



# World Prematurity Day: 17 November 2013

One in three newborn deaths are due to preterm birth complications.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> 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.



Photo: Gates Foundation

## Facts and Figures on Preterm Birth in Sierra Leone

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

@ Prematurity is one of the leading causes of mortality in the first month of life in Sierra Leone, with one in three newborn deaths due to preterm birth complications<sup>4</sup>

@ Every year, **21,200** babies are born before 37 weeks of pregnancy are completed<sup>5</sup>

@ Of these babies, **3,300** die every year<sup>6</sup>

<b>Number of newborn deaths in the first month of life<sup>1</sup>(2012)</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>Share of newborn deaths caused by preterm birth complications<sup>4</sup> (2012)</b>	<b>33%</b>
Mortality rate in the first month of life per babies born alive <sup>7</sup> (2008)	36/1000	Demand for family planning satisfied (2008) <sup>9</sup>	29%
<b>Preterm birth rate<sup>8</sup>(2012)</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>Antenatal care of four or more visits<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>56%</b>
Rank for preterm birth rate <sup>8</sup> (2012)	97	Skilled attendant at delivery <sup>9</sup> (2008)	42%
<b>Number of babies born preterm<sup>5</sup>(2012)</b>	<b>21,200</b>	<b>Mothers who received postnatal care within two days of birth<sup>7</sup> (2008)</b>	<b>58%</b>
Rank for number of babies born preterm <sup>5</sup> (2012)	84	Women initiating breastfeeding within one hour of birth <sup>9</sup> (2010)	45%
<b>Number of deaths due to preterm birth complications<sup>6</sup> (2012)</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>Exclusive breastfeeding for infants in first six months<sup>9</sup> (2010)</b>	<b>32%</b>

## References

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