

THE COST OF PRETERM BIRTH



Hamilton County's preterm birth rate is markedly higher than that of Ohio or the nation. In addition to significant human costs, such as higher rates of infant mortality, there are also economic costs, including healthcare, education, and potential future earnings.



PRETERM BIRTH

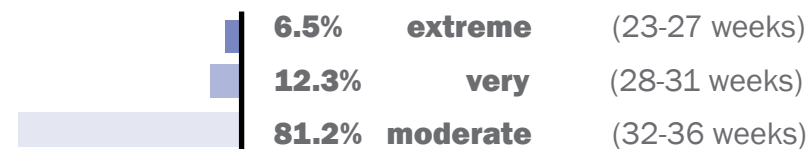
annual costs and potential savings in Hamilton County



More than
1,500

infants are born preterm in Hamilton County each year, a rate well above that of the nation.

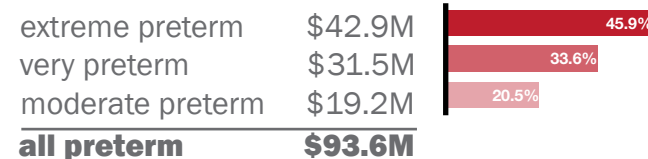
Preterm Births by gestational age Hamilton County, Ohio



Annual Costs in Hamilton County: (in millions of dollars)

Healthcare

Initial Hospitalization



Education

K-12 School Spending



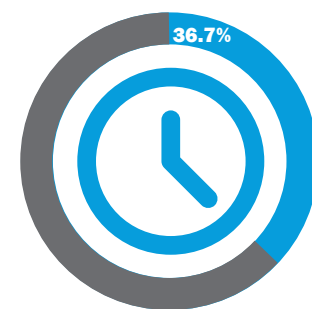
Income

Reduced Earnings

all preterm \$294.8M

“Many of our greatest challenges as a community can be linked to our preterm birth problem. It reflects underlying societal failures and drives the perpetuation of those failures. If we want education, poverty and disparity to improve, we have to start by reducing preterm birth.”

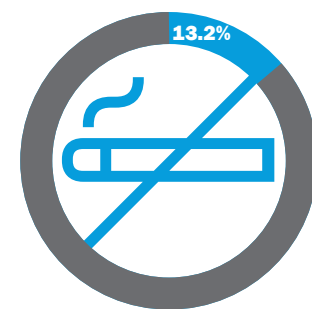
James M. Greenberg, MD, Director, Division of Neonatology, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center



Spacing savings

\$7.5M

Each year, more than 1,200 women become pregnant less than one year after giving birth, posing increased risks of preterm birth. Encouraging spacing of at least one year could lower preterm birth risk and **reduce initial hospital costs by 36.7 percent.**



Smoking savings

\$2.6M

Each year, more than 1,200 women continue to smoke during pregnancy. Helping these women to quit smoking by their second trimester could **reduce initial hospital costs by 13.2 percent.**

**total annual costs:
\$402M**

Extending pregnancy by just one week for each preterm birth in Hamilton County would **reduce annual initial hospital costs by over**

\$25M

Solving a problem as big as preterm birth can seem overwhelming. But, our community can see big impacts with even small changes. **Just one more week** in the womb can lead to a very different life. Help us strive for those extra days and weeks until, eventually, every baby is born full term.

Together, we can change this story.

Join the fight at www.cradlecincinnati.org

To view the full report, please visit www.cradlecincinnati.org/costs

EconomicsCenter

The Economics Center helps community leaders make better decisions to strengthen local economies and improve the quality of life throughout the region.



Cradle Cincinnati is a collective of city leaders with the bold vision that every child born in Hamilton County will live to see his or her first birthday.

Support provided by the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.



Photo credits: **front cover:** Craig Dockery **all others:** Jonathan Willis