

## In Pennsylvania

*In an average week in Pennsylvania,*

- 2,867 babies are born
- 338 babies are born premature
- 242 babies are born low birth weight
- 20 babies die before their first birthday

Between 1996 and 2006, the rate of infants born preterm in Pennsylvania increased more than 12%.

The most urgent infant health problem in the U.S. today is premature birth. It affects more than half a million babies each year, with the number growing every day. Premature birth is the leading cause of infant death in Pennsylvania.



2008 Premature Birth  
Report Card

**Pennsylvania**  
Preterm Birth Rate: 11.9%  
U.S. Rank: 18th  
Grade: D\*

In the first of what will be an annual Premature Birth Report Card, the March of Dimes gave the nation a D and Pennsylvania a D. The grade of D indicates how far Pennsylvania, with a preterm birth rate of 11.9%, is from the Healthy People 2010 objective of 7.6 percent of all live births.

The March of Dimes Premature Birth Report Card also analyzes contributing factors and prevention opportunities, including rates of late preterm birth, smoking, and uninsured women of child-bearing age. In Pennsylvania, the rate of late preterm births is 8.2%; the rate of women smoking is 27.2%, and the rate of uninsured women is 12.3%.

The Report Card illustrates the importance of ensuring every pregnant woman in Pennsylvania has access to health coverage, and it further stresses the value of smoking prevention and cessation. These issues will continue to be March of Dimes advocacy priorities.



For additional information and resources in Pennsylvania, please contact:

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# Pennsylvania Chapter

[marchofdimes.com/pennsylvania](http://marchofdimes.com/pennsylvania)  
[nacersano.org](http://nacersano.org)

*The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. The mission is accomplished through research, community service, public and professional education and advocacy.*

## About the March of Dimes

The March of Dimes is about all babies - those born healthy and those who need help to survive and thrive. We have the knowledge and passion to solve problems and answer questions about premature birth, birth defects and infant mortality. With a 70 history of success, we mobilize volunteers behind our mission to champion the needs of moms and babies.

## How we help moms and babies

The March of Dimes has touched your life if:

- Your baby received a vaccine to prevent polio
- Your baby received newborn screening to test for dangerous but treatable conditions
- Your baby was born too soon and spent time in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)
- You took folic acid before and during pregnancy to prevent brain and spinal cord birth defects
- You had a healthy baby due in part to good prenatal care

## What we do to achieve our mission

There are millions of reasons behind our urgent mission, so every day we deliver:

**Research:** March of Dimes has invested in research since 1938. We fund Nobel Prize-winning scientists, found the cure for polio, and are exploring the causes of premature birth and the genetics of birth defects.

**Community Services:** With hundreds of offices nationwide, March of Dimes offers direct-to-consumer services, such as the NICU Family Support program, mobile prenatal care clinics, and smoking cessation outreach.

**Education:** March of Dimes provides the best information on healthy pregnancies and infant wellness to consumers, businesses, and medical professionals.

**Advocacy:** March of Dimes believes in bipartisan advocacy at the federal and state levels. To help babies live healthy lives, we fight for policies and programs such as better newborn screening standards and better health care coverage for the most vulnerable.

**One day, every family will know the joy of a healthy baby. Until then, there is the March of Dimes.**

## Hope for babies



This year in Pennsylvania the value of our mission investment totals over **\$3 million** and over **\$99 million** nationwide. **Thomas Jefferson University, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, The Wistar Institute, University of Pennsylvania, Magee-Womens Research Institute (University of Pittsburgh) Lankenau Institute for Medical Research, Drexel University College of Medicine—St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and Pennsylvania State University** are among Pennsylvania's hospitals and institutions receiving March of Dimes funding. Through our research, we are making a difference for babies, and those who love them.

## Stronger families



In communities across America, moms and families can find information and support before, during and after they have their baby. The following list highlights the programs and services supported by the Pennsylvania Chapter.

<b>University of Pittsburgh—Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (Allegheny County)</b> Postpartum smoking relapse reduction	\$20,000
<b>PA Dept of Health - FQHC (Allegheny County)</b> Smoking cessation for pregnant women	\$24,920
<b>Hamot Medical Center (Erie County)</b> Prenatal case mgt/behavior change	\$20,000
<b>Titusville Area Hospital (Crawford, Venango, Forrest, Warren Counties)</b> Postpartum smoking relapse reduction	\$21,916
<b>The Salvation Army, Western PA Division (Venango County)</b> Preterm birth risk-reduction in dental clinic	\$25,000
<b>Maternal and Family Health Services, Inc. (16 counties in Northeast PA)</b> Preconception education/behavior change	\$23,500
<b>Thomas Jefferson Hospital—MATER (Philadelphia County)</b> Smoking cessation for pregnant women	\$17,452
<b>Maternal and Child Health Consortium (Chester County)</b> Depression screening and preterm birth	\$15,000
<b>Temple University Health Behavior (Philadelphia County)</b> Postpartum smoking relapse	\$20,000
<b>Mainline Health - Lankenau (Delaware and Philadelphia Counties)</b> Prenatal case mgt/behavior change	\$10,000
<b>Lancaster General Hospital (Lancaster County)</b> Penn State Hershey Medical Center Training in group prenatal care	\$15,875

## Newborn Screening



After years of work by public affairs staff and volunteers, we reached our goal of expanding newborn screening in Pennsylvania. Now every baby born in the state will be screened for 29 recommended tests for serious but treatable conditions. It's a huge victory for families and babies.

## NICU Family Support



If something should go wrong, March of Dimes NICU Family Support® projects provide information and comfort to families with a baby in newborn intensive care. Our NICU Family Support Program is located at Janet Weis Children's Hospital at Geisinger Medical Center, the country's only rural NICU Family Support® site, serving 35 largely rural counties across Central and Northeast Pennsylvania. A NICU Family Support® License Program now serves the needs of families at the St. Luke's Hospital and Health Network in Bethlehem.

## How can you help?

### March for Babies

It's the March of Dimes largest annual fundraiser and America's favorite walking event! When you walk, you give hope to the families of babies born too soon or sick. We've been walking since 1970 and have raised an incredible \$1.8 billion to benefit all babies.

### Special Events

The March of Dimes has been conducting special events for more than 60 years. With a wide variety to choose from, there is something for everyone!

- Signature Chefs Auctions
- Testimonials
- Golf Tournaments
- ... and many more

Call your local March of Dimes office or visit [marchofdimes.com/pennsylvania](http://marchofdimes.com/pennsylvania) for details.

### Volunteer

Discover purpose, feel pride as a March of Dimes volunteer! There are rewarding activities for everyone, at every level and everywhere.

### Donate

In giving to the March of Dimes, you help us continue vital research, education, community services and advocacy programs.