



Support Maternal & Child Health Research and Prevention in Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations

Investments in maternal and child health research and prevention activities improve the wellbeing and quality of life for women, infants, children, and families while reducing government costs. The March of Dimes urges Congress to fund Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities and the Safe Motherhood initiative at appropriate levels.

Agency	FY15 (in millions)	President's FY16 Request (in millions)	MOD's FY16 Request (in millions)
National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)	\$132	\$132	\$139
Safe Motherhood Initiative • Preterm Birth	\$46	\$46	\$46 \$2

- Every day, 1 in 10 infants in the United States is born premature.
- Preterm birth is the leading cause of neonatal death, and those babies who survive are more likely to suffer from intellectual and physical disabilities.
- Every 4 ½ minutes, a baby in the United States is born with a birth defect.
- An estimated 120,000 infants are born with major structural birth defects every year.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)

According to the CDC, an estimated 120,000 infants in the U.S. are born with major structural birth defects each year. Unfortunately, the causes of 70% of birth defects remain unknown. Birth defects research and surveillance activities have been severely curtailed due to funding reductions, which means a slowed pace to research identifying causes of birth defects and decreased ability to track birth defects and connect families to services. To bridge this knowledge and treatment gap, the March of Dimes urges Congress to allocate **\$139 million for the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)**.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Safe Motherhood Initiative

The March of Dimes recommends funding of \$46 million for the Safe Motherhood Initiative and re-instatement of the preterm birth sub-line at \$2 million, as authorized in the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act (P.L. 113-55), to reflect currently funded preterm birth activities. The CDC continues to explore strategies to reduce the national burden of infant mortality and prematurity. For example, CDC funds state-based Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs), networks of hospitals, health care providers, and state health departments that work to improve maternal and infant outcomes by advancing evidence-based clinical practices and processes. These networks collect data in real time on health care practices and outcomes and provide immediate feedback for quality improvement. The PQCs are funded through the Safe Motherhood program and include the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative and California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative, the New York State Obstetrical and Neonatal Quality Collaborative, and the Ohio Perinatal Collaboration to Improve Birth Data and Prematurity Outcomes.

The March of Dimes is a national voluntary health agency whose volunteers and staff work to improve the health of infants and children by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Founded in 1938, the March of Dimes funds programs of research, community services, education and advocacy. For the latest resources and information, visit marchofdimes.org or nacersano.org.

For more information please contact our Office of Government Affairs at (202) 659-1800.