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BBC

NEWS HEALTH

More than one in 10 babies worldwide born prematurely

Fifteen million babies, one in 10 births, are born prematurely every year, a global project suggests.

One million of these babies die soon after birth. The joint report, led by the WHO, says three quarters of deaths could be prevented with basic care.

For the first time premature birth rates have been estimated by country, with the highest risk being in Africa.

In the UK about 8% of babies are born too soon



Being born too soon - a global problem



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Epidemiology and statistics

How are the numbers collected and what do they mean?

How do we judge the scientific validity of reports of medical research?

What about conflicts of interest?

What do p-values mean?

What is a relative risk?

Answers to these questions and more.



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NEWS HEALTH

Breast cancer screening does 'more good than harm'

By Emily Selvadurai

Health reporter, BBC News online

Breast cancer screening saves the lives of two women for every one patient who receives unnecessary treatment, according to a major European review.

There has been a fierce debate about the use of screening, and policy is being reviewed in England.

The latest study, published in the Journal of Medical Screening, said at least seven lives were saved for every 1,000 women screened.



To screen or not to screen? Mammograms reduce the risk of dying from breast cancer



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NEWS HEALTH

'Concerning' jump in whooping cough cases

By James Gallagher

Health and science reporter, BBC News

There has been a large rise in the number of cases of whooping cough, as the outbreak in England and Wales continues.

By the end of June there had been 2,466 cases in 2012. There were an additional 1,047 cases in July alone.

The total number of cases for 2012 is now three times higher than for the whole of 2011.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) said it was



Babies are offered a whooping cough vaccine at two, three and four months of age



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Epidemiology and statistics

Using contemporary examples as a basis for teaching statistical and epidemiological concepts

Focus on critical appraisal rather than calculations

Preparation described on QMplus – lectures and seminars

Recommended books

Barker, Cooper and Rose plus one statistics textbook

Chapters from Greenhalgh available on line



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