know how to swim. Families who are eligible (those who qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch at school) can receive free swimming lessons at area pools. There is also an adult education component to this program, which teaches the importance of constant supervision, water safety and drowning prevention. This summer, thanks to donations from the Big Heart Brigade and the Kiwanis Club, we are able to provide 210 free lessons and reduce risk of drowning for Martin County's children.

The Children's Services Council of Martin County is an independent 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.cscmc.org and www.facebook.com/cscmc.

The Response:

After-School and Summer Programs,
Child Care, Abuse Prevention and More!

When it comes to keeping children safe and reducing the child death rate in Martin County, many programs funded by the Children's Services Council play a role. Summer camps and after-school programs keep kids off the streets and supervised. Early learning programs provide a needed respite for stressed parents while providing close supervision. Child abuse prevention programs teach valuable parenting skills and offer support to families who need it the most, while agencies like 2-1-1 and Whole Child Connection provide referrals to services that families need to keep children safe every day. Since injuries are the number one cause of child death, nearly all the funded programs help reduce the risk.

After-School/Summer Programs:

Start Something
High-Yield Learning
East Stuart Youth Initiative
ABLE
YReads/Strong Families
JASE, GAAP, BLAST, PLACE



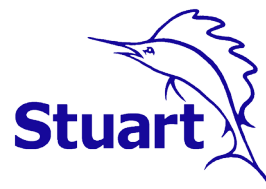
Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Palm Beach and Martin Counties, Inc.



GREAT FUTURES START [HERE](#).



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MARTIN COUNTY



Advocates for the Rights of the Challenged

Child Abuse Prevention:



**Helping
People
Succeed**

Safe Families
Valued Visits
Healthy Families



Early Learning Programs:

Subsidized Child Care
Early Head Start



Early Learning Coalition
Of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties, Inc.

Connecting with Resources:

2

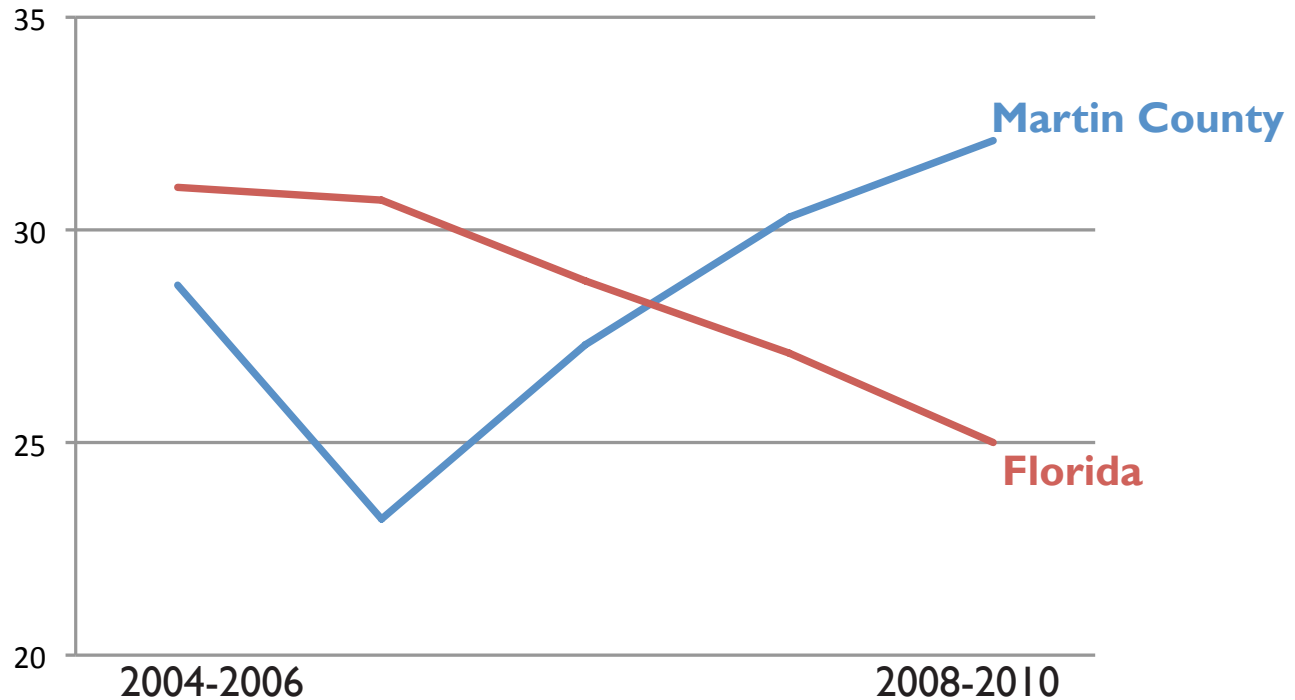
Whole Child Connection
2-1-1



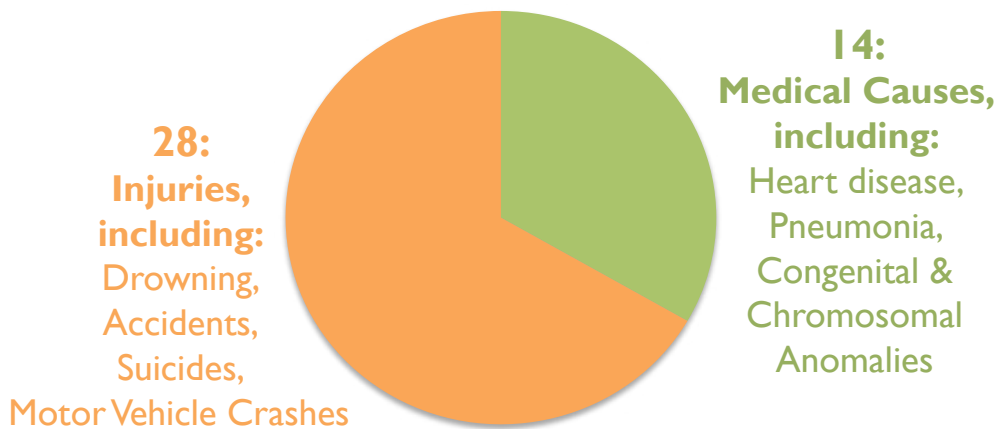
The Impact:

Preventing Child Deaths

Death Rate Age 1-18 (3-Year Rolling Rates)



Cause of Death 2005-2010 for Martin County Residents Age 1-18



165 Number of Martin County children who learned to swim through the SPLASH program in 2011

250 Number of Martin County children who will be able to learn to swim through the SPLASH program in 2012, thanks to grants from the Big Heart Brigade and Kiwanis Club of Stuart

Success: Safe, happy children

Success Story

I'm a single mom who works many hours at a local grocery store, trying to make ends meet to support my three children. I can't afford swimming lessons, but my children know how to swim thanks to free lessons through the SPLASH program. In fact, SPLASH and the Y not only taught my children how to swim, they learned

invaluable life-saving skills.

The week before school started in Indiantown, I took my children to their friend's apartment complex in Stuart. The complex has a pool, and I knew the children would be swimming with some adult supervision. I wasn't worried, though, because my children learned how to swim last summer thanks to the SPLASH swim program at the YMCA in Indiantown. In less than two months, my children became good swimmers.

But that wasn't the case for all the children there, I learned when I picked up my children that day. My youngest children quickly (and repeatedly) told the story of how my oldest son had the confidence to jump in and save another child from drowning! I was shocked and scared, but grateful that the SPLASH program saved more than one life that day.

My hope is that the child who was saved will be able to take part in the same program as my children. It's a terrific program run by terrific people.



Events & Meetings

June 1: SPLASH program begins. Questions? Read the how-to on the right, log on to www.cscmc.org or call the American Red Cross at (561) 650-9111.

June 19: Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce breakfast at the Children's Services Council office

June 25: Council meeting/Budget workshop

Want to schedule a free Lunch and Learn for your club or homeowner's association? Contact Suzanne Wentley at swentley@cscmc.org!

Council News

3 Easy Steps for Free Swimming Lessons:

1. Receive eligibility sheet from one of the following sites: Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County, Early Learning Coalition, Helping People Succeed, Martin County Healthy Start Coalition,

Whole Child Connection or the YMCA in Indiantown. Every child who qualifies for free or reduced-cost lunch at school qualifies for this program, which is available for ages 0-17.

2. Call to schedule registration for FREE lessons, and bring the eligibility sheet to a participating pool: Sailfish Splash Waterpark - 772.320.3100; YMCA in Stuart - 772.286.4444; YMCA in Indiantown - 772.215-9780; and the Martin County High School Community Pool - 561.222.6547.

3. Make a SPLASH! Plus, parents also learn skills to keep kids safe!

Contact Us

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