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## Nearly 1 in 10 premature births in California could be prevented by reducing particulate matter pollution

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Air pollution can have many serious effects on health, starting from the very first stages of life. The California Environmental Health Tracking Program **analyzed data** to better understand the costs of premature birth due to preventable particulate matter pollution.

### **New findings show high costs of premature birth**

By reducing harmful air pollution in California, we estimate that 3,062 premature births could be prevented each year, saving \$1.1 billion dollars annually.

# 1 in 10 premature births

## could be prevented by reducing air pollution in California

### Reducing particulate matter would prevent over 3,000 premature births each year

Costly medical bills



saving \$170 million in medical costs

Lower IQ scores



&

Lower lifetime earnings



avoiding \$980 million in lost lifetime earnings

#### Sources of preventable particulate matter



Industry



Transportation



Wood smoke

#### Premature birth is still a problem

A child's chance of surviving premature birth (birth before 37 weeks of gestation) has dramatically increased due to advances in medical care. Yet, premature birth is the leading cause of death and illness around the time of birth. In California the burden of premature birth is unfairly distributed, with black women 46% more likely to give birth prematurely compared to all other women.

#### Air pollution is linked to premature birth

Research has suggested that unequal exposure to pollution is one reason for racial disparities in premature birth, and that reductions in air pollution may greatly benefit impacted communities. Reducing air pollution is an important

strategy for preventing premature birth.

For more information on air pollution's impact on premature birth, please visit [www.cehtp.org/pretermbirthcosts](http://www.cehtp.org/pretermbirthcosts).

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