The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

On an average week in Ohio
2,862 babies are born
359 babies are born too soon
246 babies are born too small
23 babies die before their first birthday

Making a Difference for Every Baby

The APGAR Score is a clinical system of evaluating the physical condition of a newborn. It was developed by Virginia Apgar, MD who worked for March of Dimes from 1959 until her death in 1976. Every newborn receives an APGAR Score.

Newborn Screening, a simple blood test taken before a newborn leaves the hospital, detects certain rare disorders. Failure to diagnose and treat these conditions can lead to brain damage, coma, or death, while treatment can be as simple as a change in diet. March of Dimes funded the development of the tests for PKU and bio- tinidase deficiency used daily in hospitals across the nation and continues to advocate for improvements in newborn screening programs.

March of Dimes pioneered the regionalization of NICUs (neonatal intensive care units) to insure that all sick babies have access to specialized care. March of Dimes research grantees helped develop many treatments in use today, including Surfactant therapy, to keep tiny air sacs in premature lungs from collapsing.

Folic Acid is a B vitamin that can help prevent birth defects of the brain and spinal cord called neural tube defects. March of Dimes advocated for Folic Acid to be included in all major brands of vitamins sold in the nation and for Folic Acid fortification of grain products which led to a 30% reduction in neural tube defects - deadly and crippling defects of the brain and spinal column.

Polio Vaccine The March of Dimes provided complete funding for the development of the Salk polio vaccine and the successful field trial that proved the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine. The March of Dimes also funded research that led to the development of the Sabin polio vaccine. Pediatricians still vaccinate newborns for polio which is eradicated in this nation.

Education With information on hundreds of topics, March of Dimes is your one-stop shop for everything you need:

Visit Marchofdimes.com/pregnancy
Email us at askus@marchofdimes.com
Join us at twitter.com/marchofdimes
Connect on our blog at newsomsees.marchofdimes.com
Find support at shareyourstory.org

The NICU Family Support Program

The March of Dimes Ohio Chapter is proud to partner with the following hospitals to offer information and supportive services to parents while their baby is in the NICU: Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, Akron Children's Hospital, Dayton Children's Hospital, Good Samaritan and Bethesda Hospitals in Cincinnati, Hillcrest Hospital and Riverside Methodist in partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital.
Advocacy

Advocacy is vital to the March of Dimes to advance the mission through public policies, programs and funding.

Current Issues

PREEMIE Reauthorization Act (S1440/H.R. 2678)

⇒ Authorizes research related to preterm birth at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
⇒ Reauthorizes CDC research and programs on preterm birth to improve and track national data and develop methods to better understand and prevent late preterm births.
⇒ Authorizes the HRSA to award telemedicine grants and demonstration projects aimed at improving treatment of pregnant women and outcomes for babies born prematurely.
⇒ Establishes the National Science-Based Provider and Consumer Education Campaign to promote healthy pregnancies and prevent preterm birth.
⇒ Authorizes the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality to provide recommendations to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding reducing infant mortality, preterm birth and improving the health status of pregnant women and infants.

March of Dimes Commemorative Coin Act of 2011 authorizes the U.S. Mint to strike up to 500,000 silver commemorative coins in honor of the March of Dimes 75th Anniversary in 2013. If all the coins are sold, $5 million would be directed toward improving the health of women, infants, and children by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality through scientific research, community service, and education.

The March of Dimes Ohio Chapter monitors statewide legislation and advocates on issues that relate to our mission. Our current advocacy agenda includes the full implementation of Presumptive Eligibility for pregnant women eligible for Medicaid monitoring and making recommendations to improve Ohio’s Newborn Screening Program, the continuation of Ohio Connections for Children with Special Needs, (Ohio’s Birth Defects Registry) and maintaining access to health care for women of childbearing age, infants and children.

To learn more or to register to receive advocacy alerts, please visit www.marchofdimes.com/advocacy

Ohio Chapter Program Grants

$235,000 Awarded
Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative (OPQC) $20,000
to support the continued efforts to reduced deliveries before 39 completed weeks of gestation without a medical indication.

Nationwide Children’s Hospital $35,000
to support efforts to educate pregnant mothers addicted to opioids on the benefits of treatment during pregnancy and expanding the outpatient Methadone Education Program: Taking the Next Step.

Neighborhood Family Practice $30,000
to support the CenteringPregnancy® program by funding a patient advocate.

Hamilton County General Health District (Women and Infant Vitality Network) $30,000
to support the expansion of the CenteringPregnancy® program into a neighborhood health center serving at-risk, predominately African American women; and support for the credentialing of Healthy Beginnings prenatal services.

NorthEast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services (NEON) $27,000
to support the implementation and facilitation of a CenteringPregnancy® program.

Ohio State University Medical Center $34,035
to provide start-up funding for a CenteringPregnancy® program at the OSU OB/GYN Clinic.

University Hospitals of Cleveland MacDonald Women’s Hospital $30,000
to support the CenteringPregnancy® program for primarily low income women with the goal of improving birth outcomes and increasing breastfeeding rates.

Cleveland Clinic Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Health Center $10,200
to provide enhancement of prenatal education classes for expectant mothers and fathers through the Stork’s Nest and Boot Camp for Dads programs.

$18,765 will be awarded for additional community projects.

Grants are awarded following a competitive application and review process overseen by the Ohio Program Services Committee. Grant information for 2013 awards will be posted on our website in May.

Please visit www.marchofdimes.com/Ohio

Ohio Research Grants

$4,056,550 Awarded to 16 Ohio Researchers

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center $2,092,744 (9 Projects)
Improving diagnosis and treatment of heart defects, other birth defects, and autism; improving treatments for preemies; and prevention of preterm birth.

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and University of Cincinnati College of Medicine $449,196 (2 Projects)
Working to improve surfactant treatment for preemies and understand the causes of sex chromosome abnormalities and other birth defects.

Case Western Reserve University $150,000 (1 project)
Working to improve treatment for acquired anemias in pregnant women.

Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals of Cleveland MacDonald Women’s Hospital $330,211 (1 project)
Developing treatments to halt preterm labor.

Case Western Reserve University and MetroHealth Medical Center $464,399 (1 project)
Developing treatments to help prevent PPROM-related premature deliveries.

Ohio State University College of Medicine and The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital $300,000 (1 Project)
Developing drug treatment for NEC.

Kent State University $270,000 (1 Project)
Developing reading intervention programs for deaf children.

The March of Dimes Research Program is managed by the Office of the Medical Director at the National Office of the March of Dimes.
Please visit www.marchofdimes.com/research