

Mission Impact in Iowa

March of Dimes is dedicated to improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

Committed, passionate volunteers, donors and partners help us work toward our mission every day.

Fighting for Preemies

Premature birth is the #1 killer of newborns and the March of Dimes is leading the fight to save these babies. The March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign is a multimillion-dollar effort that includes research, awareness, advocacy and education to prevent premature births.



Iowa earned a "D" on the 2010 March of Dimes Preterm Birth Report Card.

To improve this grade, we are supporting outreach to high-risk pregnant women and their partners.

- Specialized prenatal education for pregnant teens.
- Bilingual home visits for at-risk pregnant young women.

Advocacy

The March of Dimes advocacy agenda focuses on federal, state and local public policies and programs that affect women of childbearing-age, infants and children.



Did you know?

Because of March of Dimes advocacy, every baby born in Iowa is screened for 29 of the 30 serious, yet treatable disorders.

NICU Family Support

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This program provides information, support and comfort to families whose babies are treated in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). March of Dimes NICU Family Support Program in Iowa is located at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, where a specialized kiosk serves family whenever they need information, 24 hours a day.

Approximately 250 families a year use the NICU Family Support kiosk, which consists of:

- Sensitive and engaging materials designed to help make the NICU experience.
- A computer with controlled internet access, including Shareyourstory.org



Community Programs

Preventing Stillbirth

In Iowa, we are working to prevent stillbirth by teaching pregnant women effective and efficient ways to monitor their babies health.



We have partnered with the Count the Kicks Campaign on statewide awareness on self-monitoring of fetal movement — an indication of fetal health.

Babies need us today!

- More than 543,000 babies are born prematurely each year — the leading cause of death for newborns.
- More than one in eight babies (4,730 a year) is born prematurely in Iowa.
- Premature birth can have serious and life-long health consequences including cerebral palsy, hearing, vision and breathing problems.
- Get involved! Contact the Iowa Chapter at marchofdimes.com/iowa to volunteer or make a donation!

Online Community for NICU Families



Families who have spent time in a NICU can find comfort and support at Share Your Story – an online community of more than 35,000 members that offers parents a safe place to talk about their experiences and gain support from each other. Shareyourstory.org.

Babies Need at Least 39 Weeks

Elective delivery before 39 weeks of pregnancy robs babies of needed time to fully develop. We teach moms why the last weeks of pregnancy count. We help hospitals implement quality improvement programs to eliminate elective c-sections and inductions before 39 weeks gestation.

marchofdimes.com/prematurity

Life-Saving Research

Scientific research is a cornerstone of our mission. Scientists' work in the lab allows doctors to improve treatments and save babies' lives. More research is needed. The causes of 2/3 of birth defects are still unknown. In the case of prematurity, 40% of the time we don't know why the baby was born early.

The March of Dimes has more than \$100,000,000 invested in active research grants. marchofdimes.com/professionals



Education for Women & Health Professionals

Through our extensive collection of online education resources, women and health professionals can get the latest information about preconception health, pregnancy and newborn care.

For health professionals: marchofdimes.com/professionals

For women and families: marchofdimes.com/baby

Help for the Business Bottom-Line

Healthy Babies, Healthy Business is a free tool to help employees make better health care decisions. It is a multi-dimensional health education program for the workplace that offers 6 resources to help companies improve employee health and the health of the company's bottom line. marchofdimes.com/hbbb



A HISTORY OF SUCCESS

By funding the development of the polio vaccine, we are the only non-profit to accomplish our original mission.

Our research made advances in life-saving fetal surgeries.

13 researchers we funded have received a Nobel Prize.

Fewer babies are born with neural tube defects, such as spina bifida, as a result of the March of Dimes advocacy and our Folic Acid Campaign.

March of Dimes research led to the development of surfactant therapy for premature babies, significantly reducing infant deaths from respiratory distress syndrome.

The Pregnancy and Newborn Health Education Center

Whether you're pregnant, thinking about getting pregnant or parenting a newborn, you're likely to have questions. The March of Dimes Pregnancy and Newborn Health Education Center can help. E-mail your question to askus@marchofdimes.com, or visit us online at:

marchofdimes.com Sitio web en español: nacersano.org

