



# 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 TENNESSEE



**81,016**

babies are born



**8,962**

babies are born prematurely



**2,450**

babies are born with a birth defect



**594**

babies die before their first birthday



**210,000**

women live in a maternity care desert



**\$462 MILLION**

is the societal cost of preterm birth

# In Tennessee, 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 Tennessee, 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. Vanderbilt University is a collaborating institution of the PRC-Ohio Collaborative. 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 Tennessee. In 2018 March of Dimes successfully advocated to protect funding for several state programs, including home visiting. Additionally, March of Dimes protected **\$2.2 million** in funding for **five Regional Perinatal Centers**, which will receive matching federal funding.

## 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 **Memphis** and our Training Institute for health care professionals.

## EDUCATE

March of Dimes helps 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 Tennessee, March of Dimes partnered with hospitals to provide a perinatal education conference on topics to improve the care of pregnant women and infants. We also co-hosted three home visitation trainings on health equity with the Department of Health.

## UNITE

March of Dimes Tennessee is a recognized leader in maternal and child health, bringing together key stakeholders to address the unacceptable disparities in premature birth and infant and maternal mortality. March of Dimes' 2018 Premature Birth Report Card featured Knox County, as a "Bright Spot" case study for its successful interventions to reduce the incidence of preterm birth at the county level. Collaborative efforts around smoking cessation, early elective deliveries, group prenatal care, and opioid addiction were highlighted in the case study. March of Dimes in Tennessee has also been a leading organization in the Tennessee Initiative for Perinatal Quality Care since its inception.

## PARTNER

In partnership with the Tennessee Department of Health and UnitedHealth Group, we launched Supportive Pregnancy Care®, a March of Dimes group prenatal care pilot, at **six sites**. Multiple studies have demonstrated the impact of group prenatal care interventions to reduce preterm birth and rapid repeat pregnancies. These sites continue implementation and expect release of pilot data in early 2019. Launch of additional sites has begun with an emphasis on groups supporting women at high risk for poor pregnancy outcomes.

**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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