

# Quartiles

Quartiles are based on the number of counties, census tracts or ZIP codes present.

## What is a Quartile?

- On FLHealthCHARTS, a quartile is one of four approximately equal-sized groups of ranked data.
- Since some geographic groupings, such as counties, are not evenly divisible by four, each quartile may be less or more than ¼ of the dataset.

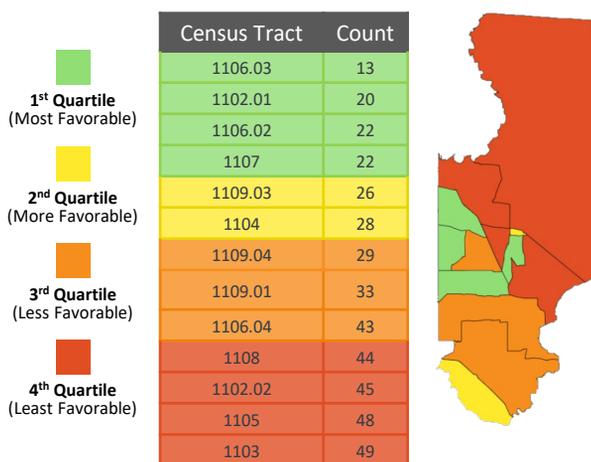
## Why use Quartiles?

- Quartiles can be used to compare a county, census tract or ZIP code with another when looking at the same indicator.
- Quartiles can be used to assess strengths and opportunities. Indicators in the first quartile are strengths. Those in the fourth quartile are opportunities for improvement.
- Quartiles can be used to visualize variances in density. Indicators in the first quartile have the lowest density, and those in the fourth quartile have the highest density.

## Visualizing Quartiles

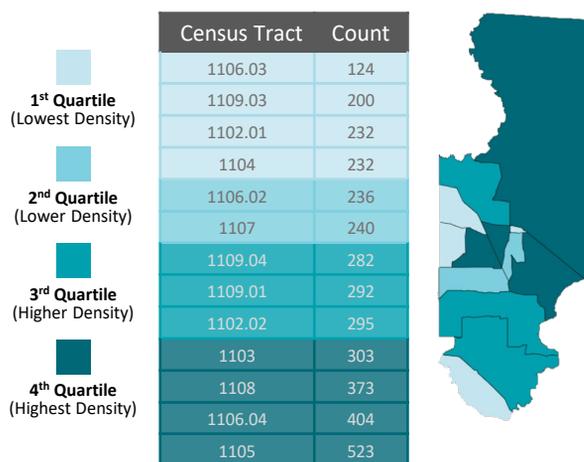
### Quartile Example 1

**Preterm Births (<37 Weeks Gestation) by Census Tract**  
Columbia County, FL



### Quartile Example 2

**Total Births by Census Tract**  
Columbia County, FL



On CHARTS, quartiles are displayed in one of two ways. If the data have a natural sense of direction, their quartiles are mapped using green, yellow, orange and red. An example would be preterm births—both mother and child tend to have better health outcomes when the child is carried to term. Therefore, geographic areas with lower counts of preterm births will be green and areas with higher counts will be red.

Data can also be without a natural sense of direction. For example, counts of total births where neither high nor low counts are more favorable than the other. Data without a natural sense of direction has quartiles displayed by density, with lighter shades of blue representing the lowest density and darker shades of blue representing the highest density.