

## PRETERM BIRTH

### Definition

According to the World Health Organization, Preterm Birth (PTB) is defined as birth before 37 weeks of gestation.<sup>1</sup>

### Importance

It is an important public health indicator that occurs for various reasons such as: infections, maternal diseases, multiple pregnancy and/or induction of labor or cesarean section. At the individual level, PTB is associated with increased neonatal mortality, respiratory problems, feeding difficulties, stunted growth, and infections. As well as increased risk of developmental disabilities, including cerebral palsy and retinopathy of prematurity, and long-term chronic conditions that appear in adulthood, such as cardiovascular disease<sup>2</sup>

### Data sources

#### - Births Subsystem (SINAC)

The SINAC aims to integrate information on births in the country based on the data obtained from the birth certificate. Birth certificate includes information on newborn characteristics, maternal sociodemographic characteristics, and prenatal care.

#### - National Population Council (CONAPO)

The 2010 and 2020 censuses and 2015 intercensal information were used to determine the marginalization index and area of residence at the national, state, and local levels. Taking into account the following: 2010 census for the years 2008-2012, 2015 for 2013-2017 and 2020 census for the years 2018-2021.

- National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)

INEGI's geostatistical framework was used to combine the SINAC and CONAPO databases.

### Estimation of indicators

The incidence of preterm birth was estimated at the national, state, and municipal levels, according to the following maternal characteristics: area of residence, marginalization index, age, parity, education, prenatal care, number of prenatal check-ups, type of product, and order of birth, as well as characteristics of live newborns: gestational age and sex of the newborn

Incidence was estimated for the years 2008-2021. A total of 28,186,885 birth records were included for analysis.

Year	Incidence	Year	Incidence
2008	6.04	2015	6.48
2009	6.04	2016	6.68
2010	6.08	2017	6.81
2011	6.63	2018	6.79
2012	6.21	2019	7.05
2013	6.20	2020	6.92
2014	6.42	2021	7.46
		2022	7.70

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. Preterm births [Internet]. 2022 [cited 2022 Nov 12]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/preterm-birth>

<sup>2</sup> WHO recommendations for care of the preterm or low birth weight infant. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

---

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. Preterm births [Internet]. 2022 [cited 2022 Nov 12]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/preterm-birth>

<sup>2</sup> WHO recommendations for care of the preterm or low birth weight infant. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO