The official WHO estimates of preterm birth are an essential global resource for estimating the burden of preterm birth at global, regional and national levels. Two previous systematic analyses of preterm birth prevalence and incidence have been published. The most recent estimates were published in 2012 (covering data for the period 1990 – 2010). However, they now require updating in light of new data, continued improvements in statistical modelling methods, and the forthcoming conclusion of the MDG initiative in 2015. The aim of this activity is to develop global, regional and national estimates (levels and trends) of preterm birth for all countries, for the period 1990 to 2013.

The objectives are:
1. To conduct a systematic review of all available data on preterm birth;
2. To synthesize all available data and conduct modelling to develop estimates of levels and trends in preterm birth at national, regional and global levels; and
3. To disseminate preterm birth estimates, in order to support WHO Member States and other entities in the development of public health programmes and policies.

Geographic location
Global

Main deliverables
Updated estimates of levels and trends in preterm birth

Partners
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WHO

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