

GAPPS collaborates with leading global stakeholders to accelerate progress in maternal, newborn and child health.

Help us make every birth a healthy birth.

www.gapps.org

Preterm Birth & Stillbirth: The Challenge

An estimated 15 million babies are born too soon every year, and preterm birth is the leading cause of death for all children under age 5 worldwide. Babies born before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy have increased risks for serious infections, cerebral palsy, and respiratory, vision, hearing and developmental problems.

In the U.S., almost one in eight babies is born too soon. And disparities persist: The rate of preterm birth among infants born to black mothers is 1.6 times higher than that of infants born to white mothers.

There are also large disparities between costs and research; preterm birth is a leading U.S. health care expenditure (\$26B), yet preterm birth research ranks 102nd in NIH funding.

Additionally, a staggering 2.6 million stillbirths occur each year. These pregnancy losses are not considered in most health policies or goals. Most stillbirths occur in low- and middle-income countries. One million stillbirths occur during childbirth, and many could be prevented with current interventions that are not readily available in these settings.

What Is Needed

We urgently need better data and tools, and more research champions. Many causes, consequences, and solutions remain unknown or untold.

About GAPPS

Seattle Children's launched the Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth (GAPPS) to address these challenges. Our mission is to lead a collaborative, global effort to increase awareness and accelerate innovative research and interventions that will improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes.

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Innovative Global Health Solutions

Our Focus

GAPPS strengthens collaborations in maternal, newborn and child health, and develops a unified, global focus on preterm births and stillbirths.

- Make every birth count
- Improve maternal and newborn health outcomes
- Translate discoveries into diagnostic, treatment and prevention strategies
- Build global health research capacity
- Advocate for policy changes and increased resources

Preventing Preterm Birth Initiative

The Preventing Preterm Birth initiative (PPB) is a Grand Challenge in Global Health administered by GAPPS. It was developed to advance understanding of the mechanisms leading to preterm birth to effectively identify women at risk and novel targets for prevention throughout the world.

The PPB accelerates research by funding projects focused on discovering and developing interventions to prevent preterm birth, with a focus on prevention strategies applicable in low-resource, high-burden settings. Prospective studies of pregnant women in low-income countries are connected with a consortium of innovative researchers investigating causes of preterm birth and novel biomarkers and methods for prevention.

Learn more at www.gapps.org/healthybirth.

Every Premie—SCALE

Every Premie—SCALE (Scaling, Catalyzing, Advocating, Learning, and Evidence-Driven) is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) cooperative agreement designed to provide practical, catalytic and scalable approaches for expanding uptake of preterm birth and low birth weight interventions in 23 USAID priority countries in Africa and Asia.

It is being implemented by a consortium of GAPPS, Project Concern International, and the American College of Nurse-Midwives. Learn more at www.everypreemie.org.

GAPPS Repository

Researchers worldwide have a critical need for diverse, high-quality, prenatal and postnatal information.

The GAPPS Repository is a biobank of specimens linked with data from pregnant women and newborns. This collection provides a vital resource for researchers aiming to understand and prevent preterm birth and stillbirth. The GAPPS Repository is also accessible to researchers studying related maternal, newborn and child health issues.

Learn more: www.gapps.org/repository or email gappsrepository@seattlechildrens.org.

Global Coalition to Advance Preterm birth Research (GCAPR)

GCAPR was founded by GAPPS, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the March of Dimes Foundation. Its mission is to identify and advance priority research through expanded networks, communications, and collaborations among organizations to fund the research needed to reduce preterm birth. Find out more at www.gcapr.org.

