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.

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**EACH YEAR IN OKLAHOMA**

- **50,214** babies are born
- **5,592** babies are born prematurely
- **1,520** babies are born with a birth defect
- **393** babies die before their first birthday
- **240,000** women live in a maternity care desert
- **$289 MILLION** is the societal cost of preterm birth
In Oklahoma, 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 Oklahoma, 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.

**ADVOCATE**

March of Dimes is a powerful voice for the needs of pregnant women, infants, children and families in Oklahoma. In 2018 March of Dimes Oklahoma successfully advocated for legislation prohibiting the use of restraints on incarcerated pregnant women during labor and the immediate postpartum period. Oklahoma advocates also defeated legislative attempts to weaken immunization protections.

**UNITE**

Using a health equity lens, March of Dimes Oklahoma has convened key leaders through the Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative and built a network of providers implementing IMPLICIT, a program aimed at addressing maternal health issues during the well-child visit. We are aligning strategic work to complement continuous statewide efforts to address both infant and maternal mortality and morbidity in Oklahoma. These efforts include: addressing substance use among pregnant women, utilization of progesterone shots (17P) to prevent prematurity, increasing the use of long-acting reversible contraceptives and decreasing the rate of tobacco use among pregnant women.

**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**

March of Dimes has developed a number of partnerships to bring about systems change to improve birth outcomes in Oklahoma. These partners include the state Department of Health and quality improvement, preconception and infant mortality collaboratives and the State Department of Health. Working collaboratively allows us to create a shared vision to impact all moms and babies. Collectively we address infant mortality in African-American communities in Oklahoma County and maternal mortality to decrease maternal deaths and the high rate of maternity care deserts.

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