



## Providing a Circle of Support for 25 Years

*"I don't know what I would have done without MOMS."*

We hear these words regularly at MOMS Orange County.

They come from the heart of a single mother looking back on her first year with prematurely born twins. And a couple who could barely afford to buy their children food for dinner, let alone diapers for their newborn. And from the man whose wife was overwhelmed and depressed with a later-in-life baby.

We know these words mean something different for each individual who comes through our doors, but they remind us about the needs in our community. For the past 25 years, MOMS Orange County has walked with women and families when they are highly vulnerable: during pregnancy through the baby's first year of life. Because MOMS Orange County mothers access prenatal care, babies are born healthy and reach their developmental milestones on time, and fathers are prepared for a positive role in the family.



Pamela Pimentel, RN  
Chief Executive Officer

Since MOMS Orange County was founded 25 years ago, 45,000 families have been able to give their babies the best possible start.

Thank you for joining us on this important journey.

## Achieving Health is Harder for Families in Poverty

Poverty, housing instability, food insecurity, exposure to crime, low education, limited English fluency, separated or dysfunctional families -- not to mention the stress of living day-to-day with these challenges -- are among the factors named by Healthy People 2020 that influence health. These are the very conditions experienced by most of the families served by MOMS Orange County.

### Did you know?

In an average week in Orange County:

**742** babies are born

**55** babies are born preterm

**47** babies are born with low birthweight



### Babies are Born Healthier through MOMS' Maternal-Child Health Coordination Program

Babies born to mothers participating in MOMS Orange County's home visitation program (based on FY16 outcomes):

**84%** had a positive birth outcome (no low birth weight, premature birth or NICU admission)

**98%** were breastfed at discharge from hospital (43% exclusively breastfed)

**95%** were on track developmentally

**98%** had a medical home

**86%** were on track with their immunizations

## Delivering a Bright Destiny in 2016



**17,981**  
Home visits provided



**820**  
Classes provided throughout Orange County



**4,086** FIRST assessments (Infant Development Screening Tool)

**2,858** Ages and Stages Questionnaires (Infant Development Screenings)



**35** Breastfeeding support groups provided

**3,615** Families served

### Mothers In Our Program

**79%** of mothers are between 19-35 years old

**27%** had less than a high school education

**58%** either already had, or were at risk for developing diabetes

**54%** Spanish speaking

**37%** English speaking

**8%** Vietnamese speaking

**23%** Single parent

**47%** Married



## Spotlight on Maternal Mental Health Screenings

Up to 20% of women will experience a mental health disorder during their pregnancy or their child's first year of life. Women in families whose income is less than 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) experience depression at over double the rate of women in families with income over 300% of FPL (Maternal Infant Health Assessment; 2013-14 data)

Untreated maternal mental health (MMH) disorders significantly and negatively impact the short- and long-term health and well-being of affected women and their children. Symptoms lead to adverse birth outcomes, impaired maternal-infant bonding, poor infant growth, childhood emotional and behavioral problems, and significant medical and economic costs. Despite these consequences, screening for MMH disorders is not routine and even when MMH disorders are detected, treatment occurs in less than 15% of identified cases.

(Report from CA Taskforce on Status of MMH Care; 2017).

As part of a comprehensive program of prenatal and postnatal education and support, MOMS Orange County's Home Visitation Program brings critically important screenings for depression, substance use, and domestic violence directly to the mother and infant in the home. [Regular screenings are also conducted for gestational diabetes risk and for infant development.]

In FY16, 2,096 mothers were screened for maternal depression. Of this number, 348 (13.4%) warranted immediate referral to mental health providers including CalOptima/Beacon Health, OC Postpartum Wellness Program, Mariposa Women's Center, Human Options and other levels of support.

Thanks to the commitment of funders -- many of whom have partnered with MOMS Orange County since our earliest days -- we can connect at-risk pregnant and parenting women to the resources they need to pursue greater wellness and hope.



Few hospitals accept Medi-Cal for labor & delivery causing overcrowding at UCI Medical Center. March of Dimes holds a Town Hall meeting to address crisis in access to prenatal and labor/delivery services. Perinatal Task Force is formed.



Maternal Outreach Management System (MOMS) is formed as a central clearing-house to coordinate care and support services for medically indigent women in Orange County. Dottie Andrews is first Executive Director.



County of Orange bankruptcy

MOMS' offices located at Fourth & Sycamore Streets in downtown Santa Ana. MOMS designs a home visitation model using promotoras (lay health workers). Allison Driessen, RN named Executive Director.

Children and Families Commission of Orange County (Prop. 10) is formed and awards MOMS its first grant to extend home visits through baby's first birthday; adds developmental screenings and parent education. Pamela Pimentel, RN joins as Executive Director. MOMS elevates the home visitation model to low-cost, high-impact program utilizing paraprofessionals under RN supervision. MOMS serves as a subcontractor of Perinatal Support Services for health networks.

1989

1992

1994

1997

2000

1990

OC Grand Jury reports that low-income women experience difficulty obtaining prenatal and labor/delivery services. March of Dimes/UCLA study recommends more OB beds and other strategies to address crisis.



1993

DIRECT SERVICES BEGIN

1995

MOMS transitions 800 pregnant women into private care following the closure of County-operated prenatal clinics. MOMS helps design the Perinatal Support Services (PSS) program for CalOptima.

1998

"MOMS Care" no-interest loan program helps 30 uninsured couples pay for pregnancy and delivery. MOMS' offices move to 1212 Broadway St. in Santa Ana. CA Prop. 10 (Cigarette Tax) for "First 5" Early Childhood Funding approved by voters.



Children & Families Commission of Orange County

Taller Para Papás (Workshop for Dads) classes begin



Home visitation program consolidated into one comprehensive model of care providing monthly visits to all clients.

UCI Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing Academic-community research partnership formed with UCI Program in Nursing Science (now School of Nursing)

UCI's studies on MOMS Orange County's program and economic impacts are published in the peer-reviewed *American Journal of Nursing* and *Californian Journal of Health Promotion*



2001

2006

2012

2016

2005

Mommy & Me classes begin



2008

MOMS purchased building at 1128 W. Santa Ana Blvd with community investment loan from St. Joseph Health. Organization changes its name to MOMS Orange County. MOMS contracts directly with CalOptima to provide home visitation services to CalOptima members.

St. Joseph Health

2014

Building mortgage is paid off

2017

25th Anniversary of MOMS Orange County

45,000 families served since the founding of MOMS Orange County in 1992

