

## THE ISSUE

- We are facing an urgent maternal and child health crisis in the U.S. that has gone unnoticed for too long.
- While maternal death rates among the world's most developed nations have been stable or falling, the rate in the U.S. – the highest among the most developed nations – is getting worse. Pregnancy-related deaths have more than doubled over the past 25 years, and every 12 hours a woman dies from pregnancy-related causes.
- 5 million women in the U.S. live in maternity care deserts – counties with no hospitals offering obstetric services.
- The same is true for babies. Among developed countries, the U.S. has one of the highest preterm birth rates with 1 in 10 babies born preterm (before 37 weeks gestation) in 2018 – for a 4th year in a row. The rate is highest for black babies followed by Native American and Hispanic babies, with overall preterm births in 2018 worsening in 30 states.
- A mother's zip code could easily determine if her baby will be born too early.
- The maternal and child health crisis is a hidden issue. It is one that is greater than more well-known pediatric issues such as juvenile diabetes, childhood cancer or even autism.
- These statistics are staggering and simply not fine. It is time that we give this issue the attention and resources it deserves.

## WHY MARCH OF DIMES

- March of Dimes imagines a world where every mom and baby is healthy regardless of wealth, race or geography. Our goal is to end preventable maternal risk and death, preterm birth and infant death. To achieve these goals, we must also end the health equity gap.
- We will meet these goals by:
  1. Leading cutting edge research to encourage innovation of new technologies, inform public policy and arm moms and their families with a wealth of health education and resources
  2. Mobilizing action through national and local partnerships and collaboratives (Mom and Baby Action, March for Babies), public awareness campaigns (It's Not Fine, Blanket Change, Unspoken Stories) and powerful advocacy wins
  3. Delivering impact through programs that support families (Supportive Pregnancy Care, NICU Family Support) and those that care for them (Accredited and Implicit Bias training for Healthcare Professionals)
- For over 80 years, March of Dimes has been on the forefront of lifesaving research to address some of the biggest health threats to moms and babies with innovations like folic acid, newborn screening and more. From our earlier days, where we crowdfunded and pioneered critical vaccine research to eradicate polio in the U.S., to our more recent work looking for practical applications to improve maternal and child health, we are proud to continue leading the fight with new clinical and social science research that will unlock breakthroughs to build a brighter future for all.
- Our work impacts all moms and babies - whether it is the 4 million babies who benefit yearly from the work of Virginia Apgar (the Apgar Score), the 700,000 women with access to the supportive pregnancy care program and the continuing education received by healthcare professionals, or the moms and babies who benefit from our countless legislative victories.

## JOIN US

- While our vision, legacy and goals are clear, we cannot do it alone. Moms and babies need more champions and we need partners like you in the fight for healthy moms and strong babies.
- With your help, we can continue to advocate, fund new research, unite, explore new technologies, and continue to evolve, expand care and raise awareness.
- With your help, we can make our next decade of breakthroughs one that ensures the best for all moms and babies regardless of wealth, race, and geography.