



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 ILLINOIS



149,390

babies are born



15,551

babies are born prematurely



4,520

babies are born with a birth defect



985

babies die before their first birthday



200,000

women live in a maternity care desert



\$802 MILLION

is the societal cost of preterm birth

In Illinois, 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 Illinois, throughout the United States and across the globe. At our **six Prematurity Research Centers** (PRCs) teams of scientists look for answers and share discoveries to transform our understanding of preterm birth. In 2015 March of Dimes joined with the University of Chicago, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Duke Medicine to launch the fifth PRC. Learn more at marchofdimes.org/research.

ADVOCATE

March of Dimes is a powerful voice for the needs of pregnant women, infants, children and families in Illinois. In 2018 March of Dimes secured **ten legislative wins** by advocating to allow nursing mothers to be excused from jury duty; supporting legislation to require the state to provide informational materials to schools on flu and meningococcal vaccination; and advocating to allow Medicaid enrollees to remain in the care of their primary care physician. Illinois advocates protected Medicaid from funding cuts and restrictions on both eligibility and coverage. March of Dimes also opposed funding cuts for addiction treatment services and infant mortality reduction programs.

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

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 Illinois we convene more than **300 perinatal health professionals** annually to learn the latest information on clinical and public health interventions to reduce preterm birth and address birth equity so all babies can be born full-term and healthy.

UNITE

March of Dimes continues to serve on the leadership team of the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative to ensure that improvements continue to be made in the care of moms and babies. In addition, March of Dimes is working to unite healthcare providers and their organizations to achieve collective action on the increasing rate of preterm birth and the unacceptable racial and ethnic disparities in the state.

PARTNER

March of Dimes forms strong partnerships with state and local health departments, the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative, and many hospitals to increase awareness, build a supportive network, and implement interventions that improve the health of moms and babies.

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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