



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 MARYLAND



71,641

babies are born



7,491

babies are born prematurely



2,170

babies are born with a birth defect



478

babies die before their first birthday



10,000

women live in a maternity care desert



\$387 MILLION

is the societal cost of preterm birth

In Maryland, 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 Maryland, 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.

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.

ADVOCATE

March of Dimes is a powerful voice for the needs of pregnant women, infants, children and families in Maryland. In 2018 March of Dimes secured **four legislative wins** by ensuring substance-using pregnant women do not experience punitive approaches when seeking care and treatment; expanding eligibility for family planning services without age restrictions; supporting reasonable nursing accommodations legislation; and helping to establish the Thrive by Three Fund, which will provide funding for care coordination services to low-income pregnant and postpartum women and children from birth through age three.

UNITE

In 2018 March of Dimes further strengthened its role as convener by bringing together Zeta Phi Beta, Inc. sorority leaders and local hospitals to enhance and expand the community-based Stork's Nest® program, a prenatal education program that incentivizes pregnant women to attend prenatal classes and keep prenatal appointments.

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 **Baltimore** and our Training Institute for health care professionals.

PARTNER

March of Dimes Maryland works closely with the state department of health, local health departments, hospitals, service organizations and community health agencies to educate women, families and providers on evidence-based strategies for reducing preterm births. In 2018 we continued our commitment to the group model of prenatal care and supported efforts addressing interconception health and family planning.

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

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