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.

ADVOCATE
We fight for policies in the halls of government that prioritize the health of moms and babies.

SUPPORT
We comfort and assist moms and families throughout every stage of the pregnancy journey, even when things don’t go according to plan.

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.

UNITE
We bring together organizations and professionals from diverse backgrounds to identify and act on solutions to improve equity and preterm birth prevention.

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 WEST VIRGINIA

18,675 babies are born
2,237 babies are born prematurely
560 babies are born with a birth defect
138 babies die before their first birthday
140,000 women live in a maternity care desert
$115 MILLION is the societal cost of preterm birth
In West 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 West 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](http://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 West Virginia. In 2019 top March of Dimes priorities include advocating to prevent preterm birth, protect moms from dying from pregnancy-related causes, and address the impact of the opioids crisis on moms, babies and families.

**UNITE**

March of Dimes continues to support the Perinatal Partnership Quality Collaborative to improve outcomes for mothers and babies by bringing together professionals from across the state to create system-level changes in caring for moms and babies including addressing maternal mortality and morbidity, perinatal substance use and neonatal abstinence syndrome. Efforts include addressing utilization of progesterone shots (17P) to prevent prematurity and long-acting reversible contraceptive recommendations. An annual conference provides continuing education for the providers and serves approximately **200 professionals** each year.

**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 Charleston and our Training Institute for health care professionals.

**PARTNER**

In 2018 March of Dimes partnered with stakeholders, including the West Virginia Perinatal Partnership, Unicare, the Bureau for Public Health, and the West Virginia Hospital Association, to address the issue of early elective deliveries through a Quality Improvement Program. All birthing hospitals were provided with professional education and quality improvement assistance. Through the program, more than **50 health care providers** and **2,500 patients** were educated regarding early elective deliveries.

**SOURCES AND NOTES:**