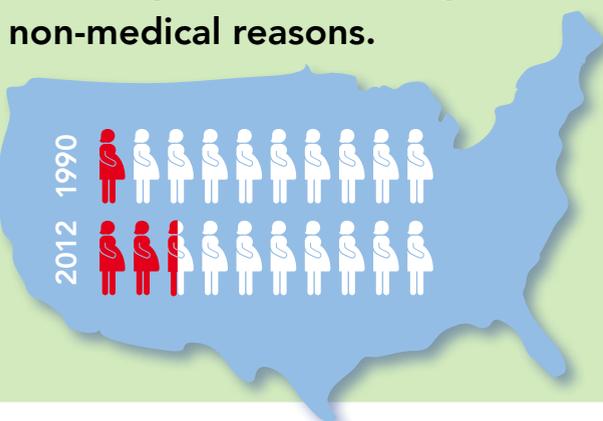


# I'm READY to have this baby! What's the big deal?

Babies need at least 39 weeks to grow before they are born.

Sometimes inductions are medically necessary. But many births are being scheduled early for non-medical reasons.



In the last 2 decades, the number of inductions has **MORE THAN DOUBLED.**



If you and your baby are healthy, wait for labor to begin on its own. Here's why...

Your due date may **NOT** be exactly right!

It could be off by as much as **2 weeks.**



Babies aren't fully developed until **39 completed weeks of pregnancy.**

- brain
- lungs
- liver



At **35 weeks**, baby's brain weighs just **two-thirds** of what it does at **39 weeks.**

Babies born even a **FEW WEEKS** early can have serious health problems.

They may need help breathing, feeding and keeping warm and can have serious problems that require care in a NICU.



Induction of labor may cause **PROBLEMS.**

- stronger, more painful contractions
- changes in baby's heart rate
- infection in mom or baby
- uterine rupture, in rare cases

Talk to your health care provider.  
Be **INFORMED.** Ask questions.