



# HEALTHY MOMS. STRONG BABIES.

## Here's how March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies:

### RESEARCH

We fund and support research at our Prematurity Research Centers and in promising areas to find solutions and make lifesaving breakthroughs.

### EDUCATE

We offer resources and programs that help moms before, during and after pregnancy and give medical professionals the tools and best practices they need.

### ADVOCATE

We fight for policies in the halls of government that prioritize the health of moms and babies.

### UNITE

We bring together organizations and professionals from diverse backgrounds to identify and act on solutions to improve equity and preterm birth prevention.

### SUPPORT

We comfort and assist moms and families throughout every stage of the pregnancy journey, even when things don't go according to plan.

### PARTNER

We partner with community organizations and health care providers to ensure moms and families have access to programs and services that support healthy pregnancies.

## EACH YEAR IN MISSOURI



**73,034**

babies are born



**7,702**

babies are born prematurely



**2,210**

babies are born with a birth defect



**492**

babies die before their first birthday



**290,000**

women live in a maternity care desert



**\$397 MILLION**

is the societal cost of preterm birth

# In Missouri, March of Dimes is a champion for families, focusing on communities with the greatest need and fighting for the best possible care for all moms and babies.

## RESEARCH

In 2018 March of Dimes invested nearly **\$20 million** in research to understand, treat and prevent the serious health problems that threaten babies. This research improves the care of mothers and babies in Missouri, throughout the United States and across the globe. At our **six Prematurity Research Centers** (PRCs) teams of scientists look for answers and share discoveries to transform our understanding of preterm birth. In 2014 March of Dimes joined with Washington University in St. Louis to launch our third PRC. Learn more at [marchofdimes.org/research](http://marchofdimes.org/research).

## ADVOCATE

March of Dimes is a powerful voice for the needs of pregnant women, infants, children and families in Missouri. In 2018 March of Dimes secured six legislative wins by becoming the first state to expand Medicaid coverage for mental health and substance use disorder treatment services to eligible women for one year postpartum; securing funding for a Medicaid pilot program to reduce the prevalence of neonatal abstinence syndrome, advocating for legislation to prohibit the use of restraints for incarcerated women in their third trimester or postpartum in certain instances and defeating attempts proposing disciplinary actions against substance-using pregnant women.

## SUPPORT

March of Dimes helps families when a pregnancy doesn't go according to plan. In 2018 we launched the My NICU Baby™ app, providing free, easy to use information for all NICU families. Through the online Share Your Story® site and Facebook mentoring program, we bring together families impacted by the biggest health threats to mom and baby. We also educate families and staff and improve the NICU experience through our **four NICU Family Support**® programs operating in Missouri hospitals and our Training Institute for health care professionals.

## EDUCATE

March of Dimes helps all women have healthy pregnancies and strong babies by providing the latest health information in English and Spanish on preconception, prenatal, postpartum and newborn care. We communicate this information through our websites, social media, and community and workplace programs.

## UNITE

March of Dimes Missouri works to unite leaders in communities around a common goal of improving the health of moms and babies to help strengthen communities overall. In addition to the health care and services families receive, we strive to better understand the communities where people live and work, as well as the impact of those areas on quality of health. To do this, we bring non-traditional partners to the table and include those in education, housing, safety or transportation.

## PARTNER

March of Dimes Missouri fosters partnerships across the state to improve the health of moms and babies. Partners include community organizations, health care providers, and local and state health departments. March of Dimes is a member of the Kansas City Health Commission's Birth Outcomes Monitoring Committee and has been involved with FLOURISH St. Louis, a collective impact initiative aimed at reducing infant mortality.

**SOURCES AND NOTES:** Births and preterm births—National Center for Health Statistics, final natality 2017. Preterm is less than 37 weeks gestation. Birth defects—Based on CDC estimate that 1 in 33 babies is born with one or more birth defect. Infant mortality—NCHS, infant mortality, 2016. Women living in maternity care desert—"Nowhere to Go", March of Dimes, 2018. Cost of preterm birth—Institute of Medicine report, 2007.

## JOIN THE FIGHT

Because of friends like you, we can provide programs, tools and support for all moms and babies.

JOIN US

[MARCHOFDIMES.ORG](http://MARCHOFDIMES.ORG)

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