



World Prematurity Day: 17 November 2013

One in three newborn deaths are due to preterm birth complications.¹ Babies born too soon are between 6 and 26 times more likely to die during the first four weeks of their lives than babies born at term.²

In addition, preterm survivors often suffer from lifelong disabilities, such as visual and hearing impairments, chronic lung disease, long term cardiovascular ill-health, learning and behavioural impairments.³ Prematurity has a far-reaching impact on their development and on their health as children and adults.

Many of these deaths could be prevented, even in low-resource countries.

Facts and Figures on Preterm Birth in Tanzania

Preterm birth is a public health problem in Tanzania. Learn about preterm birth and take action!

@ Prematurity is the leading cause of mortality in the first month of life in Tanzania, with one in three newborn deaths due to preterm birth complications⁴

@ Tanzania ranks **twelfth** in the world for the number of preterm births⁵

@ Every year, **210,300** babies are born before 37 weeks of pregnancy are completed⁵

@ Of these babies, **13,900** die every year⁶

Number of newborn deaths in the first month of life¹(2012)	39,000
Mortality rate in the first month of life per babies born alive ¹ (2012)	21/1000
Preterm birth rate⁷(2012)	11.4%
Rank for preterm birth rate ⁷ (2012)	70
Number of babies born preterm⁵ (2012)	210,300
Rank for number of babies born preterm ⁵ (2012)	12
Number of deaths due to preterm birth complications⁶ (2012)	13,900

Share of newborn deaths caused by preterm birth complications⁴ (2012)	36%
Demand for family planning satisfied ⁸	58%
Antenatal care of four or more visits⁸ (2010)	43%
Skilled attendant at delivery ⁸ (2010)	49%
Mothers & babies who received postnatal care within two days of birth⁹ (2010)	31%
Women initiating breastfeeding within one hour of birth ⁸ (2010)	49%
Exclusive breastfeeding for infants in first six months⁸ (2010)	50%



Photo: Gates Foundation

References

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4. Calculated from estimated number of newborn deaths from UNICEF (2013), "[Committing to child survival: a promise renewed](#)", New York: UNICEF and estimated number of deaths from direct complications of preterm birth in 2012 from Liu L, Johnson HL, Cousens S, Lawn JE. et al. (2012), "[Global, regional, and national causes of child mortality in 2000–2010: an updated systematic analysis](#)", The Lancet, Vol 379:9832, pp 2151-61. N.B. Number of deaths from direct complications of preterm birth in 2012 were calculated assuming no change in the relative proportion of deaths by cause since 2010.
5. Calculated from Blencowe H, Cousens S, Oestergaard M, Chou D, Moller AB, Narwal R, Adler A, Garcia CV, Rohde S, Say L, Lawn JE. (2012), "[National, regional and worldwide estimates of preterm birth in the year 2010 with time trends since 1990 for selected countries: a systematic analysis and implications](#)", The Lancet , Vol 379:9832, pp 2162-72; and UN Population Estimates and Projections Section, "[World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision](#)".
6. Calculated from Liu L, Johnson HL, Cousens S, Lawn JE. et al. (2012), "[Global, regional, and national causes of child mortality in 2000–2010: an updated systematic analysis](#)", The Lancet, Vol 379:9832, pp 2151-61. N.B. Number of deaths from direct complications of preterm birth in 2012 were calculated assuming no change in the relative proportion of deaths by cause since 2010.
7. Figure calculated from Blencowe H, Cousens S, Oestergaard M, Chou D, Moller AB, Narwal R, Adler A, Garcia CV, Rohde S, Say L, Lawn JE. (2012), "[National, regional and worldwide estimates of preterm birth in the year 2010 with time trends since 1990 for selected countries: a systematic analysis and implications](#)", The Lancet , Vol 379:9832, pp 2162-72
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