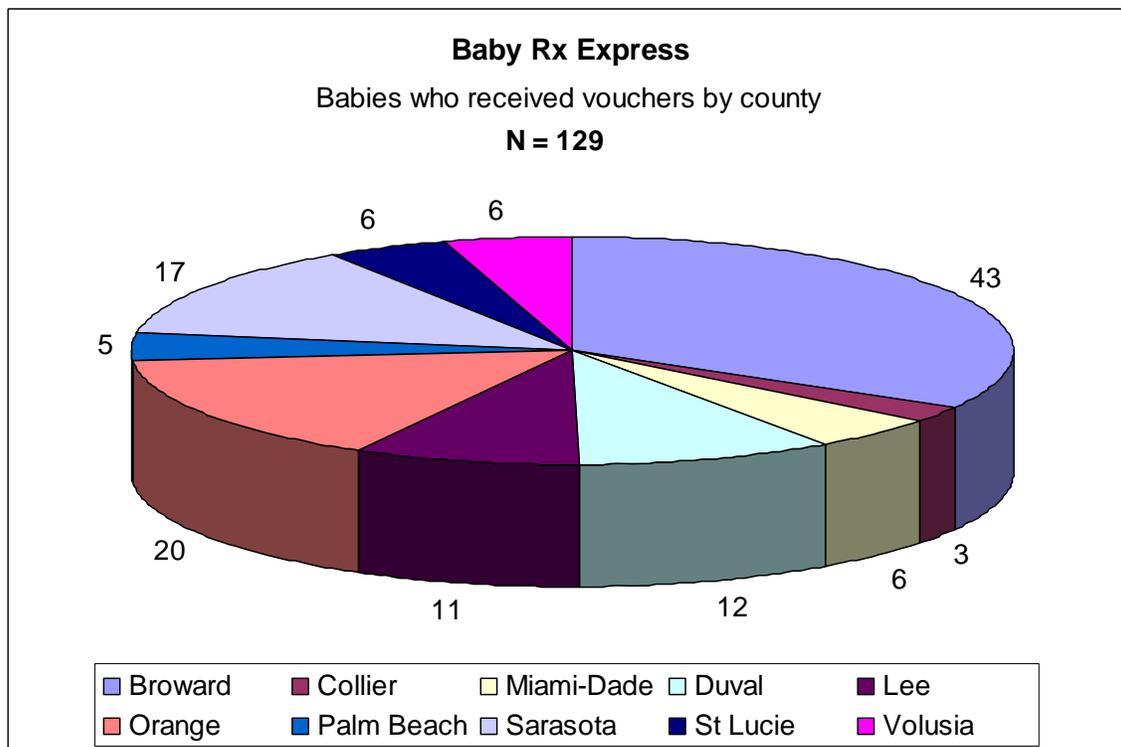




**2010 Summary Report**

Every baby born to an HIV-infected mother is prescribed a six-week course of zidovudine to lower the risk of transmission from mother to baby. Since the prescription is for the baby, the mother's Medicaid will not cover the cost. The baby is only days old and typically does not have his/her own Medicaid number, and the Ryan White program cannot pay for the medication because the baby does not have a diagnosis of HIV infection. The Baby RxPress Program began in 2008 to provide zidovudine through a voucher system with Walgreens Pharmacy and payment is made through funds from the Bureau of HIV/AIDS.

In 2010, zidovudine was provided to 129 babies for a cost of \$3,648.92, or \$28.28 per newborn. These figures tell us that approximately 25% of HIV-exposed newborns in Florida had no other way to pay for this medication. Utilization of the program around the state varies in part due to individual hospitals providing the medication to the HIV-exposed newborns upon discharge. For example, Tampa General Hospital has a long-standing policy of providing zidovudine for HIV-exposed newborns and there was no utilization of the program in Hillsborough County. The graphic below details the counties that used the Walgreens vouchers in 2010.



Perinatal nurses throughout the state have continued to express their gratitude for this program. Previously, they attempted to negotiate with Medicaid or their county health departments to pay for the medication. If this process proved too time consuming or if a baby was discharged on the weekend, they often paid for the prescription out of their own pocket. The estimated lifetime cost of care for a person with HIV infection is \$346,000.00. Providing zidovudine to a newborn lowers the risk of mother-to-child transmission by 9.3%, so if we prevent even one infection every ten years, this program will pay for itself many times over. The costs to the family would be incalculable.