

KNOW BEFORE YOU KNOCK



PREMATURITY

Every child and family has unique aspects of their situation, experience, and diagnosis. This page is intended to provide a general overview but is not attempting to represent every situation or child you encounter. Every family deserves your expertise to assess and adapt your prior knowledge. This resource is best viewed electronically.

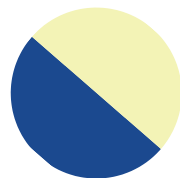
DEFINITION

Any infant born before 37 weeks gestation (1)

PREVALENCE

CDC: Average 1:10

In 2022, preterm birth among Black women (14.6%) was about 50% higher than White (9.4%) or Hispanic women (10.1%) (1)



CONSIDERATIONS THAT MAY IMPACT SERVICES

- Babies may attend NICU follow up appointments for regular full developmental assessments until age 2. Be sure to prepare caregivers for these visits. Encourage videos, discuss development and adjusted age again.
- Decreased immune function (12)
- Parental Stress (13)

LANGUAGE TO USE/AVOID

- Know how to adjust for prematurity and educate parents to not expect milestones based on their chronological age
- Avoid commenting on how small the baby may be

NATIONAL/STATE ORGS

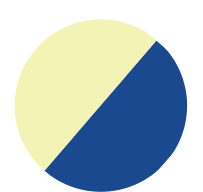
March of Dimes is a national nonprofit that is: "...committed to ending preventable maternal health risks and death, ending preventable preterm birth and infant death and closing the health equity gap for all families." (2)

TOP RESOURCES

- Transition to Home
- Preterm babies | March of Dimes
- DEC position statement
- Article: The Relationship Between Motor Delays and Language Development in Very Low Birthweight Premature Children at 18 Months Corrected Age

DIFFERENCES THAT MAY BE PRESENT

- Sleep disruptions (3)
- Asymmetrical limb use (CP) (4)
- Feeding challenges (5)
- Vision-Retinopathy of Prematurity (RoP) and depth perception (6)
- Attention span (7)
- Sensory processing differences (8)
- Medical trauma (9)
- Plagiocephaly (flattened head shape) (10)
- Seizures (11)



SUPPLEMENTARY TESTS THAT COULD BE USED OR SEEN IN MEDICAL RECORDS

- Harris Infant Neuromotor Test
- Newborn Behavioral Observations System

REFERENCE LIST

January 2025