



# 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 CONNECTICUT



**35,221**

babies are born



**3,338**

babies are born prematurely



**1,060**

babies are born with a birth defect



**172**

babies die before their first birthday



**\$172 MILLION**

is the societal cost of preterm birth

# In Connecticut, 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 Connecticut, throughout the United States and across the globe. At our **six Prematurity Research Centers** teams of brilliant minds from a range of disciplines look for answers and share discoveries to transform our understanding of preterm birth, including causes and preventions. 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 Connecticut. In 2019 top March of Dimes priorities include advocating to prevent preterm birth, protect moms from dying from pregnancy-related causes, and address the impact of the opioids crisis on moms, babies and families.

## 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 NICU Family Support® program in **New Haven** and our Training Institute for health care professionals.

**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. Cost of preterm birth — Institute of Medicine report, 2007.

## 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. In Connecticut, we are investing in group prenatal care and group prenatal education programs, such as CenteringPregnancy® and Comenzando bien®.

## UNITE

March of Dimes proudly supports the work of the Connecticut Perinatal Quality Collaborative. Together we are engaging physicians and nurses from all maternity care hospitals in the state to increase utilization of progesterone shots (17P) for eligible mothers at risk of a repeat preterm birth, as well as of low-dose aspirin for women at risk of preeclampsia. We have also been working on safely reducing the rate of early elective deliveries and improving care for moms and babies affected by opioid use disorders and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

## PARTNER

As a funder, convener, and co-leader of Every Woman Connecticut, March of Dimes is partnering with over **300 community-based and clinical providers** across the state. Together we are ensuring that all women and men of reproductive age are being asked whether they would like to become pregnant within the next year. We are then sharing the information and providing the care they need to achieve their own personal health goals before, during and between pregnancies.

## 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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