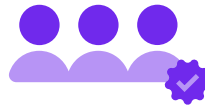


2022 MARCH OF DIMES IMPACT IN
PUERTO RICO

299

**Families served
through our NICU
initiatives**

4

**Advocates
who raised their
voices**

3

**Pieces of state
legislation
acted on**

March of Dimes Puerto Rico has an agenda to dismantle racism, address unequal treatment, increase access to high quality healthcare and build safe, connected communities. March of Dimes is working with partners to train health professionals in clinical skills and interventions to reduce the prevalence of non-medically indicated Cesarean births. The Puerto Rico Statistics Institute is working with March of Dimes to create a geographic information system (GIS) map of obstetrics providers in the territory to document gaps in coverage for advocacy. We are creating new strategies to align national March of Dimes educational programs with the needs of families in Puerto Rico.

March of Dimes Office of Government Affairs advocates for policy initiatives on a host of topics important to pregnant women, infants, children and families including addressing health disparities and enhancing newborn screening. In Puerto Rico, our advocacy efforts support addressing disparities and implicit bias in health care. We have also worked the Universal Neonatal Hearing Screening program establishment.

Anyone who wants to join in the fight for the health of all birthing people, babies and their families can support our Office of Government Affairs by becoming an advocate. Advocates advance our efforts through supporting our work to influence legislation, policy and regulation at the federal and state level. From extending postpartum Medicaid coverage in states across the country, to passing protections for pregnant workers to establishing Maternal Mental Health Advisory Committees, March of Dimes' advocate efforts are making an impact.

Our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Initiatives educate and support families through evidence-based programs and a variety of both online and in person resources. We help families while their babies are in the NICU and during their transition home. Our programs work with hospitals, NICUs and families in order to improve the NICU patient and family experience. In Puerto Rico, March of Dimes partners with **Auxilio Mutuo Hospital** and **El Presby - Ashford Presbyterian Community Hospital** to carry out this work.

March of Dimes funds and supports research grants for translational and actionable projects across the country that lead directly to interventions or prevention for mom and baby health. The research goal is to turn observations in the laboratory, clinic and community into interventions, therapeutics and devices that improve the health of moms and babies with an eye towards characterizing disparities in key research areas. Our current research focuses on late, spontaneous preterm birth, racial inequities as they relate to morbidity and mortality outcomes for mothers and babies, cardiovascular health conditions developed or exacerbated during pregnancy and maternal stress, its impact on pregnancy outcomes and how to mitigate the effects.

**THE MARCH OF DIMES REPORT CARD:
STARK AND UNACCEPTABLE DISPARITIES PERSIST ALONGSIDE A TROUBLING RISE IN PRETERM BIRTH RATES**

March of Dimes recommends state policy actions that are rooted in addressing disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes, see www.marchofdimes.org/reportcard
For details on data sources and calculations, see Technical Notes: <https://bit.ly/ReportCardTechnicalNotes>