

# PTBi California



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I am an African-American woman living in Bayview, and someone is getting murdered in my neighborhood every week. I am stressed and pregnant – what do I do? Doctors have names of medications and conditions in their heads; why not the names of stress and relaxation groups in my neighborhood? I could have benefited from that. Not every treatment is a pill.

- Study Participant, PTBi-CA

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## California Preterm Birth Initiative

### Mission

Our mission is to eliminate racial disparities in preterm birth and improve health outcomes for babies born too soon, through research, partnerships and education grounded in community wisdom.

### Vision

We believe all parents deserve healthy pregnancies, and all newborns deserve healthy starts in life.

## What We Are Facing

More than one-third of infant deaths in California are related to being born too soon, and babies born prematurely who do survive can face a lifetime of health complications. The stark reality of preterm birth in California is one of health inequity. While 1 in 12 babies are born too soon, the rate of preterm birth among Black women is 47 percent higher than the rate among all other women. We assert that structural and interpersonal racism along with other key social determinants are important drivers of an epidemic that disproportionately affects women of color in California and across the United States.

## Research Rooted in Community

The California Preterm Birth Initiative lives at the intersection of research, community partnerships and education to create positive change for communities experiencing the highest burden of preterm birth. Collaboration is at the heart of our work: we work with our community advisory boards to help determine our research priorities.

We're a community of researchers, parents, lactation consultants, doulas, nurses, doctors, community practitioners, public servants and innovative thinkers determined to change this persistent and urgent issue.

Our work is deeply rooted in place, fostering community-academic partnerships, and deep collaboration with organizations and agencies outside of the health sector whose work impacts the lives and health of families across our communities.

California

Preterm Birth Initiative

UCSF

University of California  
San Francisco



## Our Research Spans Four Primary Aims:

### Aim 1:

Discovery and Precision Health Focused Research

### Aim 2:

Intervention Across the Reproductive Lifecourse

### Aim 3:

Collective Impact

### Aim 4:

Communications, Collaboration and Capacity Building (C3)

[pretermbirthca.ucsf.edu](http://pretermbirthca.ucsf.edu)

## Our Role

The California Preterm Birth Initiative conducts and funds transdisciplinary research across the reproductive life course to probe risk and resilience factors and to identify promising interventions that can turn the curve on the preterm birth epidemic.

We strive to address questions that have been prioritized by families who have experienced preterm birth, and vetted by our community advisory boards. By calling out racism and mending broken systems we're addressing deep racial disparities in preterm birth and creating a healthier future for everyone.

## Spotlight: Collective Impact

Addressing the stark health inequities we see in preterm birth rates in California requires partners – beyond the healthcare sector – to focus on key social determinants of health, and to improve access to high-quality systems of care and support. All partners need to be aligned on key issues and interventions. It also requires new strategies to mobilize community members to learn about the physical and policy environments that threaten their health and to develop their capacity to bring about change.

The California Preterm Birth Initiative aims to turn the curve on preterm birth by harnessing the potential of collective impact (CI) to catalyze action by multiple stakeholders, including neighborhood associations, government, academia, health and social service organizations, faith-based groups, and the media. We launched CI in Fresno in 2015 and followed in San Francisco in 2017.

## Five Conditions for Successful Collective Impact

