

PREEMIE AUTHORIZATION ACT ISSUE BRIEF

HEALTHY
MOMS.
STRONG
BABIES.



Highlights

Our organizations **strongly support** continuing to address high prematurity rates through prematurity research and programs.

10.1%

In 2020, there were **364,487 preterm births**, representing 10.1% of live births.

Preterm birth rates are highest for **Black infants** (14.2%), followed by American Indian (11.6%), Hispanics (9.8%), Whites (9.2%) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (8.8%).



Preterm birth, along with low birth weight babies, make up the **second leading cause of infant deaths** after birth defects.

Background

Last reauthorized in 2018, and expiring in 2023, **the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act represents the federal government's commitment to preventing premature birth and its consequences, the leading contributor to infant death.**



Preterm birth, along with low birth weight babies, make up **the second leading cause of infant deaths** after birth defects.



The **health consequences** of preterm birth include developmental delays, chronic respiratory programs and vision and hearing impairment. Having a preterm baby **impacts families emotionally and financially.**



Preterm-related causes account for **35.8% of infant deaths** in the U.S. and the annual societal economic cost (medical, education, and lost productivity) is an **estimated \$25.2B.**



Rather than having one cause, preterm birth seems to be triggered by multiple, interacting biologic and environmental factors. We do know that a history of preterm birth, multiple gestations, and certain uterine and/or cervical problems are the strongest risk factors for preterm birth.

Key Elements of the PREEMIE Act

Specifically, the PREEMIE Act will:

Renew the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's research and programs on preterm birth, including improved tracking of national data.



Reauthorize the Health Resources and Services Administration's activities aimed at promoting health pregnancies and preventing preterm birth.



Extend the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality and updates to the Committee's charge to examine severe maternal morbidity.



Establish an entity in the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate all federal activities and programs related to preterm birth, infant mortality, and other adverse birth outcomes.

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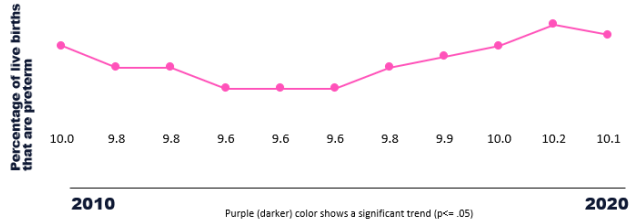
Facts on Premature Birth

**U.S. PRETERM
BIRTH GRADE:**

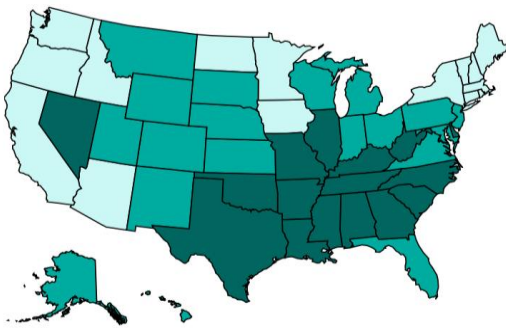
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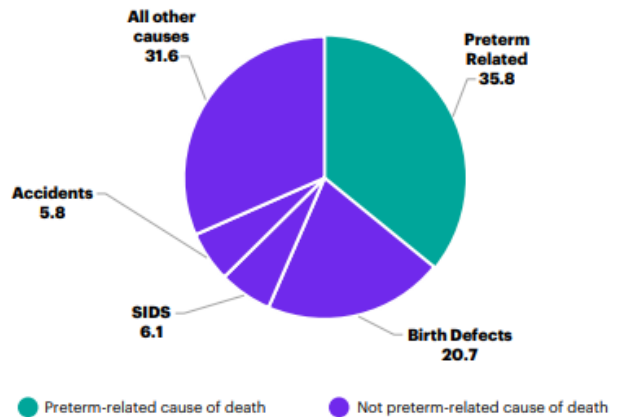
Preterm Births in the United States, 2019



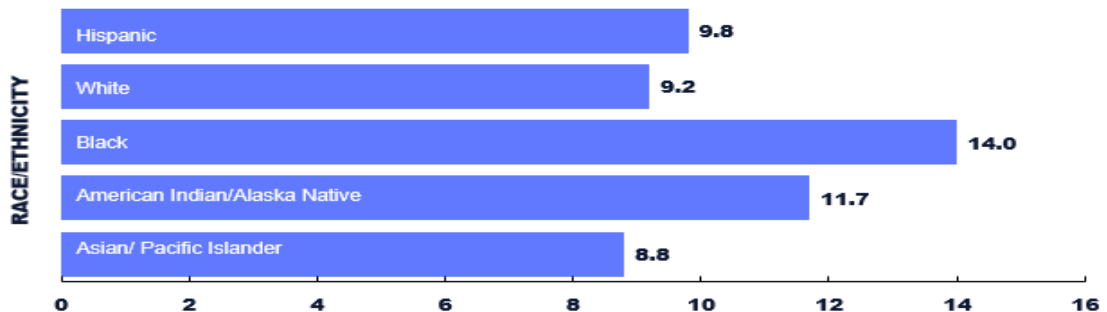
Percent of live births

- Over 10.6 (16)
- 9.6–10.6 (20)
- Under 9.6 (15)

Infant Deaths by Cause of Death in the United States, 2017 – 2019 Average



Percentage of live births in 2017 – 2019 (average) born preterm



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