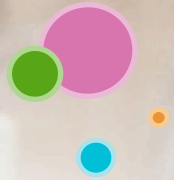


Babies, Business, and the Bottom Line

Gerard E. Carrino, PhD, MPH



Florida Health Care
Affordability Summit
February 10, 2015

march  of dimes®



stronger, healthier babies

75 years
in the making

1970s
Newborn
intensive care

1980s
Surfactant

1960s
Newborn screening

1990s
Folic acid

1950s
Polio vaccine

today
Preventing
premature births



The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.



A baby's brain at 35 weeks weighs only two-thirds of what it will weigh at 39 to 40 weeks.



35 weeks



39 to 40 weeks



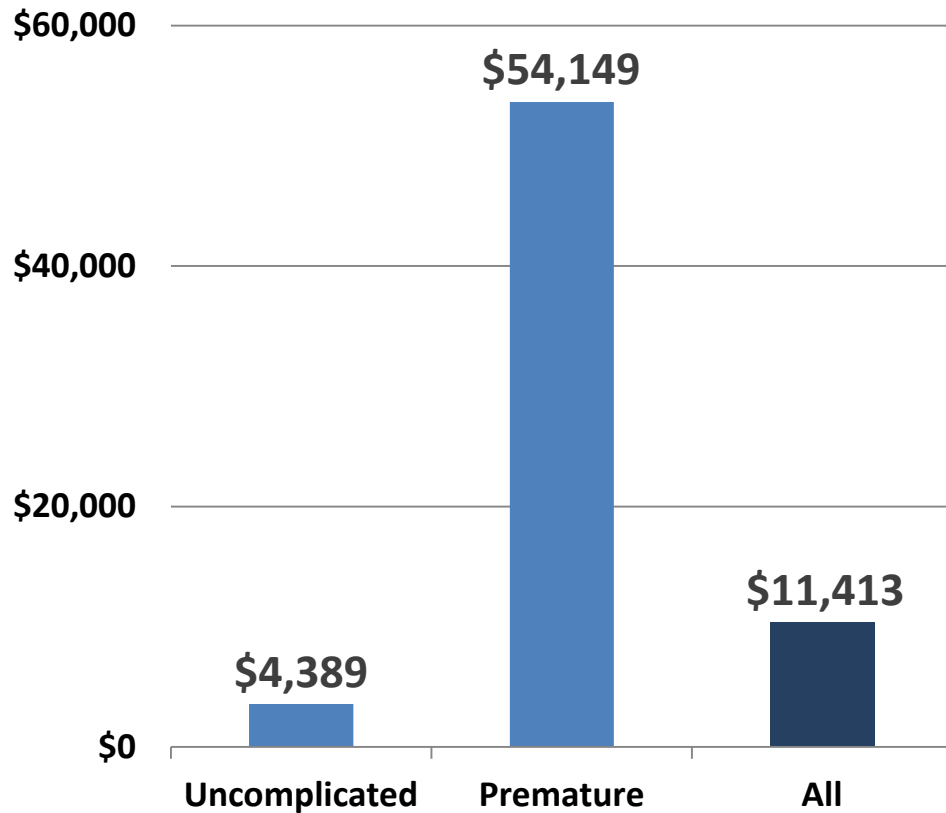
Cost of Prematurity to Florida's Businesses

Prematurity...

- Affects 13.7 percent of babies covered by Florida's employer health plans
- Costs Florida's employers more than \$1 billion annually
- Costs individual companies thousands of dollars in absenteeism and lost productivity
- Florida ranks 46th among states on preterm birth rates.

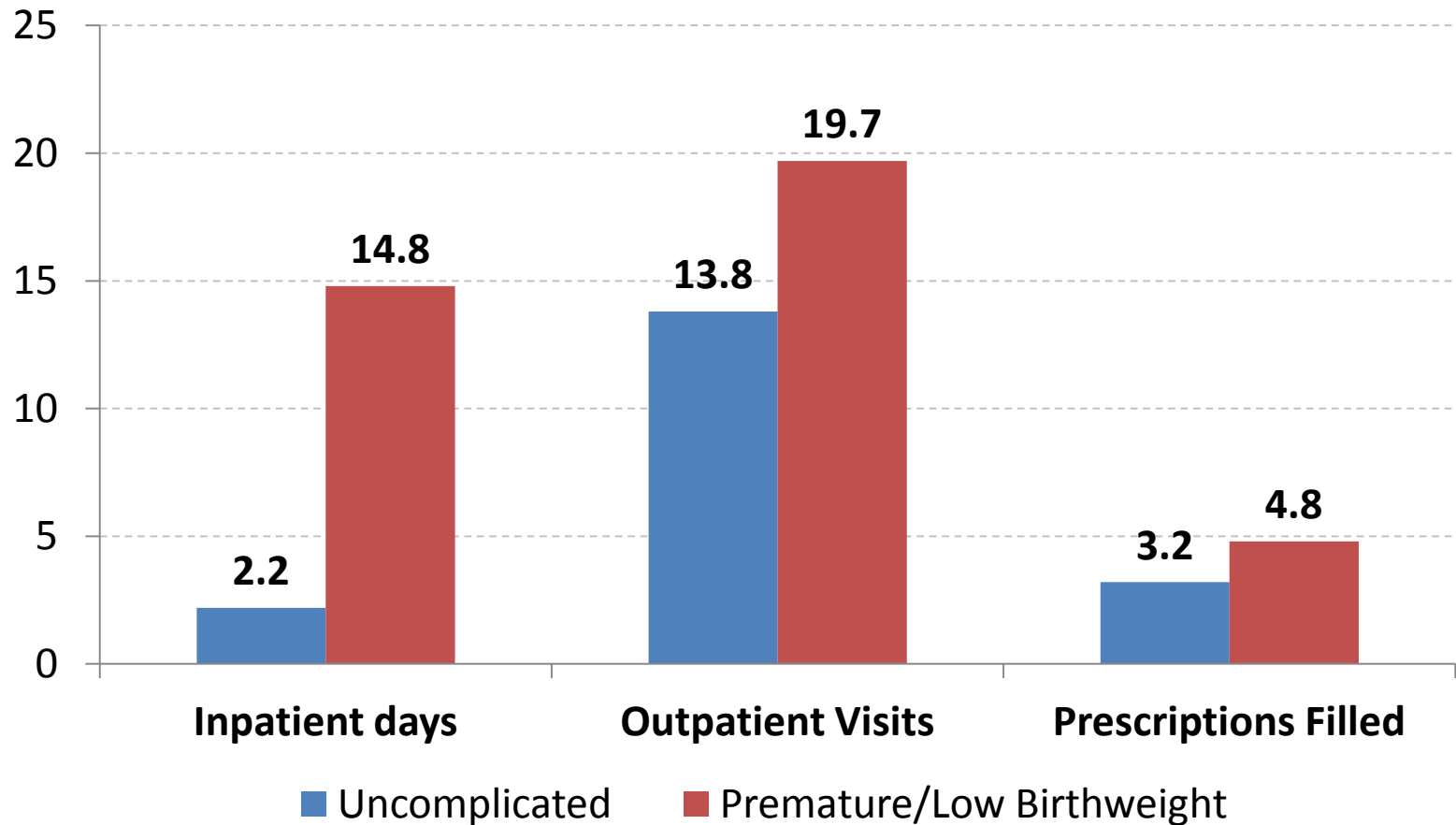


Total Newborn Expenditures by Birth Outcome



1. Florida employers pay **12 times** as much in health care costs for premature/low birthweight babies as for babies born without complications.
2. Each premature/LBW baby costs Florida employers an additional **\$50,000** in newborn health care costs alone.
3. One in seven Florida babies is born premature. Florida businesses spend **almost twice as much** on that one premature baby as they do on **the remaining six babies combined**.

Cost Drivers: Average Newborn Healthcare Utilization



A young child with dark hair, wearing a purple t-shirt, is sitting on a grassy field and smiling broadly. The child is holding a large white sign with both hands. The sign features the text 'Thank you!' in a purple, sans-serif font. Below the text is the March of Dimes logo, which includes a stylized baby icon and the text 'march of dimes'. To the right of the text is a circular logo with '75 years' inside, surrounded by colorful dots. There are also several colorful circles (purple, pink, blue, green, orange) scattered around the sign.

Thank you!

march of dimes®

75
years

Gerard E. Carrino
GCarrino@marchofdimes.org