

march to help babies

march  of dimes®
march for babies®



JohnCarlo

Born 12 weeks early,
surviving twin.

working together for stronger, healthier babies



Los Angeles • April 25

Exposition Park • Los Angeles

Registration begins at 6:30 a.m.

Ventura County • May 2

Conejo Creek North Park • Thousand Oaks

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m.

golden state sponsors



Let's
Go
Places



media sponsor



marchforbabies.org





working together for stronger, healthier babies

In one year in Los Angeles County...*



- 133,160 babies are born
- 13,982 babies are born prematurely
- 10.5% of babies born Los Angeles County are preterm
- 17,548 pregnant women receive late or no prenatal care
- 9,721 babies are born at a low birthweight
- 4,035 babies are born with a birth defect
- 617 babies die before their first birthday



Research Funding

- Nationally and internationally, March of Dimes is currently funding **367** research grants, totaling more than **\$82 million**.
- In California, March of Dimes is currently funding **44** research grants, totaling more than **\$12 million**.
- In Los Angeles County, March of Dimes is funding **12** research grants at Caltech, UCLA and USC, totaling more than **\$2.7 million**.



The scientists that we fund in Los Angeles County are researching topics which include:

- which placental genes can cause preterm labor
- how gene changes cause a fatal skeletal birth defect called Bent Bone Dysplasia FGFR2-type
- whether vitamin D can help to prevent infection-related preterm birth

Transdisciplinary Research

The March of Dimes and Stanford University have created the nation's first transdisciplinary research center dedicated to finding the causes of premature birth. Over 130 scientists are pursuing a revolutionary model of team science to find answers.

For more information on research funding, visit marchofdimes.com/research or prematurityresearch.org

Community Grant and Community Award Funding

Community Grants and Community Awards support local programs that address the health concerns of pregnant women and infants. Community Grants provide a maximum of \$50,000 per year in funding for up to three years; Community Awards provide a maximum of \$3,000 in funding for one year.

Community Grants (2012-2014)

Pomona Valley Medical Center

The Continuous Glucose Monitoring During Pregnancy Project

Year One Funding: \$50,000 • **Year Two Funding:** \$50,000 • **Year Three Funding:** \$50,000

Sansum Diabetes Research Institute

An education and support program for low-income Latinas with a history of gestational diabetes

Year One Funding: \$49,083 • **Year Two Funding:** \$49,577 • **Year Three Funding:** \$41,261

Community Awards

In Los Angeles County, March of Dimes recently awarded **\$4,500** to **3** organizations for Community Award projects focusing on **professional education**.



* Los Angeles County is part of the Greater Los Angeles Division, which also includes San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Source: 2010 County Birth and Infant Mortality Data, California Department of Public Health (except birth defect data, which is an estimate.)



working together for stronger, healthier babies

Programs in Los Angeles County

Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait

- Babies aren't fully developed until at least 39 weeks in the womb. Babies born at less than 39 weeks have higher rates of hospitalization and illness compared to full-term infants.
- **Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait** is the March of Dimes public awareness campaign to let women know that if a pregnancy is healthy, it is best to wait for labor to begin on its own.
- Hospitals across California are implementing a 39 Weeks Initiative and receiving technical assistance from March of Dimes and our partners.

For more information on our work in this area, visit:

marchofdimes.com/39weeks or PrematurityPrevention.org



March of Dimes Preterm Labor Assessment Toolkit (PLAT)

This toolkit aims to standardize assessment and diagnosis of women who come to the hospital with signs and symptoms of preterm labor, ensuring timely and appropriate interventions for preterm labor, and hospitalization or transport of patients at greatest risk for preterm delivery.

Healthy Babies, Healthy Business



- Nearly half a million premature babies are born each year, and almost 11 percent of babies covered by employer health plans are born preterm. Employers are billed more than \$12 billion annually in excess health care costs related to premature birth.
- **Healthy Babies, Healthy Business** is a no-cost online workplace wellness program created by the March of Dimes.
- The program provides educational resources and support for employees before, during and after pregnancy and is used by hundreds of organizations nationwide.

Find out more and preview the program at marchofdimes.com/hbhb

NICU Family Support® Initiatives

The California Chapter has six NICU Family Support sites across California, including **Children's Hospital Los Angeles** and **Miller Children's Hospital** (Long Beach). Together, our two hospital sites in Los Angeles County serve over 1,500 families each year.

We also provide information and support through the **Share Your Story** website for NICU families, which can be accessed at share.marchofdimes.com (English) or CompartasuHistoria.org (Spanish). In 2013, Share Your Story had 32,000 visits from California.



Advocacy

March of Dimes is a lead advocacy organization focused on legislation and policies to improve the health of infants, children and women of childbearing age. Our recent advocacy successes include:

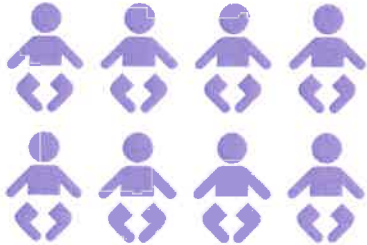
- Ensuring that health plans offered through Covered California have no copays or cost sharing for prenatal care and preconception visits.
- Supporting the expansion of Medi-Cal so that more women of childbearing age will have access to affordable and comprehensive health coverage.
- Sponsoring legislation to require newborn screening for critical congenital heart disease (CCHD). If not detected and treated as soon as possible, CCHD can have serious and deadly consequences for infants.

For more information and to get involved in California advocacy initiatives, visit marchofdimes.com/ca/advocacy

facebook.com/marchofdimesca • twitter.com/modcal

SOLVING THE COMPLEX PROBLEM OF PREMATURE BIRTH

 **1 in 9 babies**
is born prematurely



premature birth is the

#1
cause of
death
in newborns

premature birth
is a leading cause of

lasting
childhood
disabilities,

such as learning, vision
and lung problems

WHY DO BABIES ARRIVE EARLY?



Do a baby's **genes** influence his/her birth day?

What **triggers** labor contractions?

How does the **cervix** stay closed during
pregnancy and relax during birth?

What is the biological reason for the
racial disparity of preterm birth?

Can the **microbes** in a woman's body
determine pregnancy outcomes?

SEEKING THE ANSWERS

The March of Dimes accomplished its original mission by developing the Salk and Sabin vaccines that prevent polio around the world. We have a proven track record of developing treatments that eradicate disease. Today, we're determined to find the causes and preventions for premature birth.

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prematurity research centers

at **Stanford University**

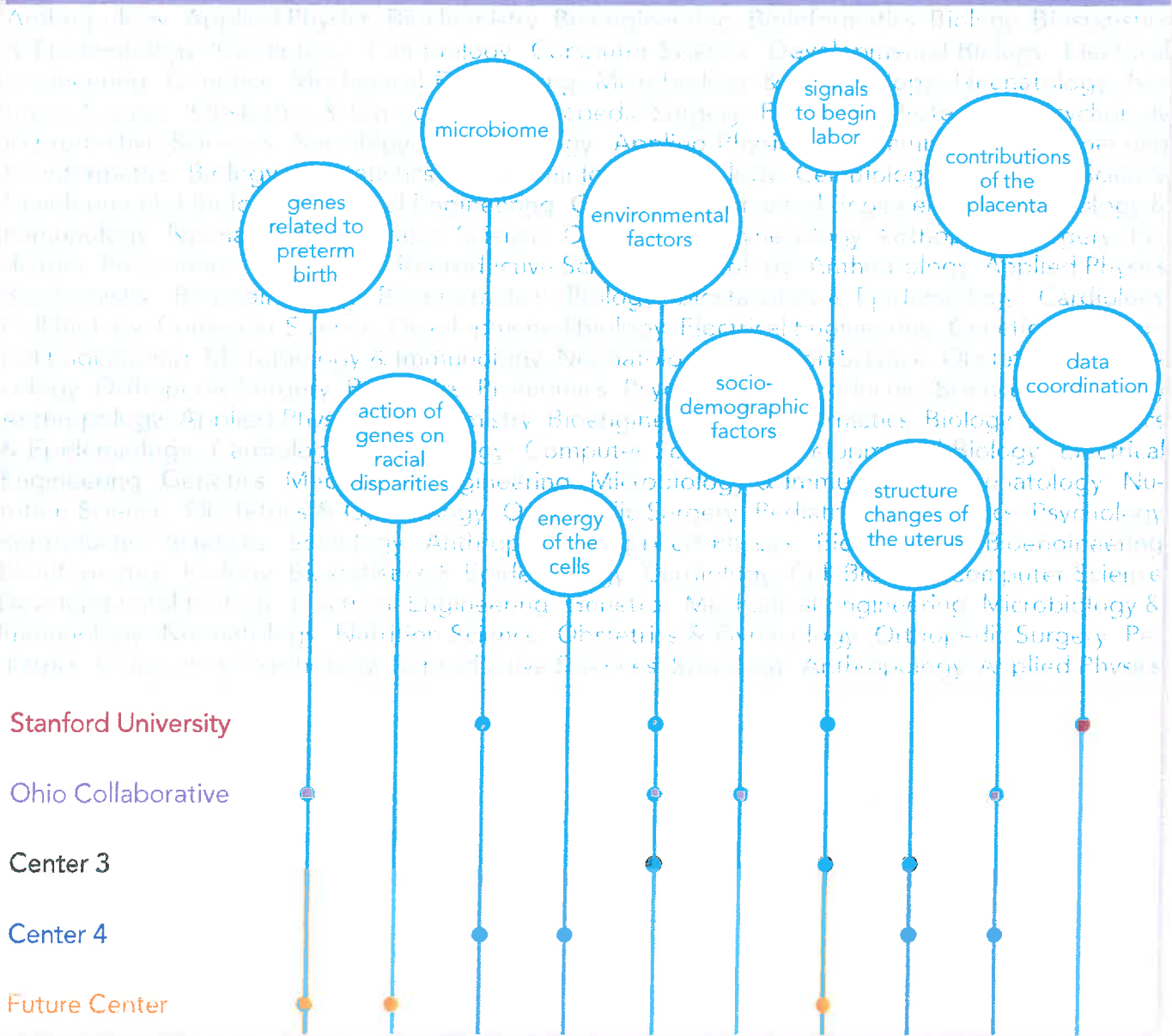
Ohio Collaborative

Center 3 launching Nov. 10, 2014

Center 4 launching Nov. 17, 2014

HELP END PREMATUREITY

TEAM SCIENCE: AREAS OF FOCUS



FUNDS



75 million
needed

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Learn more at:
premataturityresearch.org





Advocacy & Government Affairs Year in Review

In 2014, March of Dimes achieved several significant victories for the health of women, infants and children in California. These accomplishments were made possible by the tremendous support of our volunteers.

Black Infant Health

March of Dimes led a coalition of more than 50 organizations to get funding restored for the Black Infant Health (BIH) Program. This is a vital public health program because Black infants have higher rates of infant mortality, preterm birth and low birthweight than other races and ethnicities. In addition to supporting medical care, the BIH Program fully addresses all the factors that impact Black mothers, including chronic stress, economic hardship and the need for empowerment. Even though it was a challenging budget for health issues, we were able to successfully secure \$4 million in restored funding for the BIH Program in the 2014-15 state budget. Restoration of this funding will allow Riverside and San Bernardino Counties to reopen their BIH Programs after both had to close following the budget cuts. Statewide, the restored funding will allow the BIH Program to serve more women and can lead to reductions in infant mortality, low birth weight and prematurity for Black infants.

Health Coverage for Low-Income Pregnant Women

March of Dimes worked with a coalition to get key provisions included in the 2014-15 state budget that will improve health care coverage for low-income pregnant women. Certain low-income pregnant women were only eligible for Pregnancy Medi-Cal that just covers their health care needs that are considered related to their pregnancy. The provisions in the state budget will increase the number of women who will also be able to get Medi-Cal coverage for all of their health care needs and not just those related to their pregnancy. Second, it will create a new program that will allow low-income pregnant women to be enrolled in a Covered California health plan and have access to the more comprehensive maternity benefits that are available in Medi-Cal at the same time. Together, these improvements will help ensure that women get the needed health care to improve their own health and to identify and manage conditions that contribute to preterm birth.

Support from March of Dimes Volunteers

Our advocacy efforts in 2014 would not have been successful without the commitment of our volunteers who attended Capitol Day, emailed their legislators and shared their stories. There are several ways to stay updated and participate in advocacy activities in 2015:

- Advocacy Network— sign up at capwiz.com/marchofdimes/mlm/signup/ to receive updates, action alerts and invitations to advocacy events
- Facebook – like us at www.facebook.com/marchofdimesca
- Twitter – follow us at twitter.com/modcal
- Website— visit www.marchofdimes.org/ca/advocacy

Legislative Success

In addition to the two top priorities described to the left, March of Dimes supported several other key bills to improve maternal and child health that were signed into law. These include:

- AB 369 – will allow for continuity of care for pregnant women who had their health plans cancelled
- AB 1819 – will prohibit smoking in family day care homes at all times
- AB 2069 – will require the Department of Public Health to post educational information about influenza (flu) and the availability of vaccines



Contact information: Justin Garrett, State Director of Advocacy & Government Affairs, at jgarrett@marchofdimes.org, (916) 576-2836

The March of Dimes is a national voluntary health agency whose volunteers and staff work to improve the health of infants and children by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Founded in 1938, the March of Dimes funds programs of research, community services, education and advocacy. For the latest resources and information, visit marchofdimes.org or nacersano.org.

this year with your support...

\$5 million
was invested
in 530 community
grants to help moms
have healthy babies

25
states received
an A or B on the
March of Dimes
2014 Premature
Birth Report
Card

4 million
babies benefited
from March of Dimes
research, vaccines,
education and
breakthroughs

\$25 million
was invested in research to defeat
premature birth and birth defects

6.1 million
people visited marchofdimes.org
for information on pregnancy
and newborn health



90,000
families with a newborn in intensive
care were offered comfort and
information through NICU
Family Support®



15,700
babies received
lifesaving surfactant
therapy, developed
by March of Dimes
researchers

78,000
people found support at
our online community
for NICU families —
shareyourstory.org



3 million
people visited
nacersano.org for
healthy pregnancy
information in
Spanish



At Prematurity
Research Centers,
200
of the brightest
minds are working
together to find causes
and preventions for
premature birth

2.1 million
moms, dads and health
professionals received
community services and
education to improve
babies' health

march of dimes
marchofdimes.org
nacersano.org

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your support helps babies

Your generous gift to the March of Dimes funds important research and programs that help babies begin healthy lives. March of Dimes spends more than 75 cents of every dollar raised to support research and other programs that help moms have full-term pregnancies and healthy babies. Here are some of the ways you've already helped:

eyes

We're developing treatments to cure vision defects.

lungs

Surfactant and nitric oxide therapies save the lives of many premature babies.

heel

Newborn screening — a drop of blood from baby's heel could save her life.

brain

We're fighting premature birth — baby's brain needs 39 weeks to fully develop.

smile

We've identified a gene responsible for oral cleft and are working on preventions.

heart

New treatments mean better survival rates for the tiniest heart patients.

spine

Folic acid education means fewer babies are born with neural tube defects.

[facebook.com/marchofdimesca](https://www.facebook.com/marchofdimesca) • twitter.com/modcal



Community

Our programs help moms-to-be in California have full-term pregnancies and healthy babies.



Advocacy

We advocate for programs that help moms in California get care and services to improve their health and the health of their babies.



Research

We research the serious problems that threaten our babies and work on treating and preventing them.



Education

Our websites provide the latest pregnancy health information in English and Spanish. Health experts provide personal answers to moms' questions.



Support

Through our online community and in hospitals in California, we offer information and comfort to families with a newborn in intensive care.

In California...

503,755 babies are born each year

48,136 babies are born prematurely

15,270 babies are born with a birth defect

Preventing premature birth in California could mean an annual savings up to:

\$2 billion

working together for stronger, healthier babies

Almost every baby receives a **polio vaccine** developed with funding by the March of Dimes. Children in California are vaccinated against **14** diseases.

Each year about **2,120** babies in California receive life-saving **surfactant therapy** developed with funding by the March of Dimes.

Babies in California receive screening for **31** inherited disorders. We funded the development of **4** of these tests and advocated for **newborn screening** for all babies.

Average medical cost for a healthy baby:
\$4,389

Average medical cost for a premature baby:
\$54,194

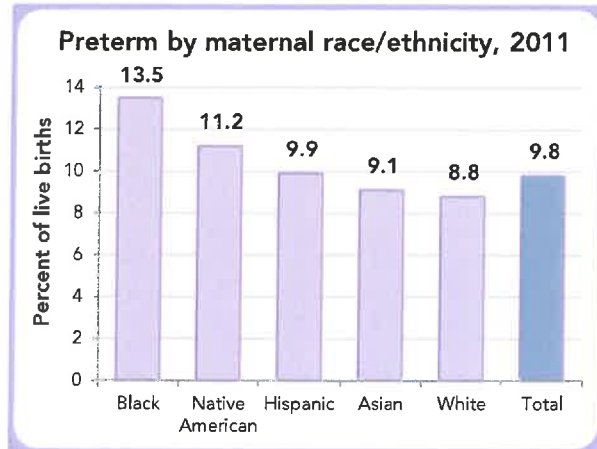
Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Premature Birth

The March of Dimes is concerned about inequities in health and health care that contribute to higher rates of preterm birth among different racial and ethnic groups. We urge state and federal governments to support funding and innovative practices that address the complex medical and social factors underlying racial and ethnic disparities in premature birth.

In California:

In 2011, 9.8% of live births were born preterm in California.

- Rates of preterm birth were highest among births to Black mothers (13.5%), followed by Native American (11.2%) and Hispanic (9.9%), and lowest among births to Asian (9.1%) and White mothers (8.8%).
- One in 7 births to Black mothers was preterm.
- The preterm birth rate among Black mothers was 1.5 times the rate among White mothers.

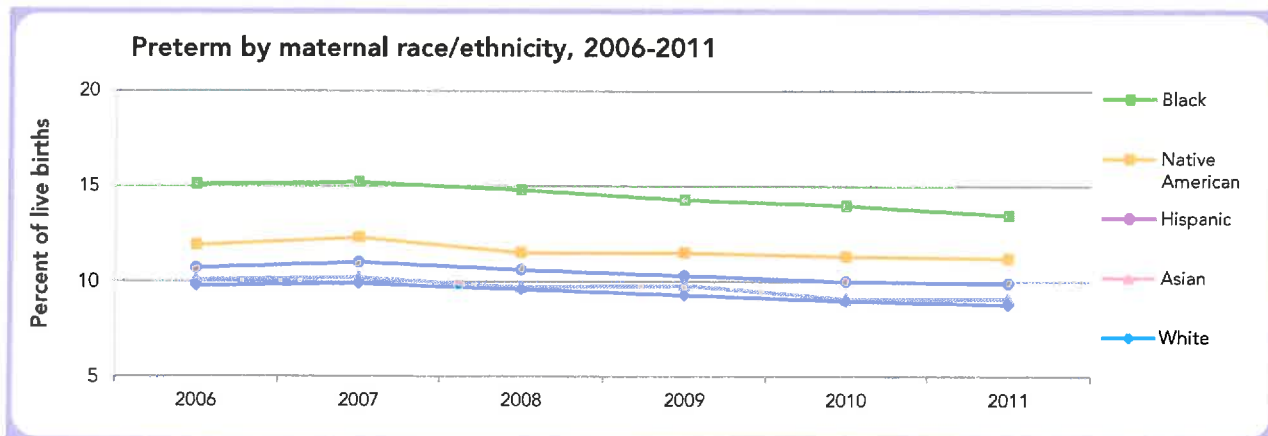


The overall preterm birth rate in California decreased 8.4% between 2006 (10.7%) and 2011 (9.8%). The changes in preterm rates by maternal race/ethnicity were as follows:

- Preterm among Blacks decreased 10.6%.
- Preterm among Native Americans decreased 5.9%.
- Preterm among Hispanics decreased 7.5%.
- Preterm among Asians decreased 9.9%.
- Preterm among Whites decreased 10.2%.

In 2011, 502,120 babies were born in California.

- Births to Hispanic mothers accounted for 50.7% of all live births followed by White mothers (29.3%), Asian mothers (13.5%), Black mothers (6.1%) and Native American mothers (0.5%).



Notes: Preterm is less than 37 completed weeks gestation. Rates not shown for group if numerator was less than 20. Race categories (white, black, Native American and Asian) include only women of non-Hispanic ethnicity.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, final natality data.

More data on preterm birth and disparities can be found on PeriStats at www.marchofdimes.com/peristats/california

Prepared by March of Dimes Perinatal Data Center, October 2013

march of dimes®

Almost 4 million babies were born in the United States in 2013. Thanks to March of Dimes research, education, vaccines and breakthroughs, they were healthier than any generation before.

These are just some of the highlights of the past year. Our work continues to make sure every baby gets the strongest start possible. We are determined to find the causes of premature birth and ways to prevent it.

75 years after our founding by FDR...

we are still improving lives

4 million babies were born

450,000 babies were born prematurely

Cost to employer health care plans: **\$12 billion**

research

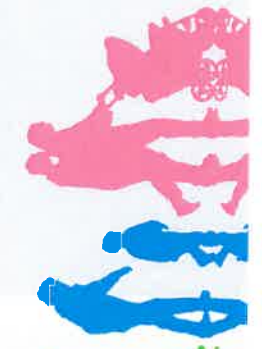


200 researchers representing 20 disciplines worked together in our **Prematurity Research Centers** in California and Ohio.



382 grants were awarded to researchers to work on treatments and preventions for the problems that threaten babies' health.

27 scientists are looking for causes and better treatments for **heart defects**, the most common birth defect.



education + community



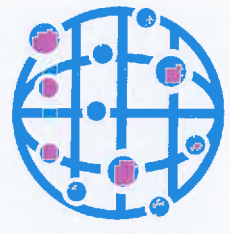
530 community programs brought health education and prenatal care to groups of moms-to-be, treatment and care for serious health problems, and cutting-edge education for health care providers.

3 million volunteers worked together for stronger, healthier babies.



92 thousand families with a newborn in intensive care were offered comfort and information through **March of Dimes NICU Family Support®**

9 million people visited our **websites in English and Spanish** for information on how to have a full-term pregnancy and healthy baby.



83 countries participated in **World Prematurity Day**. Partners on all continents joined the **March of Dimes**, and landmarks were lit purple around the globe.

\$100 million was raised by families and companies in **March for Babies®**

results

11.5% The U.S. premature birth rate declined for the **6th** year in a row from a high of **12.8%** to **11.5%**.



Early elective deliveries dropped from **17%** in 2010 to **4.6%** in 2013 at nearly 1,000 reporting hospitals.



6 states earned an **"A"** on the **March of Dimes Premature Birth Report Card**: Alaska, California, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon and Vermont.



108 legislative victories include the President signing the **PREEMIE Reauthorization Act** into law on November 27.