

GLOBAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Events

Public Health Crisis at the Border: The Mexican Perspective ([Link](#))

Nov. 7, 12:00-5:00pm, CGIS South - Belfer Case Study Room

Child and Maternal Health Panel

Nov. 18, 4:00-6:00pm, Quincy House - Kates-Tobin Room

November 17, 2019: World Prematurity Day

World Prematurity Day is observed on November 17 each year to raise awareness of preterm birth and the health concerns of preterm babies and their families. Approximately 15 million babies are born prematurely each year, accounting for 1 in 10 of all births worldwide.

In this issue of the Global Health Newsletter, our student spotlight and news stories will therefore focus on Maternal and Child Health.

Get Involved

Looking to get involved in global health?
The following clubs are open to new members!

Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children

Every other Monday, 6:30-7:30pm, Sever 304

Green Medicine Initiative

Saturdays, 5:00-6:00pm, Boylston 105

Harvard Health Policy Review

Saturdays, 2:00-3:00pm, Emerson 106

Harvard Undergraduate Global Health Forum

Thursdays, 7:00-8:00pm, Sever 101

Partners in Health Engage

Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30pm, PBHA Leighton Room

MEDLIFE

Saturdays, 12:30-1:30pm, Boylston Fong Auditorium



**"With age comes the understanding and appreciation of
your most important asset, your health."**

- Oprah Winfrey

Events in Boston

Arlington International Film Festival ([Link](#))

Nov. 7, 8:00am - Nov. 10, 8:45pm, Capitol Theatre

"Bending the Arc" Documentary Screening ([Link](#))

Nov. 15, 6:00-8:00pm, Broad Institute Main Auditorium - 415 Main St., Cambridge, MA 02142

WorldBoston: Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future? ([Link](#))

Nov. 20, 6:00-7:30pm, Boston Public Library Rabb Hall - 700 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116

Student Spotlight: Serin Baek, HGHI Summer Fellow

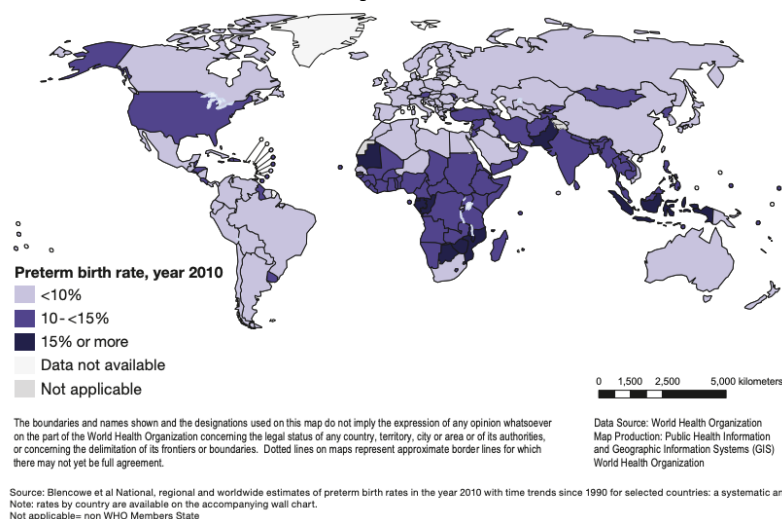
"This past summer I was given the opportunity to go to Mwanza, Tanzania and work as an intern at the Touch Foundation, an international non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care in Tanzania by implementing programs in Tanzania's Lake Zone area and then scaling up nationally and internationally. I provided a lot of assistance with two of their main programs: Healthcare Technology Management (HTM) and M-Mama (their maternal healthcare program). HTM recognized the importance of hospital engineers because without engineers, there would be no maintenance on hospital equipment, and doctors would not be able to perform without functioning equipment. Through the M-Mama program, I was able to help with trainings for nurses and work on their project to improve prenatal care for expecting mothers. I specifically worked on the Astra Zeneca subprogram of M-Mama, where we focused on improving prenatal and postnatal care related to blood pressure. We found that pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, although rare, plagued a number of pregnancies within the Lake Zone area of Tanzania. Pre-eclampsia and eclampsia are dangerous pregnancy complications that can arise from high blood pressure and are treatable with the proper training and resources. I helped organize trainings for nurses at various local hospitals about pre-eclampsia and eclampsia and proper treatment techniques as well as visit different hospitals and dispensaries to collect data. I gained many valuable experiences during my time with Touch Foundation and hope to continue to do work in global health in the future! Asante sana (thank you very much)."

Asante sana to Serin for sharing her valuable summer experience with us!



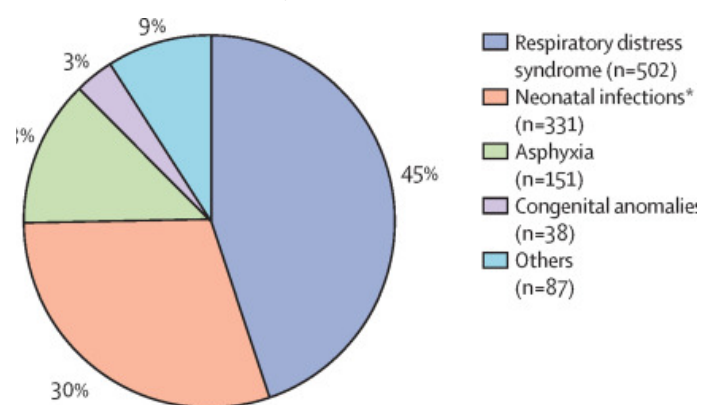
[REPORT] Born Too Soon: The Global Action Report on Preterm Birth (Link)

Global burden of preterm birth in 2010



[ARTICLE] Major Causes of Death in Preterm Infants in Selected Hospitals in Ethiopia (Link)

Distribution of primary cause of death of preterm infants



In the News

[PROJECT] Preventing Preterm Birth Initiative (Link)

- \$20 million program
- Three sets of projects for the prevention of preterm births in low-income countries:
 - Research prevention strategies
 - Research biological mechanisms leading to preterm births
 - Develop new field sites and harmonize biorepositories

[ARTICLE] Use of Antibiotics to Reduce Preterm Birth (Link)



"Data suggest that in low-income settings where women have poor access to prenatal care where infections can be effectively diagnosed and treated, the risks of adverse outcomes associated with maternal infection and risks of preterm birth are increased."

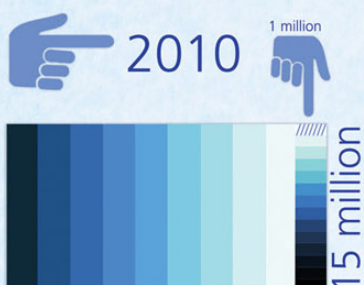
BORN TOO SOON

FACTS ABOUT GLOBAL PRETERM BIRTH RATES AND INTERVENTIONS, FROM THE SUPPLEMENT **BORN TOO SOON** PUBLISHED IN *REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH*

#B2Soon

BIRTHS WORLDWIDE

Over 1 in 10 births were born preterm in 2010 (15 million). Of these, 1 million die as a result of preterm birth

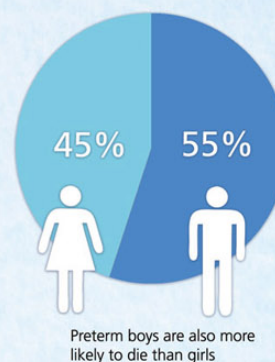


A RISING THREAT

Preterm birth is on the rise in most countries, and is now the second leading cause of death globally for children under five, after pneumonia



PRETERM BIRTHS WORLDWIDE



FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PRETERM BIRTH



Mother has low BMI

Limited access to fertility treatment



Excessive physical work



Smoking



STRESS



Excessive alcohol consumption



Multiple pregnancies and short inter-pregnancy intervals

INFECTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH PRETERM BIRTH

- *Syphilis
- *Malaria
- *HIV
- *Urinary tract infections



Age of mother: too young or advanced maternal age

BENEFITS OF BREASTFEEDING



Breastfeeding within an hour after birth is associated with better survival and health outcomes for preterm babies



- Improved chances of survival
- Immune system benefits
- Reduced bowel problems
- Brain development benefits

All information taken from the *Born too Soon* supplement, *Reproductive Health* 2013, 10(Suppl 1) available at: <http://bit.ly/1cMwanT>

Contributors

The Global Health Newsletter is a joint initiative of the Harvard Global Health Institute's Student Advisory Council (SAC), HUGHF, and FIMRC.

SAC Member Organizations:

Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC)

Global Alliance for Medical Innovation (GAMI)

Green Medicine Initiative (GMI)

Harvard Health Policy Review (HHPR)

Harvard Undergraduate Global Health Forum (HUGHF)

Harvard Undergraduate Global Surgery (HUGS)

Kidney Disease Screening and Awareness Program (KDSAP)

MEDLIFE

Partners in Health Engage (PIHE)

Raise Uganda Now!

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