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.
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

- 6.5% extreme (23-27 weeks)
- 12.3% very (28-31 weeks)
- 81.2% moderate (32-36 weeks)

**Annual Costs** in Hamilton County:

- Healthcare
  - Initial Hospitalization:
    - extreme preterm: $42.9M
    - very preterm: $31.5M
    - moderate preterm: $19.2M
    - all preterm: $93.6M

- Education
  - K-12 School Spending:
    - extreme preterm: $6.1M
    - very preterm: $3.6M
    - moderate preterm: $3.4M
    - all preterm: $13.1M

- Income
  - Reduced Earnings:
    - all preterm: $294.8M

**Total annual costs:** $402M

“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 reducing initial hospital costs by 36.7 percent.

- **Smoking savings**
  - $2.6M reducing initial hospital costs by 13.2 percent.

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

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.

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