

2014 Texas Mission Priorities



Prenatal Education Support

The March of Dimes® provides funding and support for a variety of signature prenatal education programs that have been shown to improve birth outcomes among participants. Culturally appropriate prenatal education is provided in a supportive environment that gives families the opportunity to learn how to have a healthy pregnancy and empowers them to play an active role in their care.

Becoming a Mom/Comenzando bien®

Created specifically to provide information that is culturally sensitive and relevant for Hispanic women and designed to improve participants' chances of having a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby.

- Preterm birth rate of participants was lower than that of the state as a whole. In 2012 the rate for women across Texas was 12.4%, but for program participants that rate was only 5%.
- Becoming a Mom/Comenzando bien is offered at more than 70 sites across Texas.
- 90% stated that the classes caused them to change their eating habits, and 43% stated they changed their exercise habits.

CenteringPregnancy®

CenteringPregnancy includes health care assessment, education, and support, provided in a group setting facilitated by a credentialed health care provider.

- CenteringPregnancy is conducted in 12 sites across the state.
- In 2013—96% of participants reported a full-term birth.

Honey Child

A faith-based prenatal education program providing African-American women with information and support to have the healthiest possible pregnancy.

In 2011 the preterm birth rate in Texas was 12.8%.

- Rates of preterm birth were highest among births to Black mothers (16.8%), followed by Hispanic (13.1%).
- One in 6 births to Black mothers was preterm.
- Honey Child is currently in seven churches.

Know the Facts

In an average week in Texas:

- 7,425 babies are born.*
- 975 babies are born preterm.*
- 46 babies die before their first birthday.*
- 918 babies are born to teen moms (ages 15-19)

*Peristats 2013

- Prematurity is the leading cause of death for newborns.
- 1 out of 8 babies is born prematurely in Texas each year.
- Approximately 60% of pregnant women in Texas enter into prenatal care in their first trimester.
- Premature birth can have lifelong consequences including cerebral palsy, hearing, vision, and breathing problems.
- More than \$26 billion is spent annually including medical costs, education costs, and lost productivity.

Statewide Network Providers

The March of Dimes partners with local community-based organizations, hospitals and clinics to provide direct services to pregnant women, educational materials for families on the importance of a healthy pregnancy and convenes maternal and child health leaders to discuss approaches for collaboration. This results in decreased duplication of services and increases the utilization of limited resources.

March of Dimes also provides continuing education for perinatal health care providers through online study programs, grand rounds and conferences.



NICU Family Support

The March of Dimes NICU Family Support® program helps hospitals accomplish their Family Centered Care goals by coordinating services that decrease parent stress; providing staff with professional development around Family Centered Care; and distributing award winning family educational materials from the recognized leader in maternal and child health.

- Nineteen hospitals partner with us to provide NICU Family Support to their families.
- More than 8,000 families are touched by NICU Family Support each year.

Get involved

Our advocacy priorities focus on improving the health of women, infants and children, including:

- Access to health care.
- Research to prevent prematurity, birth defects and infant mortality.
- Prevention and treatment to improve maternal, infant, and child health.

During the 2014 Interim, March of Dimes volunteers will continue to advocate for:

- Access to Health Care for Women of Childbearing Age, Infants, & Children
- Prevention and Treatment to Improve Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

Take action & get involved in our advocacy efforts by signing up for advocacy alerts online at

<http://www.marchofdimes.com/texas/advocacy>

Research

Research continues to be one of the cornerstones of the March of Dimes mission. March of Dimes funds research aimed at preventing birth defects, prematurity and infant mortality.

As of January 1, 2014 in Texas, March of Dimes has 24 research grants active at research institutions in Austin, Dallas, Galveston, San Antonio, and Houston valued at more than \$5.4 million.

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