

House Leaders



Rep. Robert
Aderholt (R-AL)



Rep. Rosa
DeLauro (D-CT)

Senate Leaders



Sen. Tammy
Baldwin (D-WI)



Sen. Shelley Moore
Capito (R-WV)

Background

March of Dimes supports the work of the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), and the [Health Resources Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#). This includes federal maternal and infant health research, surveillance for viruses, vaccines, maternal mental health, and newborn screening.



The maternal mortality rate in the United States remains dangerously high. **In 2021, the rate was 33 deaths per 100,000 births**, which is more than three-times the rate compared most high-income countries.



Nearly every one of the approximately 4 million infants born in the United states every year is screened for certain genetic, metabolic, hormonal and/or functional conditions, saving over 12,000 babies lives saved or improved annually.



One in five women are affected by anxiety, depression, and other maternal mental health (MMH) conditions during pregnancy or the year following pregnancy.



Mental health illnesses are the most common complications of pregnancy and childbirth, impacting **800,000 women in the United States each year**.



The U.S. spends nearly \$27 billion annually to treat four vaccine preventable illnesses, – **flu, pertussis pneumococcal, and shingles**.

March of Dimes requests support for the following maternal health programs:

- **\$1.891 billion for the National Institute of Health, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) (\$14 million increase):** Sustain vital NICHD research on preterm birth, maternal mortality, maternal substance use, and therapies for pregnant and lactating women.
- **\$164 million to maintain and expand the CDC’s Safe Motherhood Initiative (same as requested for FY 24):** Support and expand Maternal Mortality Review Committees and Perinatal Quality Collaboratives nationwide.
- **\$1.13 billion to maintain and expand the CDC’s Section 317 Immunization Program (same as requested for FY 24):** Provide grants to states to support immunization efforts for underserved populations, including for low-income adults and children who have no other means to pay for vaccinations.
- **\$29 million to maintain and support the CDC’s Newborn Screening Quality Assurance and \$29 million for HRSA’s Heritable Disorders Programs (same as requested for FY 24):** Provide ongoing critical contributions to state newborn screening programs, promote parent and provider education, and the work of the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children.
- **\$24 million to maintain and expand the HRSA’s Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression & Related Behavior Disorders Treatment Program (same as requested for FY 24):** Expand grants to support state programs that provide real-time psychiatric consultation, care coordination, and training for front-line providers to better screen, assess, refer and treat pregnant and postpartum women for depression and other behavioral health conditions.
- **\$10 million to maintain and expand HHS’s Maternal Mental Health Hotline (same as requested for FY 24):** Enhance the hotline to provide text services, culturally-appropriate support, and continue public awareness around maternal mental health conditions.

