



# 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 PENNSYLVANIA



**137,745**

babies are born



**12,969**

babies are born prematurely



**4,170**

babies are born with a birth defect



**857**

babies die before their first birthday



**32,000**

women live in a maternity care desert



**\$669 MILLION**

is the societal cost of preterm birth

# In Pennsylvania, 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 Pennsylvania, throughout the United States and across the globe. At our **six Prematurity Research Centers** (PRCs) teams of scientists from a range of disciplines look for answers and share discoveries to transform our understanding of preterm birth. In 2014 March of Dimes joined with the University of Pennsylvania to launch the fourth PRC. The University of Pittsburgh is a collaborating institution. 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 Pennsylvania. In 2018 March of Dimes successfully advocated to establish a statewide maternal mortality review commission.

## 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 **five NICU Family Support® programs** operating in Pennsylvania 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

Pennsylvania March of Dimes is bringing together key partners, including the state Health and Human Services officers, to secure funding support to develop a statewide perinatal quality collaborative (PQC). The PA-PQC Task Force secured funding to implement **two pilot programs**, one focusing on maternal mortality and the other on neonatal abstinence syndrome and maternal substance use disorder. These pilot projects will demonstrate the benefit of a PQC in standardizing care, improving health outcomes, reducing costs, and generating interest from the government, insurers, health care systems and foundations.

## PARTNER

In Pennsylvania, we engage clinicians, health care systems and clinics to implement the IMPLICIT Interconception Care model. IMPLICIT incorporates maternal assessments into well child visits. A woman, who no longer seeks primary care for herself, will still bring her child to well child visits for up to 24 months. This allows the health care provider to screen the woman for modifiable health behaviors that can affect subsequent pregnancies. These are tobacco use, depression, birth spacing and folic acid use.

**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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