



Announcements

Save the Date for an in-person meeting of the full Collaborative, May 21-22, 2018, Arlington, VA

We are pleased to announce this exciting opportunity to convene thought leaders to advance policy and practice, mobilize community leadership, share and spread emerging ideas and promising practices, and energize stakeholders to achieve equity and reduce preterm birth. All Prematurity Campaign Collaborative participants are encouraged to attend. Stay tuned for further details!

March of Dimes 2017 Premature Birth Report Cards released November 1

The March of Dimes Premature Birth Report Cards provide an annual opportunity to call attention to equity and preterm birth, and are used by stakeholders year-round as an advocacy tool and resource. "The 2017 March of Dimes Report Card demonstrates that moms and babies in this country face a higher risk of preterm birth based on race and zip code," said Stacey D. Stewart, President of the March of Dimes, in announcing the tenth annual Report Cards. "We see that preterm birth rates worsened in 43 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and among all racial/ethnic groups. This is an unacceptable trend that requires immediate attention."

Grades are assigned by comparing the preterm birth rate in a state or locality to the March of Dimes goal of 8.1 percent by 2020. The Report Card highlights priority areas for action with county and racial/ethnic disparities data and a disparity ratio. The [US Report Card](#) also grades the 100 cities with the greatest numbers of births.

The disparity ratio provides a summary measure of the disparities in preterm birth rates across racial/ethnic groups in a geographic area. The disparity ratio shows that the differences in preterm birth rates among racial/ethnic groups are getting worse nationally and no state has shown improvement since the baseline of 2010-2012.

All Collaborative participants are encouraged to [explore the Report Cards](#). To share your ideas about using the Report Cards in the work of your organization, email collaborative@marchofdimes.org.

Policy and Communications Workgroups

The Policy Workgroup launched last month and selected access to high quality health care, economic opportunity, and family support/child development as their advocacy priority

areas. Their next task will be to further narrow the focus for each category. The Communications Workgroup will complement these efforts with messaging and grassroots advocacy efforts to support the Policy Workgroup's priorities.

Clinical and Public Health Practice Workgroup

The Clinical and Public Health Practice (CPHP) Workgroup convened in October to discuss initiatives that have successfully addressed barriers to 17P intake. Joan Wightkin, DrPH explained how Louisiana successfully worked towards increased utilization of 17P. Additional strategies, including homecare and pharmacy options, were presented in response to the logistical barriers to completing 17P treatment. The group plans to continue to share successful initiatives and resources regarding 17P and other key interventions such as low dose aspirin and birth spacing to prevent preterm birth.

Health Equity Workgroup

The Health Equity Workgroup met in September and November to continue its work. The Workgroup is developing two initial products. First, it is developing a consensus statement recognizing the contributions of many different disciplines to equity. The consensus statement is intended to accelerate innovation and translation of research driven by an equity agenda. The workgroup is engaging partners from other sectors to develop the content of the statement. Second, the workgroup is finalizing a set of guiding principles and a glossary to help the entire Collaborative and other organizations incorporate equity into every aspect of their work and have a shared understanding of equity and related terminology.

Summary of Upcoming Virtual Meetings

2017

Full Prematurity Campaign Collaborative
12/14, 2-3:30pm ET

Clinical and Public Health Practice
12/15, 3-4:30 pm ET

2018

•*Full Collaborative: 2/28, 5/21-22(summit), 8/29, 11/29*

•*Health Equity: 1/18, 3/20, 7/19, 9/18, 11/15*

•*Clinical & Public Health Practice 2/20, 4/17, 6/21, 8/22, 10/18, 12/12*

•*Policy: 2/6, 4/3, 6/11, 8/7, 10/2, 12/4*

•*Communications: 3/8, 5/3, 7/12, 9/13, 11/8*

All meetings are open to the public. You may [email for more information.](#)

News, Tools and Resources

Save the date for upcoming webinar

A March of Dimes Professional Education Webinar on "Saving lives: preventing preeclampsia with low-dose aspirin" will be held on January 8, 2-3:30 Eastern Time. [Click here to view](#)

[more information and register](#). Although the webinar is not only intended for clinicians, continuing education credits will be available through the Clinical Directors Network for CME/CNE and through the Council for Pharmacy Education for pharmaceutical credits. Speakers will be Jodi Abbott, MD, Assistant Dean of Patient Safety & Quality Improvement Education, Associate Professor Boston University School of Medicine, Department of Ob/Gyn Boston Medical Center, and Charlie Lockwood, MD, MHCM, Dean of the Morsani College of Medicine and Senior Vice President, University of South Florida Health, Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Collaborative at APHA

The APHA November Annual meeting included two sessions about the Collaborative, a panel discussion featuring Dr. Wanda Barfield, Dr. Paul Jarris, Dr. Christopher Zahn, and Dr. Donald Warne; and an interactive roundtable on equity in birth outcomes led by Dr. Fleda Mask Jackson. Many new participants signed up for the Collaborative as a result of these sessions.

Moms2B: full support for pregnant women

At the September 20 Health Equity Workgroup meeting, Dr. Patricia Gabbe highlighted how the [Moms2B](#) program helps to address the social determinants of health and gives women tools that will enable them to be healthier and deliver healthy, full-term infants.

Dr. Jodi Abbott's column: "Why can't more American women access medications for preterm birth?"

The Clinical and Public Health Practice Workgroup priorities include increasing access to 17P to prevent recurrent preterm birth, and low-dose aspirin to prevent preeclampsia and preterm birth. Dr. Jodi Abbott's [column](#) on access to these interventions appeared in the Washington Post and on PBS.org.

Spotlight



Thank you Dr. Patricia Gabbe of Nationwide Children's Hospital for presenting on Moms2B at the September 20 Health Equity Meeting.



Welcome Kweli Rashied-Henry, March of Dimes Health Equity Director and staff lead for the Health Equity Workgroup.



Welcome to our Policy Workgroup co-chair, Cindy Pellegrini, March of Dimes Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs.

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