



# 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 GEORGIA



**129,243**

babies are born



**14,756**

babies are born prematurely



**3,910**

babies are born with a birth defect



**972**

babies die before their first birthday



**300,000**

women live in a maternity care desert



**\$761 MILLION**

is the societal cost of preterm birth

# In Georgia, 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 Georgia, 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 Georgia. In 2018 March of Dimes secured **ten legislative wins** by leading efforts to secure Medicaid reimbursement for providers using group prenatal care models; guaranteeing funding to implement a low-cost intervention to reduce instances of maternal mortality; adding MPS-1, Pompe, and X-ALD to the state's newborn screening panel; advocating for legislation to codify NICU and maternal levels of care; and protecting or increasing maternal and child health programs in the state's budget.

## UNITE

March of Dimes leads the Georgia Prematurity Prevention Workgroup, a committee tasked with analyzing current data, identifying communities with the highest need of support and working with community leaders to create a strategic plan that will improve the state's preterm birth rate. In 2018 we convened medical and health professionals and community leaders from five priority districts within the state at the annual Georgia Prematurity Summit. The summit featured an overview of the perinatal landscape in Georgia and included discussions on premature birth, expansion and stabilization efforts of group prenatal care and interconception care/birth spacing efforts throughout the state.

## 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 **two NICU Family Support®** programs operating in Georgia hospitals and our Training Institute for health care professionals.

## PARTNER

March of Dimes in Georgia has strong relationships with our state and local health departments, hospital partners and organizations with aligned goals to promote the mission of fighting for healthy moms and strong babies. In 2018 March of Dimes worked with partners to support and educate women, families and providers on ongoing efforts to implement evidence-based interventions, such as group prenatal care and birth spacing, to reduce Georgia's preterm birth rate.

**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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