

# Ohio's 39-Week Project: Saving Babies' Lives & Millions in Health Care Costs

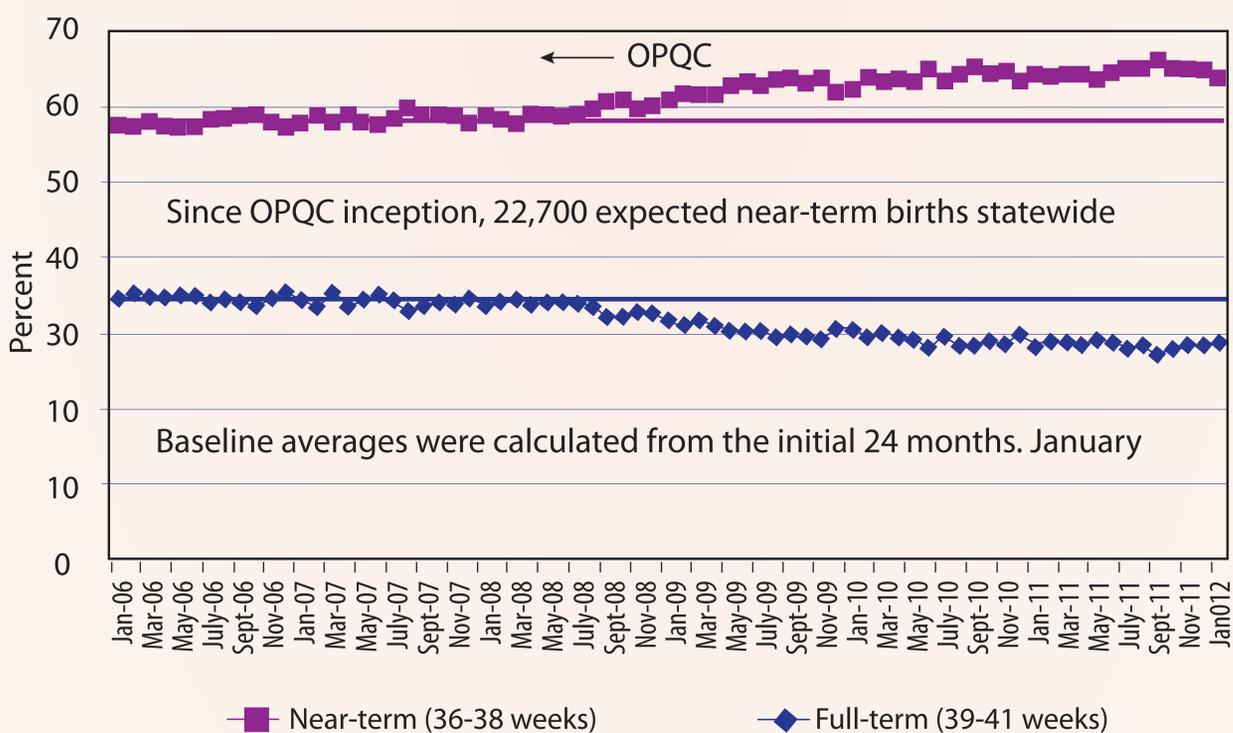
Perinatal leaders, doctors and nurses, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (Ohio's Medicaid agency), and other policymakers in Ohio joined together in March 2007 to create the Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative (OPQC). OPQC's efforts are reducing scheduled early deliveries in Ohio by making sure hospitals have access to best methods of care for pregnant women, increasing collaboration among hospitals, and providing the research and evidence that perinatal leaders and clinicians need to test and implement effective strategies.

From September 2008 – June 2010, QPQC worked closely with 20 Ohio maternity hospitals, which deliver more than 47 percent of babies born in the state, to prevent unnecessary scheduled early deliveries.

## OPQC's 39-Week Project Results to date:

- Nearly 23,000 babies that would have been delivered at 36-38 weeks were delayed to 39 weeks, representing an increase of 8 percent in full-term deliveries.
- Approximately 500 admissions to neonatal intensive care units and 35 infant deaths were prevented.
- Approximately \$27 million in health care costs were saved through avoided NICU admissions.

**Percent Distribution of Ohio Full-term and Near-Term births, by Month January 2006 to January 2012**



The Collaborative is currently expanding this project to include all maternity hospitals in Ohio.

