Premature Births: Problem Analysis Diagram

Social/Economic/Policy Level

Social Issues
- Racial & social discrimination
- Poverty
- Cultural practices

Economic Issues
- High unemployment due to federal policies
- Lack of workplace regulations for pregnant women

Environmental Factors
- Lack of regulation of toxins harmful to pregnant women

Health Care
- High cost/ unaffordable insurance
- Lack of public health education programs on prematurity prevention/recognition of premature labor symptoms
- Limited availability of health services
- Complex system

Education
- Poor education for low-income residents in public schools

Family/Community/Institutional Level

Community
- Unaffordable housing
- Lack of jobs
- Transportation problems
- High poverty rate
- Environmental toxins
- Unavailable healthy foods
- Single mother norm

Health Care System
- Lack of adequate health insurance
- Limited access to health/dental care
- Lack of affordable family planning
- Lack of culturally sensitive services
- Lack of prevention educational materials & counseling on symptoms of premature labor
- Early elective deliveries <39 weeks

Maternal Behaviors
- Tobacco use
- Alcohol/substance abuse
- Poor nutrition
- Untreated maternal infections
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Multiple abortions

Maternal Characteristics
- Stress/ mental health issues
- Chronic medical conditions: e.g. diabetes hypertension
- Lack of knowledge about symptoms of preterm labor/preterm labor risks
- Lack of social support
- Teen mother
- Previous premature birth
- Lack of prenatal care
- African American ancestry
- Short inter-pregnancy interval

Individual Level

Genetic/ congenital abnormalities

Exposure to cigarette smoke, alcohol or illicit drugs in utero

Uterine Factors
- Uterine trauma secondary to intentional/unintentional injury
- Cervical or uterine anomaly
- Abruptio placenta/placenta previa
- Chorioamnionitis

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Target Outcome(s):
- Premature births; preconception health; maternal health & mental wellness; provider & public education

Consequences:
- Cerebral Palsy; Intellectual Disabilities; Visual Problems: Hearing Loss, Respiratory Problems (acute & chronic); Feeding & Digestive problems, High cost for care over lifetime

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