

# Preterm birth is associated with increased risk of asthma and wheezing disorders

January 28 2014

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Children who are born preterm have an increased risk developing asthma and wheezing disorders during childhood according to new research published in *PLOS Medicine*.

The research by Jasper Been, from the Maastricht University Medical Centre (Netherlands) and The University of Edinburgh (UK), and colleagues at Harvard Medical School (US) is a [systematic review](#) and meta-analysis of 30 unique studies that collectively involved approximately 1.5 million children. The authors found that children born preterm (before 37 weeks of gestation) were about 46% more likely to develop asthma or a wheezing disorder during childhood, than babies at full term ( $\geq 37$  weeks of gestation). The authors also found that children born very preterm (

Citation: Preterm birth is associated with increased risk of asthma and wheezing disorders (2014, January 28) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-01-preterm-birth-asthma-wheezing-disorders.html>

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