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Senate leaders

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 2022, the rate was 22 deaths per 100,000 births**, which is larger compared to most high-income countries.



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



One in five women is 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 US each year**.



The U.S. spends a significant amount annually to treat four vaccine-preventable illnesses—**flu, pertussis, pneumococcal, and shingles**.

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

- **NIH's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD):** Sustain vital NICHD research on preterm birth, maternal mortality, maternal substance use, and therapies for pregnant and lactating women.
- **CDC's Safe Motherhood Initiative:** Support and expand Maternal Mortality Review Committees and Perinatal Quality Collaboratives nationwide.
- **CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS):** Support the NCHS' efforts to provide more timely, detailed, and relevant data that can help save lives, create jobs, and lower public and private sector costs. NCHS datasets are an essential part of the nation's statistical and public health infrastructure.
- **CDC's Section 317 Immunization Program:** Provide grants to states to support immunization efforts for underserved populations, including low-income adults and children who have no other means to pay for vaccinations.
- **CDC's Newborn Screening Quality Assurance and HRSA's Heritable Disorders Programs:** Provide ongoing critical support to state newborn screening programs, promote parent and provider education, and the work of the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children.
- **HRSA's Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression & Related Behavior Disorders Treatment Program:** 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 behavioral health conditions.
- **HRSA's Maternal Mental Health Hotline:** Enhance the hotline to provide text services, culturally-appropriate support, and continue public awareness around maternal mental health conditions.

