



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 MISSISSIPPI



37,357

babies are born



5,061

babies are born prematurely



1,130

babies are born with a birth defect



329

babies die before their first birthday



270,000

women live in a maternity care desert



\$261 MILLION

is the societal cost of preterm birth

In Mississippi, 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 Mississippi, 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. In Mississippi, March of Dimes partnered with community health workers to have birth spacing conversations with patients using the One Key Question® method. We also trained **60 professionals** using the SCRIPT® Program to help pregnant women stop smoking.

ADVOCATE

March of Dimes is a powerful voice for the needs of pregnant women, infants, children and families in Mississippi. In 2018 March of Dimes secured **13 legislative wins** by successfully supporting the reauthorization of funding for the state's Medicaid program and advocating to protect seven key maternal and child health programs in the state, including improving accessibility to progesterone shots (17P), treatment services for substance-using pregnant women, and removing restrictions on the number of doctor visits and prescriptions allowed for Medicaid recipients. Advocates also defeated efforts to weaken the state's vaccine laws and attempts to create barriers to access medical care.

UNITE

March of Dimes continues to support the Mississippi Perinatal Quality Collaborative (MSPQC) to improve outcomes for moms and babies. The MSPQC brings together experts from across the state to create system-level changes in care for moms and babies. Efforts include addressing maternal mortality and morbidity, perinatal substance use and neonatal abstinence syndrome, utilization of 17P to prevent prematurity, and long-acting reversible contraceptive recommendations. Annual conferences provide continuing education for the provider community to address these emerging health issues.

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.

PARTNER

In Mississippi, March of Dimes and insurers are exploring how birth outcomes can be improved through policy change. Changes needed included improving access to 17P and reducing primary c-section rates. Through this partnership, payers have changed policies to promote better birth practices and removed barriers to access for 17P.

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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