



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 VIRGINIA



100,391

babies are born



9,582

babies are born prematurely



3,040

babies are born with a birth defect



599

babies die before their first birthday



280,000

women live in a maternity care desert



\$494 MILLION

is the societal cost of preterm birth

In Virginia, 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 Virginia, 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.

ADVOCATE

March of Dimes is a powerful voice for the needs of pregnant women, infants, children and families in Virginia. In 2018 March of Dimes successfully secured **\$50,000** in the state's budget for pregnancy-related smoking cessation programs and advocated for the convening of a community stakeholder summit to discuss innovative methods to increase enrollment in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Advocates also supported legislation to create a child fatality review team within the state's Department of Health.

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 **three NICU Family Support® programs** operating in Virginia hospitals 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 Virginia provided CenteringPregnancy® facilitator training to providers across the Commonwealth to ensure access to better prenatal care.

UNITE

March of Dimes Virginia co-leads the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative alongside the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association. The goal of the collaborative is to ensure that every mother has the best possible perinatal care and every infant cared for in Virginia has the best possible start to life. We believe in an evidence-based, data-driven collaborative process that involves care providers for women, infants and families as well as state and local leaders. We believe that working together now will create a stronger, healthier Virginia in the future.

PARTNER

March of Dimes leads a multidisciplinary workgroup between providers, state agencies, health plans, pharmacists and industry partners to improve access to progesterone shots (17P) to prevent repeat preterm births. The 17P Workgroup works to address policy barriers for 17P, which will streamline the ordering and administration process for progesterone shots, a treatment which can reduce preterm births by **33 percent** in eligible pregnant women.

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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