

As of 21 March 2010 there are at least one hundred & fourteen (114) significant studies reporting that previous induced abortions elevate a woman's preterm birth (under 37 weeks' gestation) risk. Black American women have three times the risk of delivering a baby under 32 weeks' gestation as Caucasian women. One might suppose that not one of the 114 studies used Black American women as subjects. A 1987 paper in the very prestigious New England Journal of Medicine with researchers from Harvard University reported on many 'preemie' risk factors for Black American women from the Boston, Massachusetts area. An **EXTRACT** from Table 2 of the 1987 NEJM/Lieberman study showing that Black American women with two or more abortions have 1.91 times (i.e. 91% higher relative odds) the risk of a premature delivery than Black American women with **NO** prior induced abortions[1]:

“Table 2. Change in Odds Ratio for Prematurity among Blacks with control Specified Medical Risk Factors.\*

Factor Controlled For (Along With Race)	Odds Ratio For Prematurity Among Blacks
Hematocrit	1.38
Cigarette smoking	1.85
Urinary tract infection	1.90
Ponderal index <18 (!)	1.90
>= 2 Abortions	1.91
Malformed infant	1.91
Exposure to diethylstilbestrol	2.00
Preexisting diabetes	1.98
Cervical incompetence	1.96
Uterine anomaly	1.96
Placenta previa	1.96

\* The odds ratio for prematurity among infants born to black women is 1.94

(!) The ponderal index is the prepregnancy weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters. “

[End of Extract from the Ellice Lieberman 1987 NEJM study]

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## Reference

- 1 Lieberman E, Ryan KJ, Monson RR, Schoenbaum SC. Risk Factors Accounting For Racial Differences in the rate of premature birth. NEJM 1987;317:743-748.