



The Premie Issue:

Preterm birth is when a baby is born too early, before 37 weeks of pregnancy have been completed. A developing baby goes through important growth throughout pregnancy— including in the final months and weeks. For example, the brain, lungs, and liver need the final weeks of pregnancy to fully develop. Babies born too early (especially before 32 weeks) have higher rates of death and disability. In 2015, preterm birth and low birth weight accounted for about 17% of infant deaths. Babies who survive may have

- Breathing problems
- Feeding difficulties
- [Cerebral palsy](#)
- [Developmental delay](#)
- [Vision problems](#)
- [Hearing problems](#)

Preterm births may also take an emotional toll and be a financial burden for families. **Liyah Premature Infant Care Organization (LPICO)**, Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 organization incorporated in the state of Georgia. **LPICO** was founded on March 27, 2017 in an effort to raise awareness and support for premature infants (preemies) in deprived communities. The organization centers on these key facts taken from the World Health Organization (WHO):

- Every year, 15 million preemies are born around the world.
- Premie birth complications are the leading cause of death among children under five.
- Three-fourths of preemies who die could be saved with cost effective interventions.
- More than 90% of extreme preemies (less than 28 weeks) in low-income countries die, while less than 10% of extreme preemies in high-income countries die within a few days of life.

References: <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/pretermbirth.htm>
<http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/preterm-birth>
<https://www.marchofdimes.org/complications/retinopathy-of-prematurity.aspx>