



# 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 KANSAS



**36,519**

babies are born



**3,495**

babies are born prematurely



**1,100**

babies are born with a birth defect



**228**

babies die before their first birthday



**90,000**

women live in a maternity care desert



**\$180 MILLION**

is the societal cost of preterm birth

# In Kansas, 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 Kansas, 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 Kansas. In 2018 March of Dimes secured **three legislative wins** by successfully advocating to add critical congenital heart disease to the state's newborn screening panel, advocating for legislation to establish a Maternal Mortality Review Committee and supporting telemedicine legislation to increase access to health care for mothers and their children in rural areas.

## 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 **Topeka** 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 2018 March of Dimes partnered with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide women in **20 counties** with access to the Smoking Cessation and Reduction in Pregnancy Treatment (SCRIPT®) Program through provider and patient education.

## UNITE

In Kansas we lead the Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait® (HBWW) Community Program. HBWW is a multidisciplinary collaboration that works to educate pregnant women, perinatal providers and the greater community on the problem of preterm birth, its risk factors and strategies for reducing risk. We use a collective impact framework for implementing multiple evidence-based preterm birth prevention interventions including birth spacing and utilization and promotion of low-dose aspirin to prevent preeclampsia at **four sites**: Newman Regional Health, Emporia; Community Health Council of Wyandotte County, Kansas City; Riley County Health Department, Manhattan; and Reno County Health Department, Hutchinson.

## PARTNER

March of Dimes Kansas fosters partnerships across the state to improve the health of moms and babies. We work with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to align our priority areas to increase our impact. March of Dimes serves on the Kansas Maternal and Child Health Council, which advises the KDHE Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Program. In 2018 March of Dimes was invited to become a member of the newly established maternal mortality review committee in Kansas.

**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](http://MARCHOFDIMES.ORG)

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