

**ST. PETERSBURG HAS  
HIGHEST LEVELS OF BLACK  
FATHERLESSNESS, AMONG  
FLORIDA'S 10 LARGEST  
CITIES**

**JANUARY 2016 © THE 2020 PLAN TASKFORCE**

# NEW INSIGHTS

An analysis of **Florida's 10 largest cities** shows that African Americans in **St. Petersburg** suffer the highest levels of “family brokenness,” and that from 2007 to 2013, they also suffered the fastest pace of nuclear family disintegration, including the biggest gain in unwed (illegitimate births), and the highest rate of marital separation and divorce.

The decline in two-parent child-rearing has fueled a dramatic rise in black children's poverty rates – far larger than African Americans experienced across the rest of Florida and America.

This document is one of many published by the 2020 Plan Taskforce to shed light on the dynamics of poverty in South St. Petersburg – an area recognized by officials as the largest of five poverty zones in Pinellas County, Florida. The 2020 Plan is a 5-Year Initiative to reduce the poverty rate by 30% in South St. Petersburg by the year 2020.

Research by Gypsy C. Gallardo

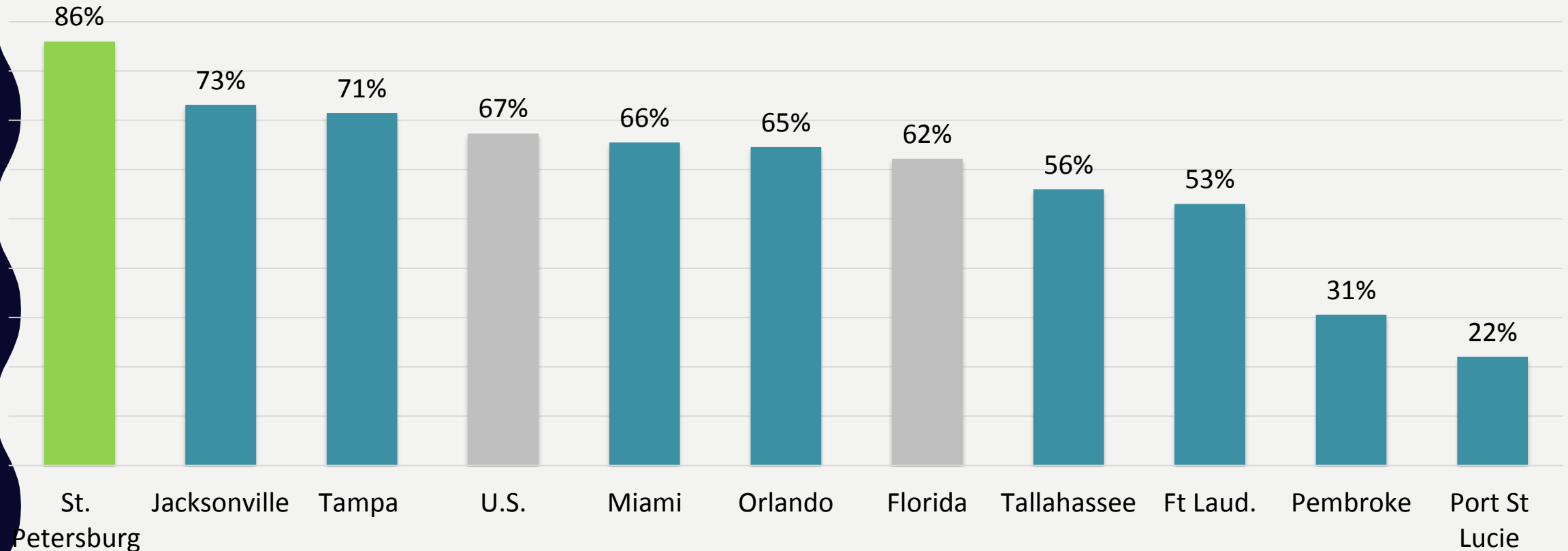
St. Petersburg ranked worst or 2<sup>nd</sup> worst in 14 of the 18 family formation & poverty metrics studied by the 2020 Plan Taskforce

	U.S.	Florida	St. Pete	Aggregate: Other 9 cities	St. Pete's Rank among Florida's 10 largest cities
<b>Family formation metrics</b>					
Unwed birth rate	67%	62%	86%	66%	☒ Highest
Growth-unwed birth rate	1.0%	-0.1%	9.1%	-2.3%	☒ Highest
Growth-no. of unwed births	-1%	3%	64%	5%	☒ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Highest*
Birth rate for single women	5.1%	4.9%	7.6%	4.9%	☒ Highest
Growth-birth rate for single women	-.5 pts	-.5 pts	+2.5 pts	0 pts	☒ Highest
Now married	29%	31%	26%	28%	☑ 4 <sup>th</sup> Lowest
Separated & divorced	16%	16%	19%	17%	☒ Highest
Divorced	12%	12%	15%	13%	☒ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Highest*
Children raised by single women	54%	51%	67%	57%	☒ Highest
Children without their dad at home	63%	62%	74%	66%	☒ Lowest
Growth-children without their dad	+1.6 pts	+2.3 pts	+5.7 pts	+2.6 pts	☒ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Highest
<b>Poverty metrics</b>					
Poor families led by single moms	78%	72%	84%	77%	☒ Highest
Poverty rate children < 6	44%	44%	61%	49%	☒ 2 <sup>nd</sup> highest
Poverty rate children < 18	39%	39%	47%	44%	☑ 5 <sup>th</sup> lowest
Growth - Pov. rate children < 6	+7 pts	+7 pts	+24 pts	+9 pts	☒ Highest
Growth - Pov. rate children < 18	+5 pts	+5 pts	+13 pts	+7 pts	☒ Highest
Poverty rate for married couples	11%	14%	11%	16%	☑ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lowest
Poverty rate for single moms	33%	32%	52%	50%	☑ 4 <sup>th</sup> Highest

# ST. PETERSBURG HAS HIGHEST UNWED BIRTH RATE

Nearly 9 out of 10 black babies in St. Petersburg were born to a single mom in 2013 when the illegitimate birth rate for African Americans was 25 points higher than the statewide average.

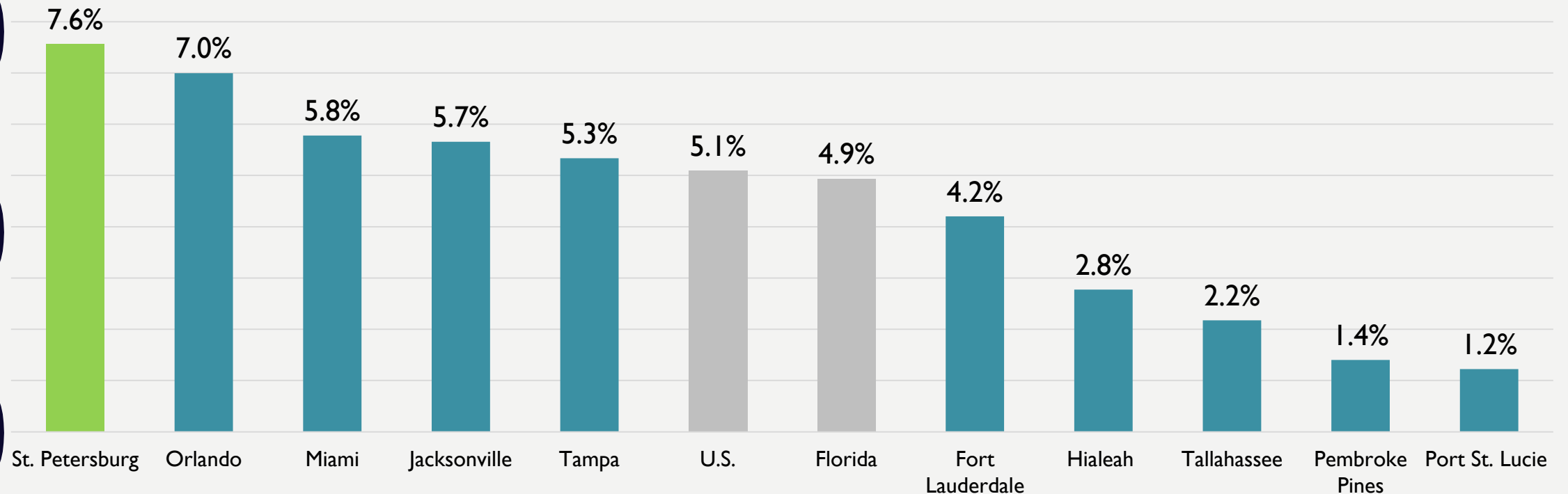
African American babies born to unwed mothers 2013



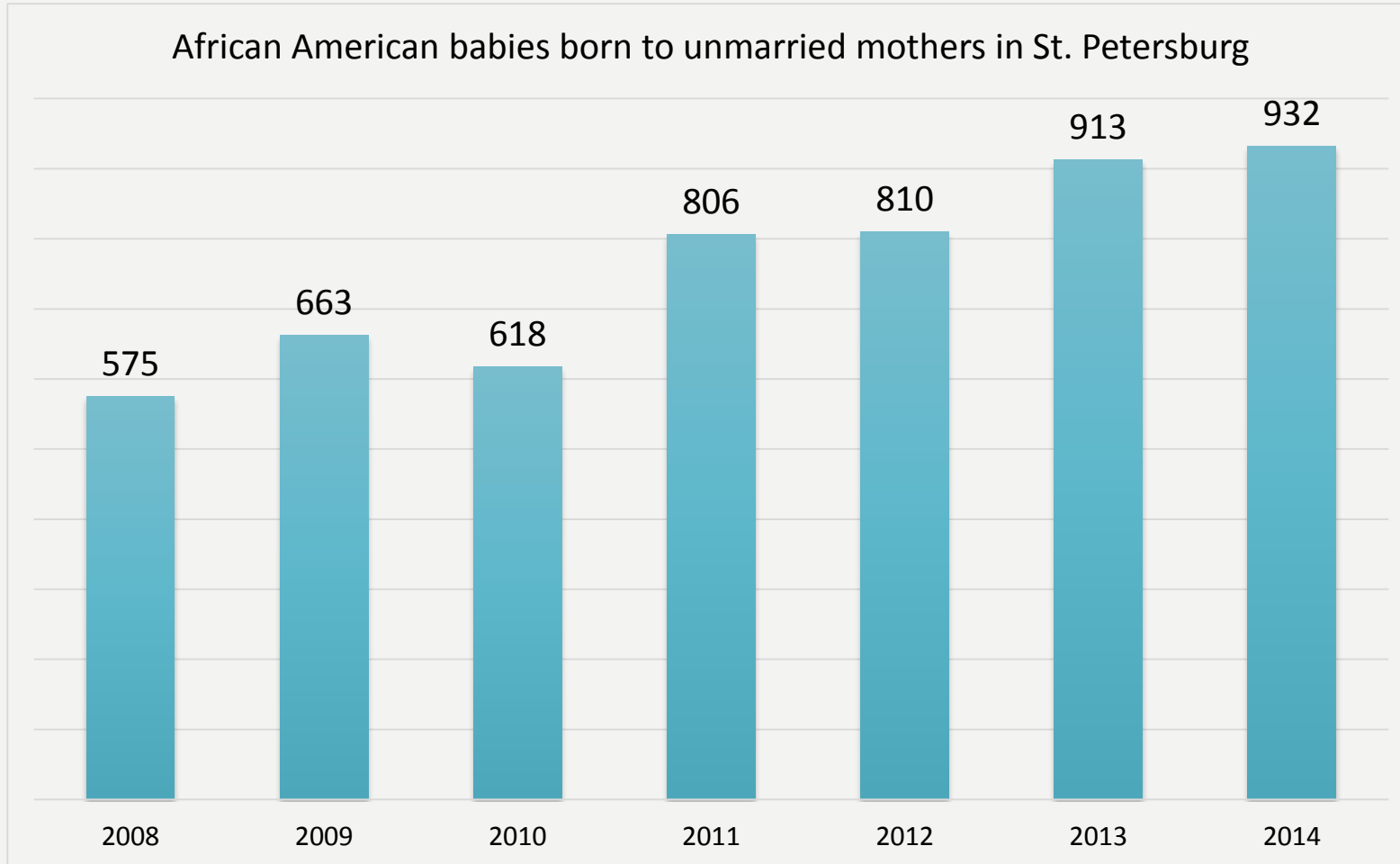
# ST. PETERSBURG HAS HIGHEST BIRTH RATE FOR BLACK SINGLE WOMEN

In addition to having the highest birth rate for single black women, St. Petersburg had the biggest gain (compared to Florida's 10 largest cities), from 2007 to 2013. The rate rose from 5% to 8% in St. Petersburg, versus a 1% decline across Florida.

Birth rate for single black women 2013  
(i.e., share of single black women who gave birth in 2013)



# ST. PETERSBURG HAD 2<sup>ND</sup> HIGHEST GROWTH IN NUMBER OF BABIES BORN TO SINGLE MOMS



From 2008 to 2014, the number of African American babies born yearly grew by 62%.

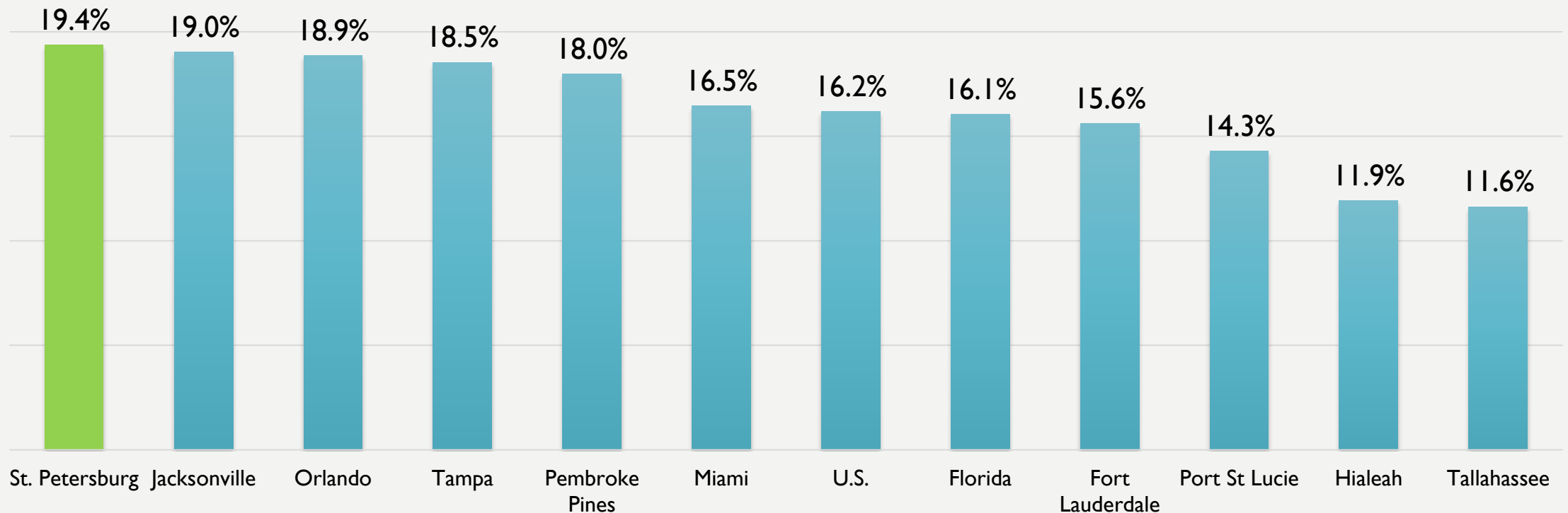
This is a countertrend to the rest of America, which experienced a 3% decline over the same period.

If the pace continued in 2015, Census data may reflect St. Petersburg exceeding 1,000 single black women giving birth during the year.

# ST. PETERSBURG HAS HIGHEST RATE OF SEPARATION & DIVORCE AMONG BLACK FAMILIES

Though St. Petersburg's black community marries at about the same rate as African Americans nationwide, local African Americans are separating and divorcing at higher rates.

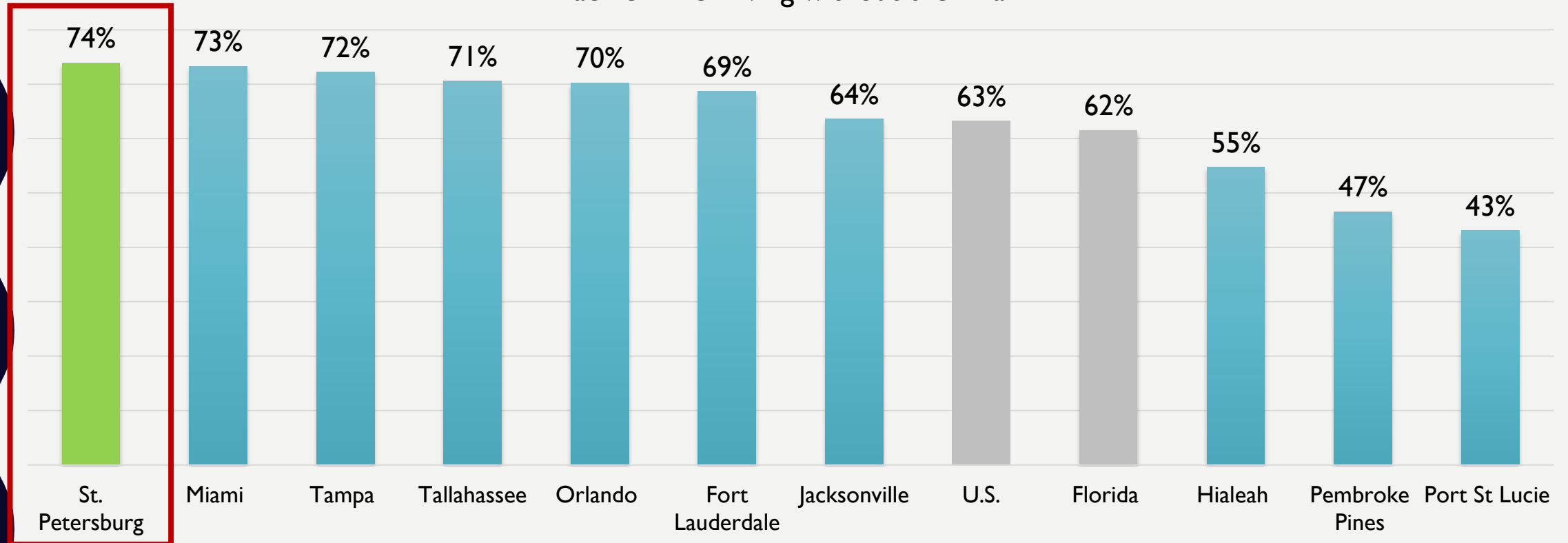
Share of adult population that was separated or divorced in 2014



# ST. PETERSBURG HAS MOST CHILDREN GROWING UP WITHOUT THEIR DAD

In addition to having the highest rate of black fatherlessness\* across Florida's 10 largest cities, St. Pete had the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest gain\* in fatherlessness from 2000 to 2010 (increasing from 68% to 74%).

Black children living without their dad\*



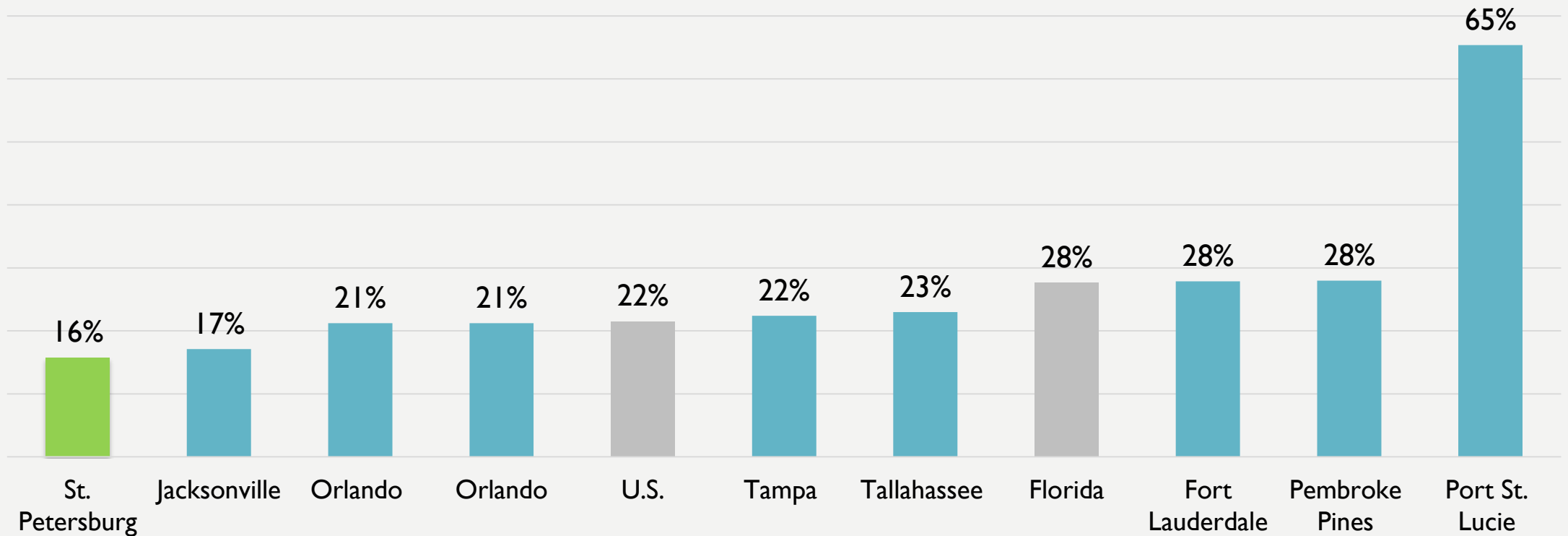
\*% of all children who live in arrangements other than in a married couple or male-led household



# HIGHEST LEVEL OF FATHER ABSENCE AMONG POOR CHILDREN

In St. Petersburg, only 16% of African American families in poverty have a dad at home, the lowest share among Florida's 10 largest cities and 12 points lower than the statewide average.

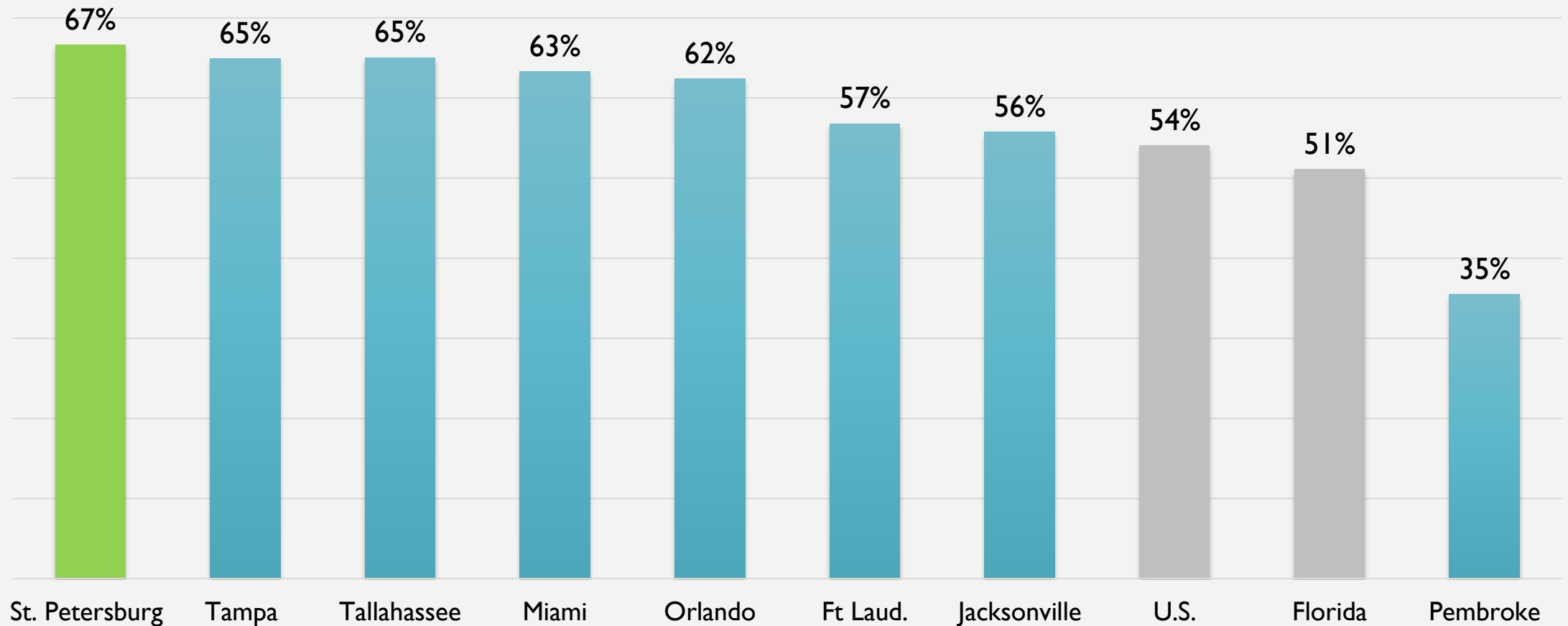
Poor families with a man at home 2013



\*% of poor families with children that are led by married couples or males

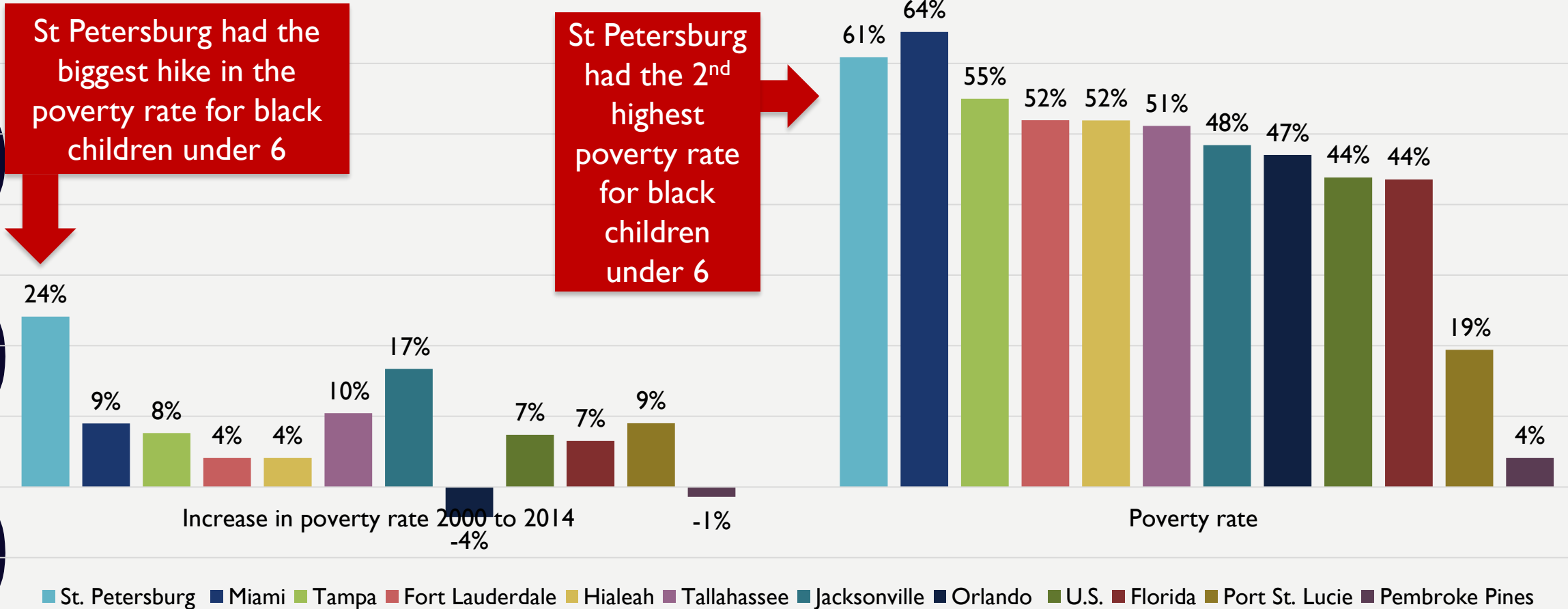
# ST. PETERSBURG HAS THE LARGEST SHARE OF CHILDREN BEING RAISED BY SINGLE WOMEN

Children living with single moms - 2010



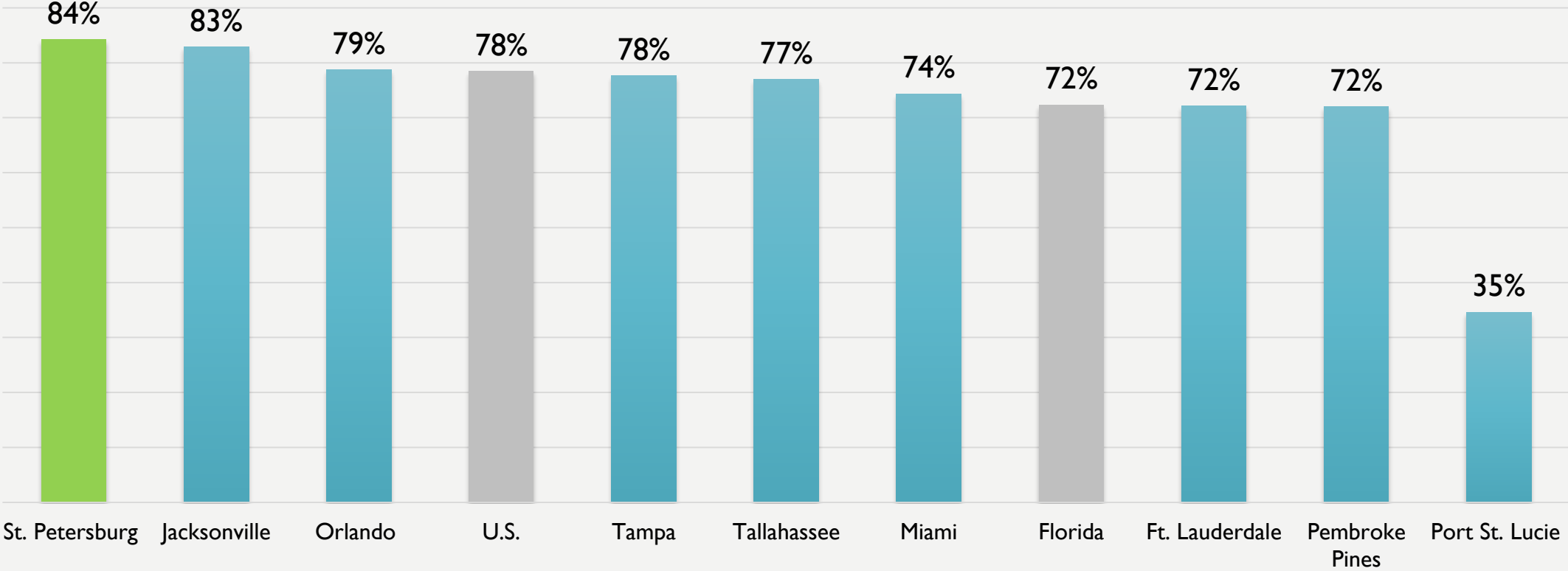
# ST. PETERSBURG HAD LARGEST INCREASE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD POVERTY, FROM 2000 TO 2014

Increase in poverty rates for children under 6 (2000 to 2014) & their poverty rates (2014)



# AMONG POOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, ST. PETERSBURG HAS HIGHEST SHARE OF FEMALE-HEADED FAMILIES

Poor families with children headed by single moms 2013



# A CLARION CALL TO ACTION

The erosion of the nuclear black family in St. Petersburg – and increasing rates of black fatherlessness - rest at the heart of the economic and social challenges of the City's African American community.

The 2020 Plan Taskforce continues to call upon policy makers and human service funders and service providers to heed the urgent need for action and investment in strengthening families and fathers to serve in their most vital roles – as fathers and breadwinners.

A growing number of partners are linking arms to target the roots of the problems.

Learn more, or support this vital work:

[www.pcul.org](http://www.pcul.org) (click the 2020 Plan link)

[2020coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:2020coordinator@gmail.com)

## SOURCES:

■ Data are sourced from the U.S. Census, including data from 2000 Summary File 1, 2007 3-Year Estimates, 2008 3-Year Estimates, 2010, 2013 3-Year & 5-Year Estimates and 2014 5-Year Estimates.

**FOR MORE DETAILS ON  
THIS RESEARCH,  
INCLUDING  
DEFINITIONS & DATA  
SOURCES:**

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