



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 LOUISIANA



61,018

babies are born



7,725

babies are born prematurely



1,840

babies are born with a birth defect



504

babies die before their first birthday



160,000

women live in a maternity care desert



\$399 MILLION

is the societal cost of preterm birth

In Louisiana, 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 Louisiana, 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. March of Dimes provides prenatal education to African American women residing in low-income areas through the Stork's Nest® program in partnership with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

ADVOCATE

March of Dimes is a powerful voice for the needs of pregnant women, infants, children and families in Louisiana. In 2018 March of Dimes successfully advocated to amend state policy to guarantee access to federal funds for families with infants impacted by substance use; establish a pilot program to improve outcomes for children with neonatal abstinence syndrome; add Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) to the state's newborn screening panel; create a study committee to evaluate tobacco-related illnesses from secondhand smoke; and establish the Healthy Moms & Healthy Babies Advisory Council to address the state's poor birth outcomes and rates of maternal mortality.

UNITE

March of Dimes Louisiana leads the Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait® (HBWW) Community Program in Shreveport which brings together all **five birthing hospitals**, the Department of Health, CityMatCH and several community members to target prematurity in northern Louisiana parishes with the highest preterm birth rates in the state. HBWW focuses on educating and ensuring access to low-dose aspirin for women at risk for preeclampsia, birth spacing interventions, tobacco cessation programs, chronic disease management, reducing early elective deliveries, removing barriers to early entry into prenatal care and birth equity.

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 **Baton Rouge** and our Training Institute for health care professionals.

PARTNER

March of Dimes Louisiana partners with state, regional and city organizations to implement evidence-based interventions to reduce adverse pregnancy outcomes in the highest need areas. Through these partnerships, we are able to offer key programs and services in communities throughout the state. These efforts include One Key Question® to promote healthy birth spacing, reducing tobacco use among pregnant women and supporting the "211 Partners for Healthy Babies" hotline, which provides referrals and services to families.

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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