Premature birth occurs prior to completing 37 weeks of pregnancy. Roughly 12 percent, or 1 in 8 births are pre-term. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, babies born prematurely are at higher risk of needing hospitalization and having long-term health problems than babies born at full gestation. Additionally, these babies account for 30 percent of infant mortalities. Certain life factors place women at greater risk of delivering pre-term, including late or no prenatal care, tobacco use, use of alcohol/illicit drugs, domestic violence, inadequate social support and stress. African American women, women under age 17 or over age 35, and women living in poverty are also at an increased risk of delivering pre-term.