

Annex B. Global and Country-Level Preterm Birth Estimates

The Global Burden of Preterm Birth

Preterm birth affects families in every country. While more than 80 percent of preterm births occur in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, the problem is universal. In fact, the United States and Brazil are among the top 10 countries with the highest number of preterm births (Table 1). Preventing deaths among babies born too soon is a major challenge for many countries. But the most urgent action to prevent, diagnose and manage preterm birth is needed in the 10 countries that account for nearly two-thirds of all deaths from preterm birth complications (Table 2).

Table 1. Top ten countries with the largest numbers of preterm births in 2014	
India	3,519,900
China	1,168,100
Nigeria	803,200
Bangladesh	603,700
Indonesia	527,700
Pakistan	454,100
USA	383,300
Ethiopia	376,700
Brazil	339,200
Tanzania	336,000

Table 2. Top ten countries with the highest numbers of under-5 children deaths from preterm birth complications in 2016	
India	302,300
Pakistan	95,000
Nigeria	89,300
DRC	36,100
China	28,500
Ethiopia	27,600
Indonesia	25,000
Bangladesh	20,000
Sudan	17,000
Afghanistan	15,400

Global and Country-Level Preterm Birth Estimates

This document provides country-level estimates for the number of preterm births and the number of deaths related to preterm birth complications. The estimates are provided in the embedded excel or in the below table. Updated preterm birth estimates were published in *The Lancet Global Health* on October 29, 2018 along with trends from 2000.¹ The estimates for the number of death due to direct complications of preterm birth in 2016 are available for download on the World Health Organization's Global Health Observatory [here](#). The [Healthy Newborn Networks' Newborn Numbers page](#) provides a full list of maternal and newborn health indicators. You can use these estimates in your press release or infographics to raise awareness about the burden of preterm birth in your country.

**** PLEASE NOTE: Country preterm birth estimates vary from previously published estimates due to methodological reasons. Please do not compare previously published preterm birth estimates to the updated estimates. ****

¹ Chawanpaiboon et al. 2018. Global, regional and national estimates of levels of preterm birth in 2014: a systematic review and modelling analysis. *Lancet Global Health*. Published online October 29, 2018. Available at [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(18\)30451-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(18)30451-0/fulltext)



World Prematurity
Day 2018 national e:

Table 3: National preterm birth rates and number of child deaths due to direct preterm birth complications

Country	Under-5 child deaths due to direct preterm birth complications (2016)	Number of preterm births (2014)
Afghanistan	15,400	112,400
Albania	90	3,400
Algeria	5,000	126,600
Angola	11,900	132,100
Antigua and Barbuda	<5	150
Argentina	2,300	63,100
Armenia	130	4,100
Australia	240	27,100
Austria	50	6,500
Azerbaijan	1,200	20,500
Bahamas	10	570
Bahrain	60	2,100
Bangladesh	20,000	603,700
Barbados	10	340
Belarus	80	4,800
Belgium	90	13,100
Belize	30	790
Benin	5,000	35,600
Bhutan	100	1,400
Bolivia	1,700	24,800
Bosnia and Herzegovina	60	2,300
Botswana	540	6,600
Brazil	7,600	339,200
Brunei Darussalam	20	700
Bulgaria	140	6,200
Burkina Faso	6,500	84,400
Burundi	3,800	57,000
Cabo Verde	50	1,300
Cambodia	2,000	38,500
Cameroon	7,400	100,200
Canada	540	31,500
Central African Republic	2,500	19,500
Chad	7,500	73,800
Chile	530	18,600
China	28,500	1,168,100
Colombia	2,400	109,700
Comoros	360	3,100
Congo	1,400	19,700
Costa Rica	180	6,900
Côte d'Ivoire	11,000	98,600
Croatia	20	2,000
Cuba	110	7,000
Cyprus	10	2,400
Czechia	90	8,200

Country	Under-5 child deaths due to direct preterm birth complications (2016)	Number of preterm births (2014)
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1,400	37,400
Democratic Republic of the Congo	36,100	309,700
Denmark	110	4,200
Djibouti	290	2,600
Dominican Republic	1,700	21,300
Ecuador	1,800	26,500
Egypt	13,600	333,100
El Salvador	360	10,100
Equatorial Guinea	480	3,400
Eritrea	780	20,900
Estonia	10	800
Ethiopia	27,600	376,700
Fiji	70	1,800
Finland	30	3,400
France	640	66,100
Gabon	480	6,100
Gambia	680	9,700
Georgia	160	5,700
Germany	760	60,300
Ghana	7,900	104,900
Greece	120	10,800
Grenada	10	200
Guatemala	1,900	42,700
Guinea	3,500	54,200
Guinea-Bissau	780	8,000
Guyana	100	1,400
Haiti	2,400	25,900
Honduras	820	16,600
Hungary	180	8,200
Iceland	<5	380
India	302,300	3,519,900
Indonesia	25,000	527,700
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	4,700	82,800
Iraq	8,100	126,800
Ireland	60	4,400
Israel	110	14,300
Italy	410	39,400
Jamaica	280	4,800
Japan	250	59,000
Jordan	1,100	35,300
Kazakhstan	750	19,700
Kenya	11,000	134,500
Kingdom of Eswatini	370	4,500
Kiribati	30	320
Kuwait	190	7,700
Kyrgyzstan	840	16,100
Lao People's Democratic Republic	1,500	18,600
Latvia	20	1,100
Lebanon	170	7,400
Lesotho	930	7,200
Liberia	1,200	18,500

Country	Under-5 child deaths due to direct preterm birth complications (2016)	Number of preterm births (2014)
Libya	390	17,700
Lithuania	20	1,600
Luxembourg	<5	610
Madagascar	5,000	97,400
Malawi	5,500	68,400
Malaysia	990	52,300
Maldives	20	470
Mali	9,500	89,200
Malta	10	260
Mauritania	2,200	15,900
Mauritius	50	1,700
Mexico	6,900	165,900
Micronesia (Federated States of)	20	250
Mongolia	230	7,200
Montenegro	10	630
Morocco	4,500	94,200
Mozambique	10,200	128,000
Myanmar	8,000	98,900
Namibia	530	8,500
Nepal	4,300	30,600
Netherlands	170	13,200
New Zealand	100	4,500
Nicaragua	380	12,000
Niger	9,400	113,600
Nigeria	89,300	803,200
Norway	30	3,500
Oman	180	7,400
Pakistan	95,000	454,100
Panama	260	7,400
Papua New Guinea	1,800	21,200
Paraguay	670	11,300
Peru	1,900	54,200
Philippines	10,700	310,200
Poland	610	28,500
Portugal	60	6,600
Qatar	50	1,100
Republic of Korea	430	30,500
Republic of Moldova	110	3,800
Romania	400	15,900
Russian Federation	2,900	157,400
Rwanda	2,100	43,300
Saint Lucia	10	270
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	10	170
Samoa	20	490
Sao Tome and Principe	30	760
Saudi Arabia	2,000	24,600
Senegal	3,600	66,900
Serbia	240	10,900
Seychelles	10	200
Sierra Leone	3,100	27,300
Singapore	30	5,200

Country	Under-5 child deaths due to direct preterm birth complications (2016)	Number of preterm births (2014)
Slovakia	100	5,200
Slovenia	20	1,600
Solomon Islands	70	1,700
Somalia	6,900	55,200
South Africa	6,700	138,400
South Sudan	5,000	52,000
Spain	300	27,300
Sri Lanka	640	22,900
Sudan	17,000	175,000
Suriname	50	960
Sweden	60	6,900
Switzerland	100	6,100
Syrian Arab Republic	1,400	46,700
Tajikistan	1,800	26,400
Thailand	2,100	92,700
The former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia	150	2,000
Timor-Leste	250	4,500
Togo	2,100	30,300
Tonga	10	260
Trinidad and Tobago	100	1,900
Tunisia	710	27,100
Turkey	4,000	160,600
Turkmenistan	1,200	11,600
Uganda	11,500	107,900
Ukraine	1,100	42,500
United Arab Emirates	180	5,400
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1,300	57,100
United Republic of Tanzania	13,500	336,000
United States of America	7,300	383,300
Uruguay	100	4,400
Uzbekistan	3,200	69,800
Vanuatu	40	680
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2,500	58,400
Viet Nam	7,900	103,500
Yemen	9,000	88,300
Zambia	4,700	75,600
Zimbabwe	4,800	64,300
World	1,012,100	14,835,600

Sources: Preterm birth rates from Chawanpaiboon et al 2018 Lancet Global Health; deaths from preterm birth complications by the WHO and Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group (MCEE) 2015¹ estimates are rounded and can be accessed [here](#)

Table: Trends in estimated preterm birth rates from 2000 to 2014

Countries and regions	2000		2014		Change in Preterm Birth rates (2000 to 2014)	
	Preterm birth rate (%)	# preterm births	Preterm birth rate (%)	# preterm births	Absolute difference in PTB rate	% change in PTB rate since 2000
Argentina	7.2	51874	8.7	65522	1.5	20.6%
Australia	7.2	17779	8.1	25700	1.0	13.7%
Austria	8.3	6694	8.4	6840	0.06	0.7%
Bahrain	8.0	1146	4.3	855	-3.7	-46.3%
Belarus	8.0	7104	10.1	11257	2.1	26.1%
Belgium	4.5	5112	11.6	15070	7.1	159.7%
Brazil	5.5	203239	8.2	247413	2.6	47.4%
Canada	7.2	24043	10.1	38959	2.9	40.1%
Chile	6.6	16868	14.5	34154	7.9	119.1%
Colombia	8.2	69842	8.5	64283	0.3	3.5%
Croatia	6.1	2767	5.0	2042	-1.1	-18.7%
Cuba	6.3	9156	5.8	6796	-0.4	-7.0%
Czechia	8.6	7611	8.6	9259	-0.04	-0.5%
Denmark	6.7	4405	9.0	5265	2.3	33.6%
Estonia	7.1	901	7.2	1023	0.11	1.5%
Finland	5.9	3387	7.2	4180	1.3	21.5%
Germany	5.8	43682	5.4	36602	-0.5	-7.8%
Greece	6.6	6839	5.5	5180	-1.2	-17.7%
Hungary	5.5	5284	13.2	12190	7.7	139.1%
Ireland	6.1	3493	9.8	6858	3.8	62.4%
Japan	8.5	98669	6.0	62653	-2.5	-29.6%
Latvia	5.4	1030	9.6	1933	4.3	78.9%
Lithuania	5.9	1962	6.4	1920	0.5	8.0%
Luxembourg	4.1	220	6.5	407	2.4	59.1%
Malta	5.8	250	7.4	276	1.7	29.0%
Netherlands	7.1	14110	6.2	10995	-0.9	-13.0%
New Zealand	5.5	3095	5.9	3559	0.4	6.4%
Norway	6.8	3938	7.3	4401	0.5	6.6%
Poland	7.7	28566	6.0	23675	-1.7	-21.7%
Portugal	6.7	7577	8.3	7081	1.6	23.8%
Republic of Korea	7.2	39318	6.8	31136	-0.4	-5.7%
Saudi Arabia	6.5	36817	8.1	50065	1.6	24.0%
Slovenia	7.1	1238	4.3	932	-2.7	-38.9%
Spain	4.6	18516	7.0	29684	2.4	52.8%
Sweden	6.6	6044	7.7	9026	1.1	16.2%

Countries and regions	2000		2014		Change in Preterm Birth rates (2000 to 2014)	
	Preterm birth rate (%)	# preterm births	Preterm birth rate (%)	# preterm births	Absolute difference in PTB rate	% change in PTB rate since 2000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7.0	48453	6.3	51110	-0.7	-9.5%
United States of America	9.7	389142	9.9	398717	0.2	2.4%
Uruguay	11.4	6178	12.0	5860	0.6	5.4%

Regions

Asia	9.5	7103336	10.4	7847643	0.9	9.1%
Europe	7.0	509066	8.7	690931	1.7	24.9%
Latin America and the Caribbean	7.8	920904	9.8	1062800	2.0	25.3%
North America	10.5	456883	11.2	491297	0.6	6.2%
Northern Africa	8.7	380934	13.4	773687	4.7	53.3%
Oceania	7.0	38091	10.0	64227	3.0	42.9%
Sub-Saharan Africa	13.1	3515047	12.0	4182440	-1.1	-8.6%

Global	9.8	12658588	10.6	14835606	0.8	8.5%
---------------	-----	----------	------	----------	-----	------

Source: Preterm birth rates from Chawanpaiboon et al 2018 Lancet Global Health