

The Economic Impact of Prematurity

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premature infant
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The Cost to Business (Cost to Health Insurance Plans)

- March of Dimes 2007 report:
 - Costs for a preterm baby were more than 10 times as high as they were for a healthy full-term baby
 - \$4,551 for a healthy baby from birth to first birthday
 - \$49,033 for a preterm baby from birth to first birthday
 - Medical costs for mother and baby were four times as high as they were for healthy full-term infant
 - \$15,047 costs for full-term infant
 - \$64,713 costs for premature infant

March of Dimes. About Prematurity: The Cost to Business. 2009
http://www.marchofdimes.com/prematurity/index_about_15349.asp. Accessed on September 21, 2009

Cost of Prematurity to Employers

Newborn and Maternal Costs, by Newborn Diagnosis

	Total Payment	Inpatient	Outpatient	Prescriptions
All Births	\$21,328	\$15,385	\$5,205	\$739
Uncomplicated	\$15,047	\$10,109	\$4,342	\$596
Premature/Low Birth Weight	\$64,713	\$52,781	\$10,132	\$1,801
Other Complications	\$22,183	\$15,757	\$5,691	\$636

Source: Thomson Reuters. *The Cost of Prematurity and Complicated Deliveries to U.S. Employers. Report prepared for the March of Dimes. October 29, 2008.* The Cost of Prematurity to Employers. March of Dimes Foundation, 2008.

Financial Costs

- In 2005, the cost of prematurity in the US was \$26.2 billion
 - \$51,600 per premature infant
 - not including lifetime costs of care and services
- In 2004, costs for initial hospitalization was \$15 billion
 - not including cost of rehospitalization or long term problems

16 Billion in the 1st yr of life.

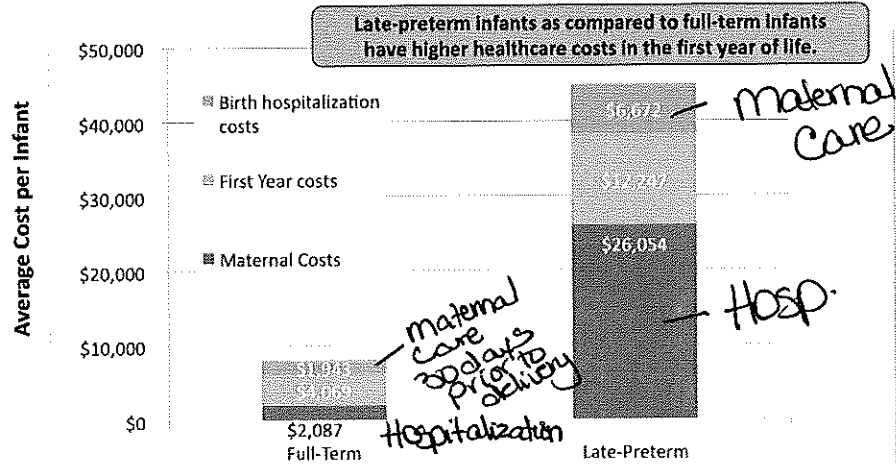
Institute of Medicine. *Preterm Birth: Causes, Consequences and Prevention.* Washington, DC: 2006. National Academies Press; 2006.

Persistence of Morbidity and Cost Differences Between Late-Preterm and Term Infants During First Year of Life

- Aim
 - To examine the healthcare impact of late-preterm infants vs full-term infants during the first year of life
 - Healthcare costs
 - Rates of discharge after birth hospitalization
 - Rates of re-hospitalization after birth hospitalization
 - Causes of re-hospitalization
- Methods
 - Retrospective cohort study of late-preterm and term infants enrolled in large national database, born in 2004 (N=75,640)
 - 37,970 had ≥1 year of continuous enrollment
 - 33,745 term infants
 - 4,225 born preterm
 - 1,683 late-preterm (33–36 wGA) infants

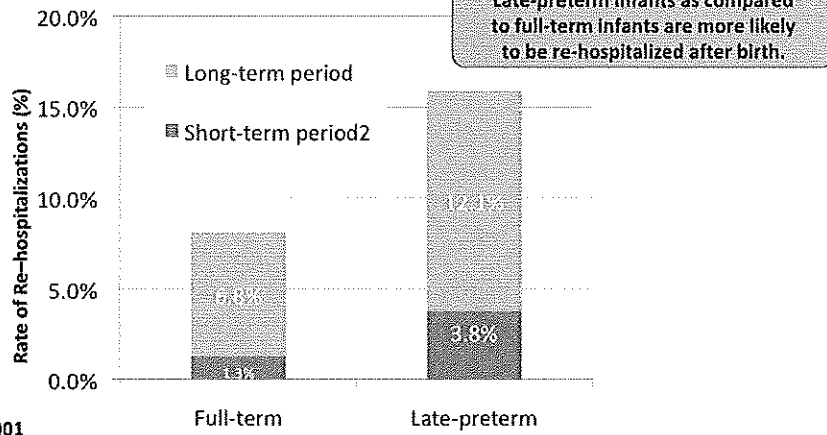
McLaurin KK, et al. Pediatrics 2009;123:653–659.

Total First Year Costs Full-Term and Late-Preterm Infants



McLaurin KK, et al. Pediatrics 2009;123:653–659.

Rate of Re-hospitalizations Full-Term and Late-Preterm Infants



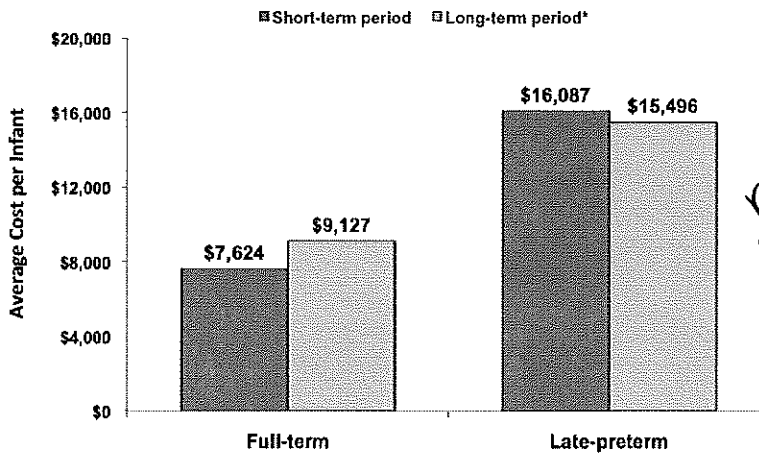
*P<0.0001

*Short-term period = birth discharge-14 days;
Long-term period = 15-365 days.

McLaurin KK, et al. Pediatrics 2009;123:653-659.



Re-hospitalizations Costs Full-Term and Late-Preterm Infants

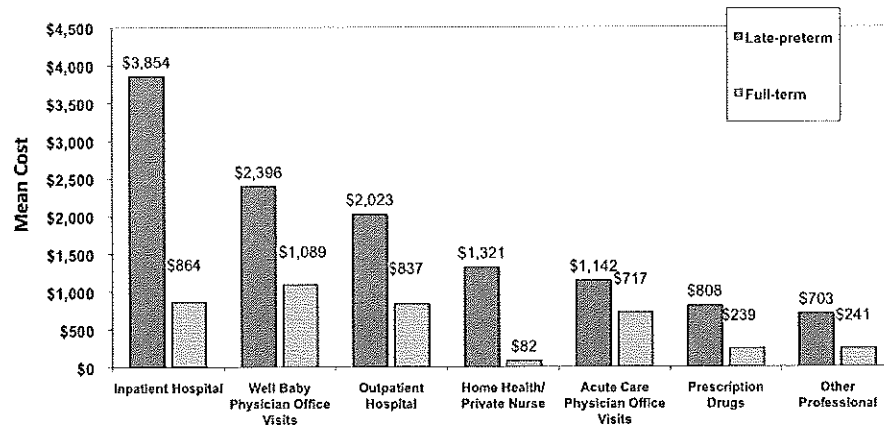


*Short-term period = birth discharge - 14 days;
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McLaurin KK, et al. Pediatrics 2009;123:653-659.



First Year Costs After Birth Discharge



McLaurin KK, et al. *Pediatrics* 2009;123:653-659.

Summary

- Costs of premature birth continue well after hospital discharge
 - Costs for a preterm baby were more than 10 times higher as they were for a healthy full-term baby
- Late preterm births constitute a significant part of the costs

Debate between delaying inductions
and risking still birth.

Still birth connected to uncontrolled
diabetes.