



# **The Interplay of Trauma and Substance Use Disorder in Perinatal patients**

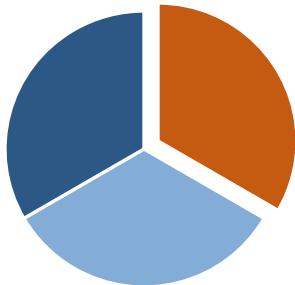
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**Department of Psychiatry**

**Brigham and Women's Hospital**



## Trauma and Trauma Informed Care

### Substance Use Disorders in Pregnancy



**Impact of alcohol, cannabis, sympathomimetics and opioids in perinatal individuals**



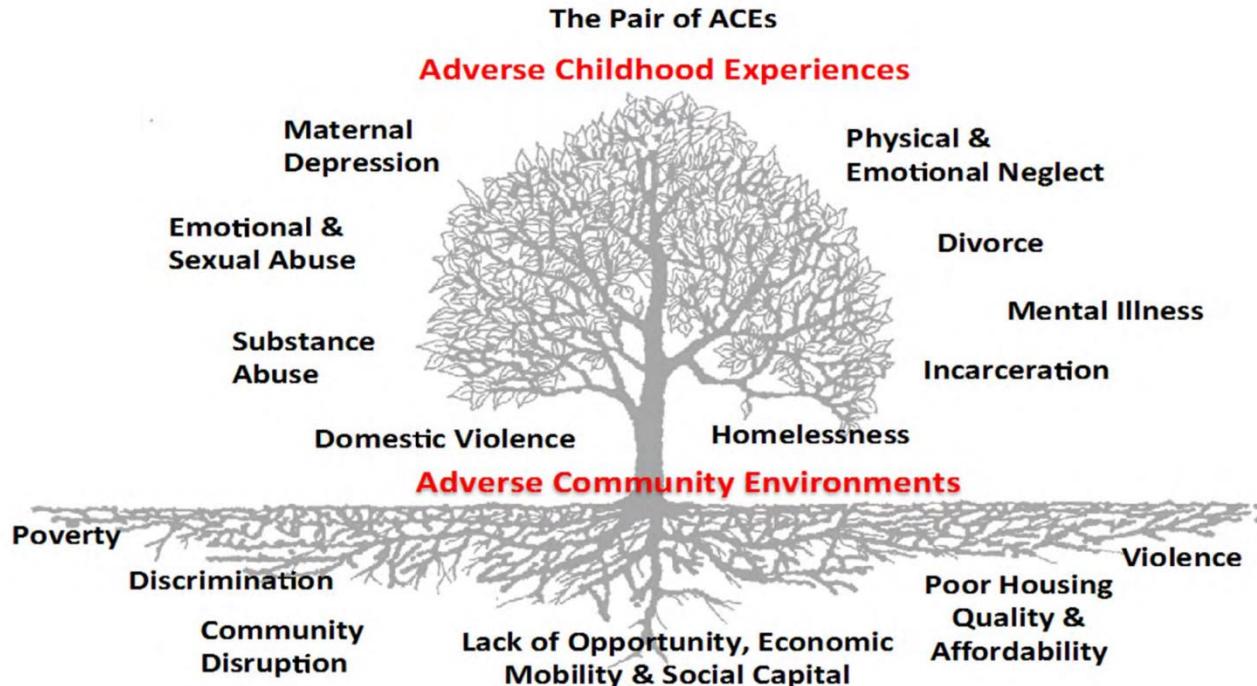
**How MCPAP for Moms can help**

# What is Trauma?

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***“Trauma is defined as an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening, and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.”***

# Adverse Childhood Experiences: in the soil and the air



Ellis, W., Dietz, W. (2017) A New Framework for Addressing Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences: The Building Community Resilience (BCR) Model. Academic Pediatrics. 17 (2017) pp. S86-S93. DOI information: 10.1016/j.acap.2016.12.011

From the Center for Community Resilience <https://ccr.publichealth.gwu.edu/>

# Experiences of trauma are widespread

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- Majority of individuals (50-90%) have had exposure to a traumatic event in their lifetime
- Interpersonal Violence (IPV) is more common in pregnant women than gestational diabetes

# Maternal trauma can negatively impact one's pregnancy, postpartum experience and infant health.

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Exacerbation of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders

Preterm birth risk

Poor maternal infant bonding

Low birth weight

Reduced or early cessation of breastfeeding

Dysregulation in fetal neurobiological systems

Yonkers et al., 2014; Brand et al., 2010; Meltzer-Brody et al., 2013; Muzik et al., 2016; Smith et al., 2016

# Individuals with past trauma and ACES are more likely to experience...

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- Substance use disorders
- Suicide attempts
- Adolescent pregnancy
- Fetal death
- Medical co-morbidities

# Trauma and Opioid Use Disorder intersect in the perinatal population

**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) were associated with:**

- Rates of recent injection drug use and lifetime overdose earlier age of initiating opioids

**In perinatal individuals:**

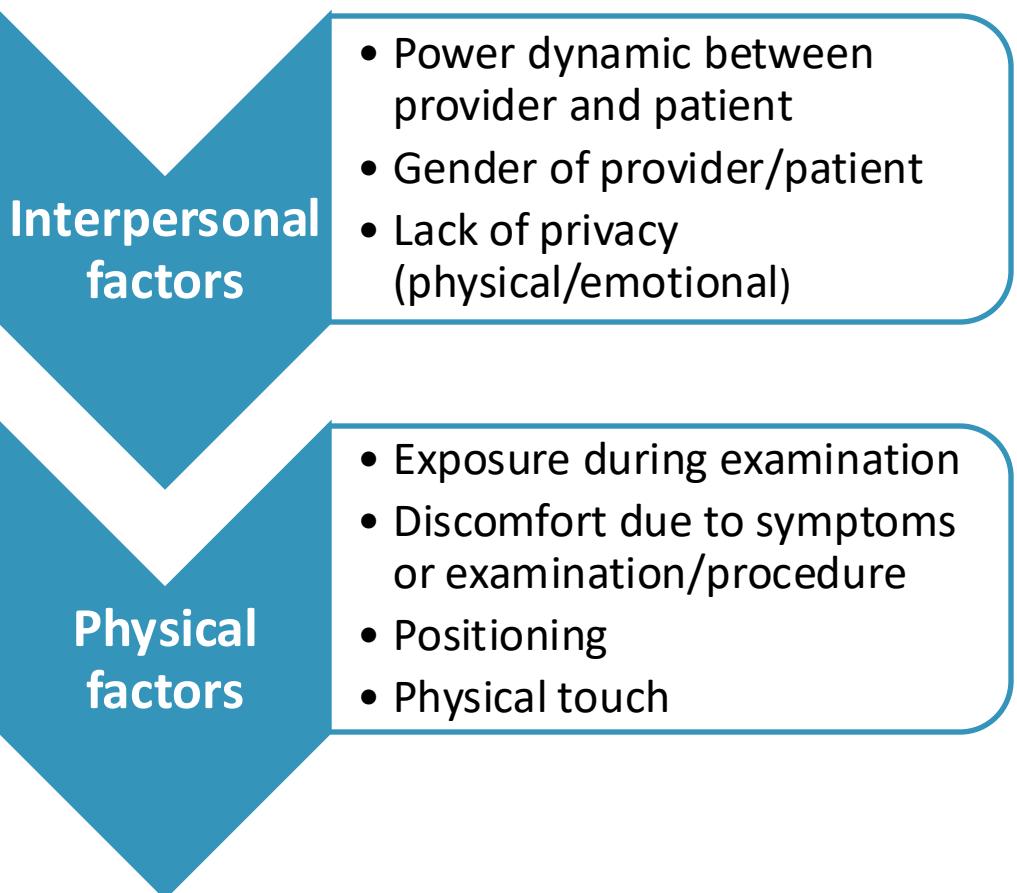
- 65% of perinatal individuals with OUD had an ACE score of 4 or more (average ACE score 4.3 vs 1.4 in a survey sample)
- 16-26% of pregnant women with OUD are diagnosed with PTSD

**Inadequate access to MH services is:**

- Associated with hospital admissions in perinatal individuals
- Seen as a barrier to care

Stein, Michael D et al." *Drug and alcohol dependence* vol. 179 (2017): 325-329.; *Gannon et al Comm Mental Health 2020*; Saia et al. *Curr Obstet Gynecol Rep* 5, 257–263 (2016;) Patrick et al 2020; Titus Glover et al 2020

# Health care can be retraumatizing



# In medical/SUD treatment settings, trauma and PTSD symptoms often go unnoticed

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## Patients do not disclose because of...

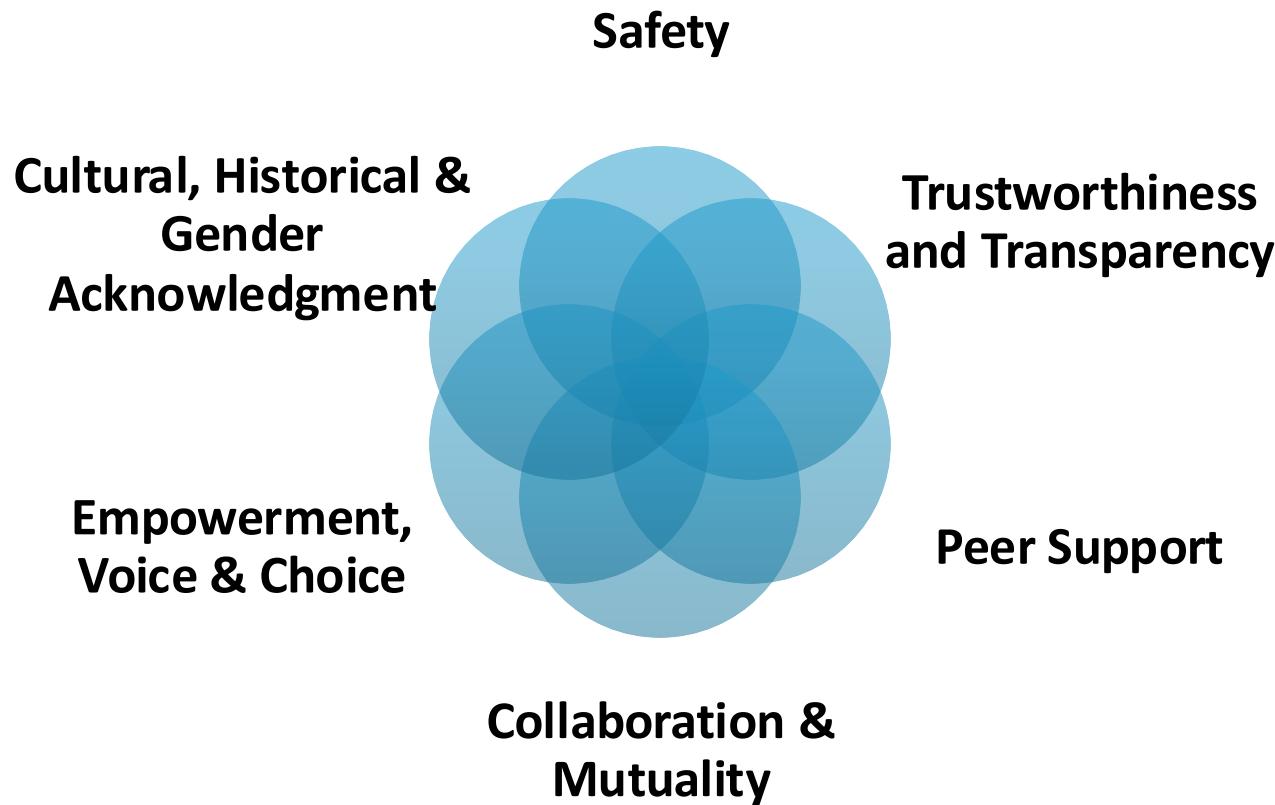
- Shame
- Helplessness
- Stigma
- Fear of partner retaliation
- Fear of child protective service involvement

## Providers do not inquire because of...

- Lack of training
- Insufficient time
- Perceived short supply of support resources
- Obstetric care itself can be traumatic

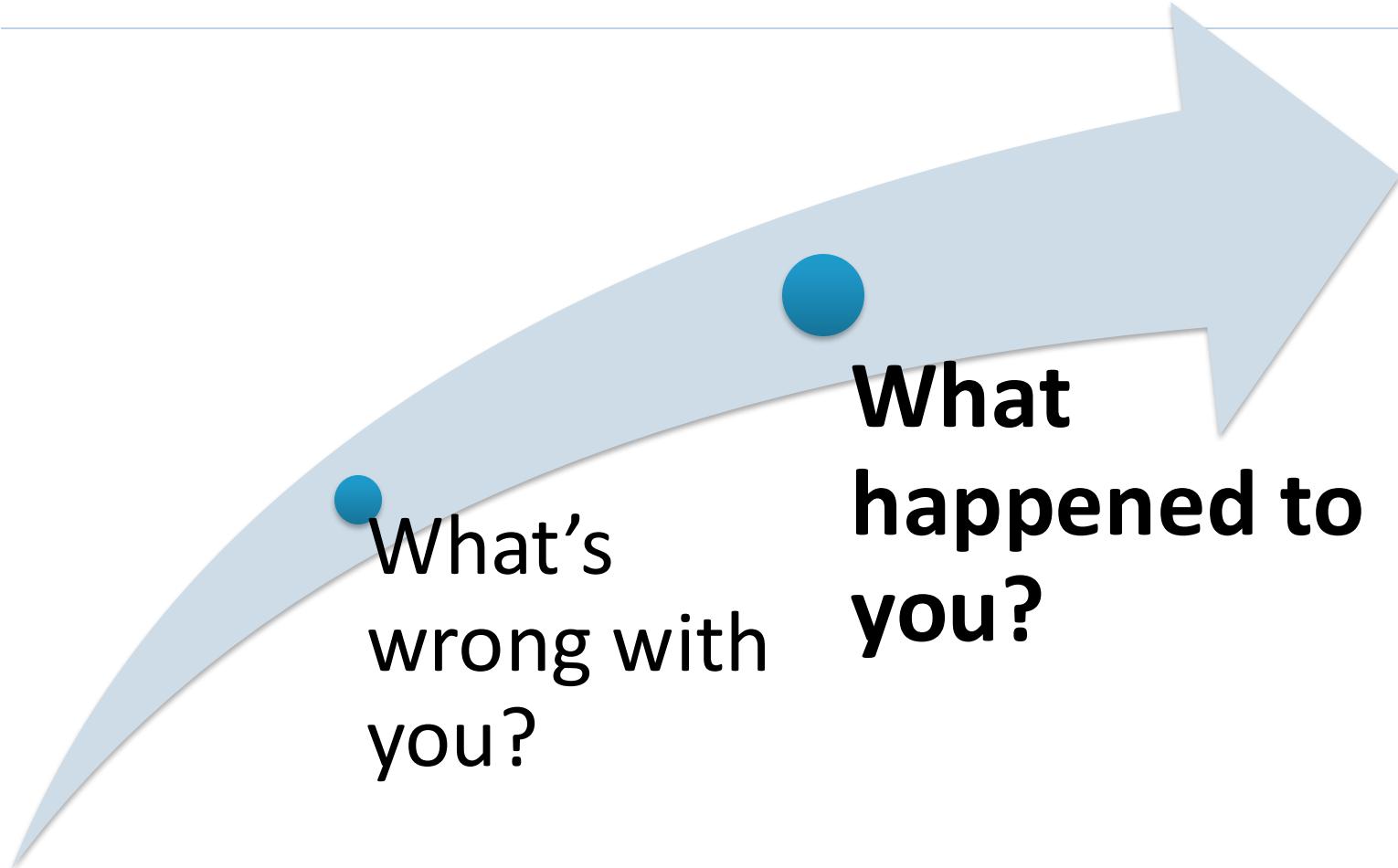
# Six core principles of Trauma Informed Care

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# Shifting the paradigm

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# Trauma Informed Care should be applied universally

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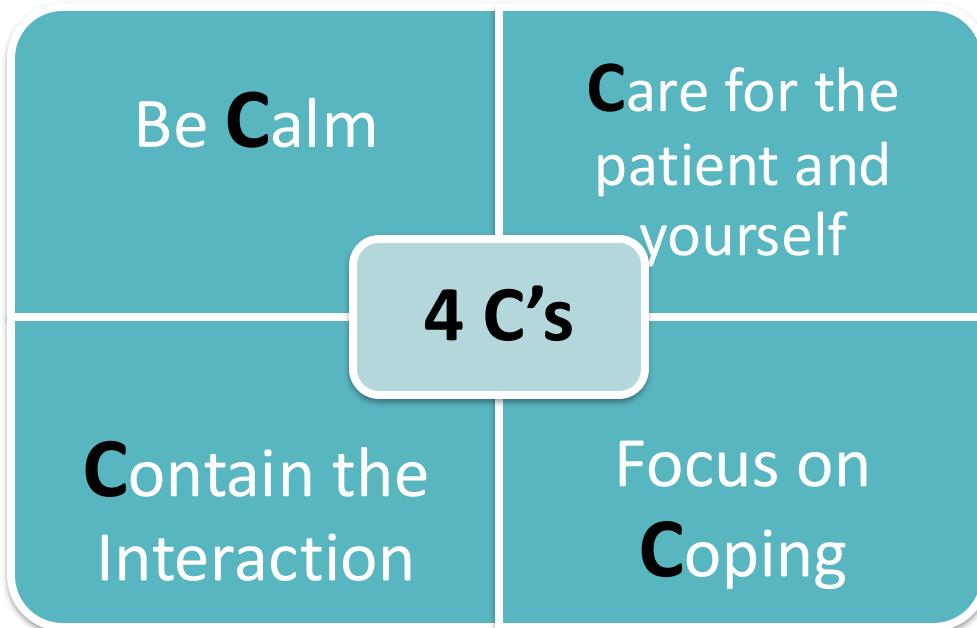
# Utilize TIC principles in all aspects of care.

| Environment    | Policies                       | Attitudes/Beliefs                        |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Calm and clean | “No wrong door”                | Patient centered                         |
| Privacy        | Clear and transparent policies | Asking questions, not making assumptions |
| Accessibility  | Language accessibility         | Honoring differences in coping           |
| Pleasant       | Seeking feedback               |  |
|                | CAN DO approach                |  |

# Prepare to discuss trauma with each patient

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## Practice Personal Preparation: 4 C's



# Mental health conditions are now the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths

**Table 4.** Underlying causes of pregnancy-related deaths\*, overall and by race or ethnicity<sup>1</sup>, data from Maternal Mortality Review Committees in 36 US states, 2017–2019<sup>1</sup>

|  | Non Hispanic |      |          |      |      |   |       |      |       |      |       |   |       |      |
|--|--------------|------|----------|------|------|---|-------|------|-------|------|-------|---|-------|------|
|  | Total        |      | Hispanic |      | AIAN |   | Asian |      | Black |      | NHOPI |   | White |      |
|  | N            | %    | n        | %    | n    | % | n     | %    | n     | %    | n     | % | n     | %    |
| Mental health conditions <sup>2</sup>        | 224          | 22.7 | 34       | 24.1 | 2    | - | 1     | 3.1  | 21    | 7.0  | 0     | - | 159   | 34.8 |
| Hemorrhage <sup>3</sup>                      | 135          | 13.7 | 30       | 21.3 | 2    | - | 10    | 31.3 | 33    | 10.9 | 1     | - | 53    | 11.6 |
| Cardiac and coronary conditions <sup>4</sup> | 126          | 12.8 | 15       | 10.6 | 1    | - | 7     | 21.9 | 48    | 15.9 | 0     | - | 49    | 10.7 |
| Infection                                    | 91           | 9.2  | 15       | 10.6 | 1    | - | 0     | 0.0  | 23    | 7.6  | 0     | - | 49    | 10.7 |
| Embolism-thrombotic                          | 86           | 8.7  | 9        | 6.4  | 0    | - | 2     | 6.3  | 36    | 11.9 | 0     | - | 34    | 7.4  |
| Cardiomyopathy                               | 84           | 8.5  | 5        | 3.6  | 0    | - | 2     | 6.3  | 42    | 13.9 | 0     | - | 33    | 7.2  |
| Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy          | 64           | 6.5  | 7        | 5.0  | 0    | - | 1     | 3.1  | 30    | 9.9  | 1     | - | 22    | 4.8  |
| Amniotic fluid embolism                      | 37           | 3.8  | 6        | 4.3  | 1    | - | 7     | 21.9 | 10    | 3.3  | 2     | - | 9     | 2.0  |
| Injury <sup>5</sup>                          | 35           | 3.6  | 5        | 3.6  | 1    | - | 1     | 3.1  | 15    | 5.0  | 0     | - | 10    | 2.2  |
| Cerebrovascular accident                     | 25           | 2.5  | 2        | 1.4  | 0    | - | 0     | 0.0  | 10    | 3.3  | 0     | - | 13    | 2.8  |
| Cancer                                       | 19           | 1.9  | 3        | 2.1  | 0    | - | 1     | 3.1  | 7     | 2.3  | 0     | - | 7     | 1.5  |
| Metabolic/endocrine conditions               | 12           | 1.2  | 2        | 1.4  | 0    | - | 0     | 0.0  | 6     | 2.0  | 0     | - | 3     | 0.7  |
| Pulmonary conditions                         | 12           | 1.2  | 1        | 0.7  | 0    | - | 0     | 0.0  | 4     | 1.3  | 1     | - | 5     | 1.1  |

## Mental Health Conditions:

Mental health conditions include deaths of suicide, overdose/poisoning related to substance use disorder, and other deaths determined by the MMRC to be related to a mental health condition, including substance use disorder.

**Substance use among pregnant individuals  
(age 15-44), National Survey on Drug Use and  
Health, 2019**



**18.6%**

Used an illicit substance,  
nicotine product or alcohol  
in past month

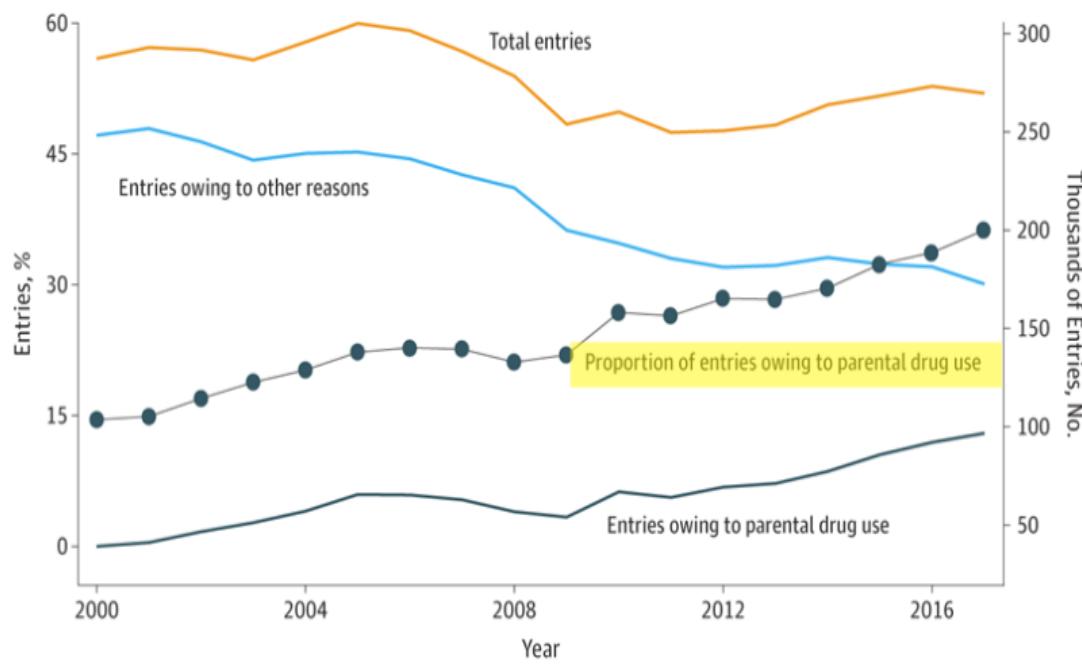
**Fig. 1.** Proportion of pregnant individuals with past-month substance use, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2019.

*Smid. Substance Use Disorders Management in Perinatal Period.  
Obstet Gynecol 2022.*

From Smid and Terplan JACOG 2022

# Parental substance use is the number cause of foster care placement in the USA

Figure. National Trends in Foster Care Entries Attributable to Parental Drug Use, 2000 to 2017



Between 2000 and 2017 the proportion of removals from home and placement into foster care rose from 14.53% to 36.26% attributed to parental substance use

Children entering because of parental substance use were more likely to be 5 years or younger

**Women with substance use disorders can present throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period**

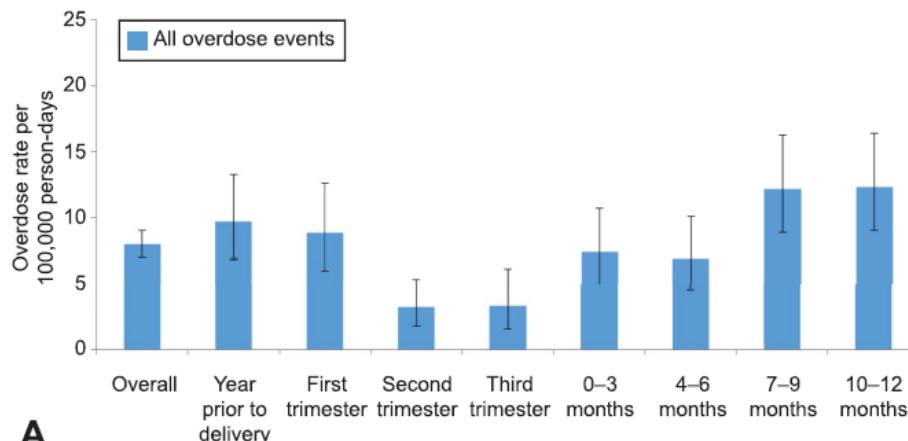


# Think pregnancy for ALL reproductive aged women

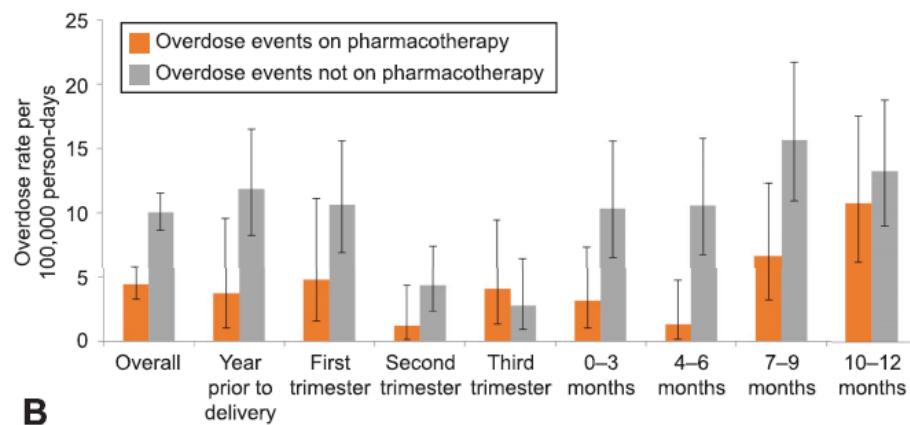


**Half of pregnancies are unplanned –  
greater proportion in individuals with  
SUD and psychiatric diagnoses**

# Opioid overdose is a leading cause of maternal mortality



A

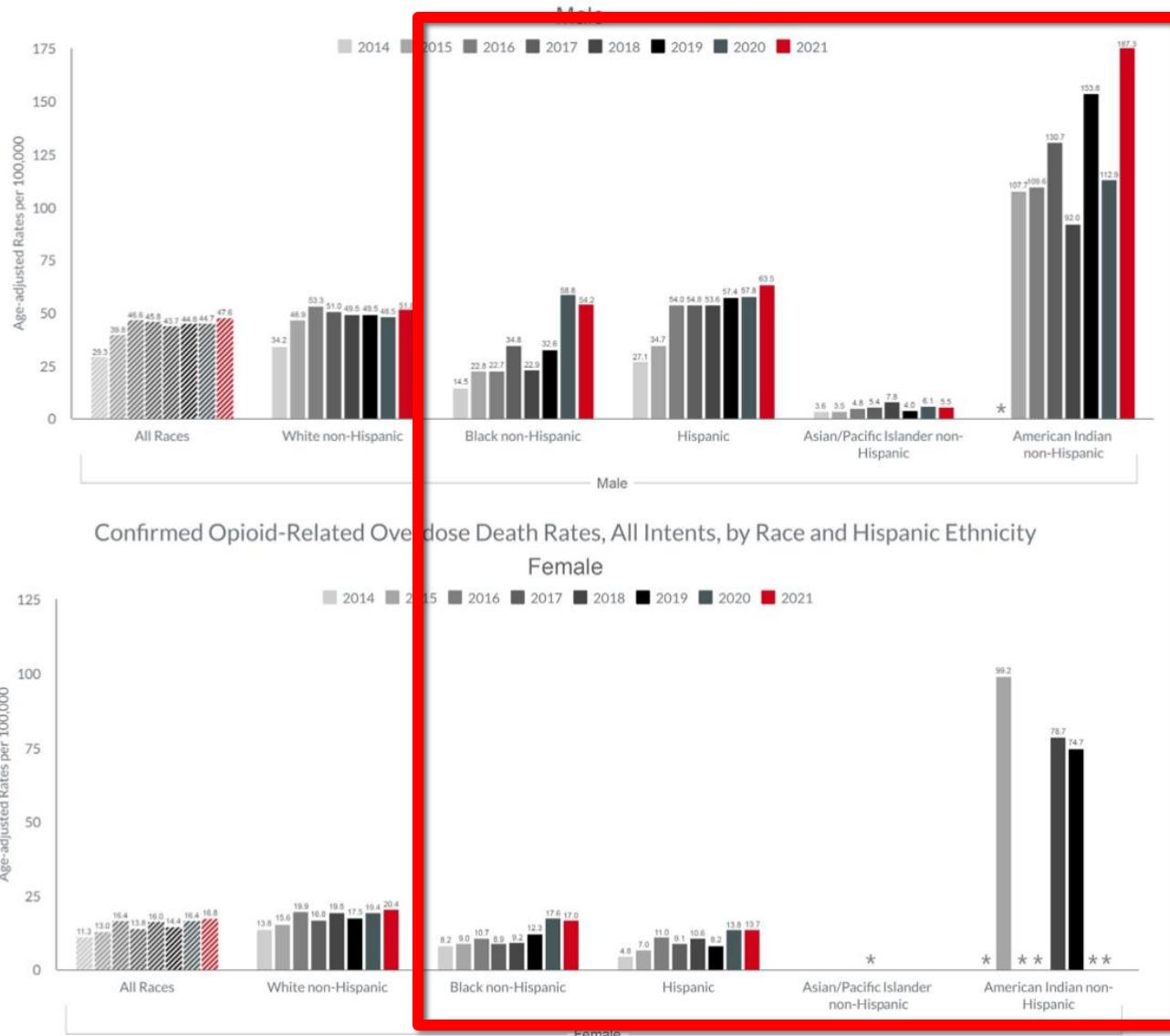


B

**Methadone and Buprenorphine save lives**

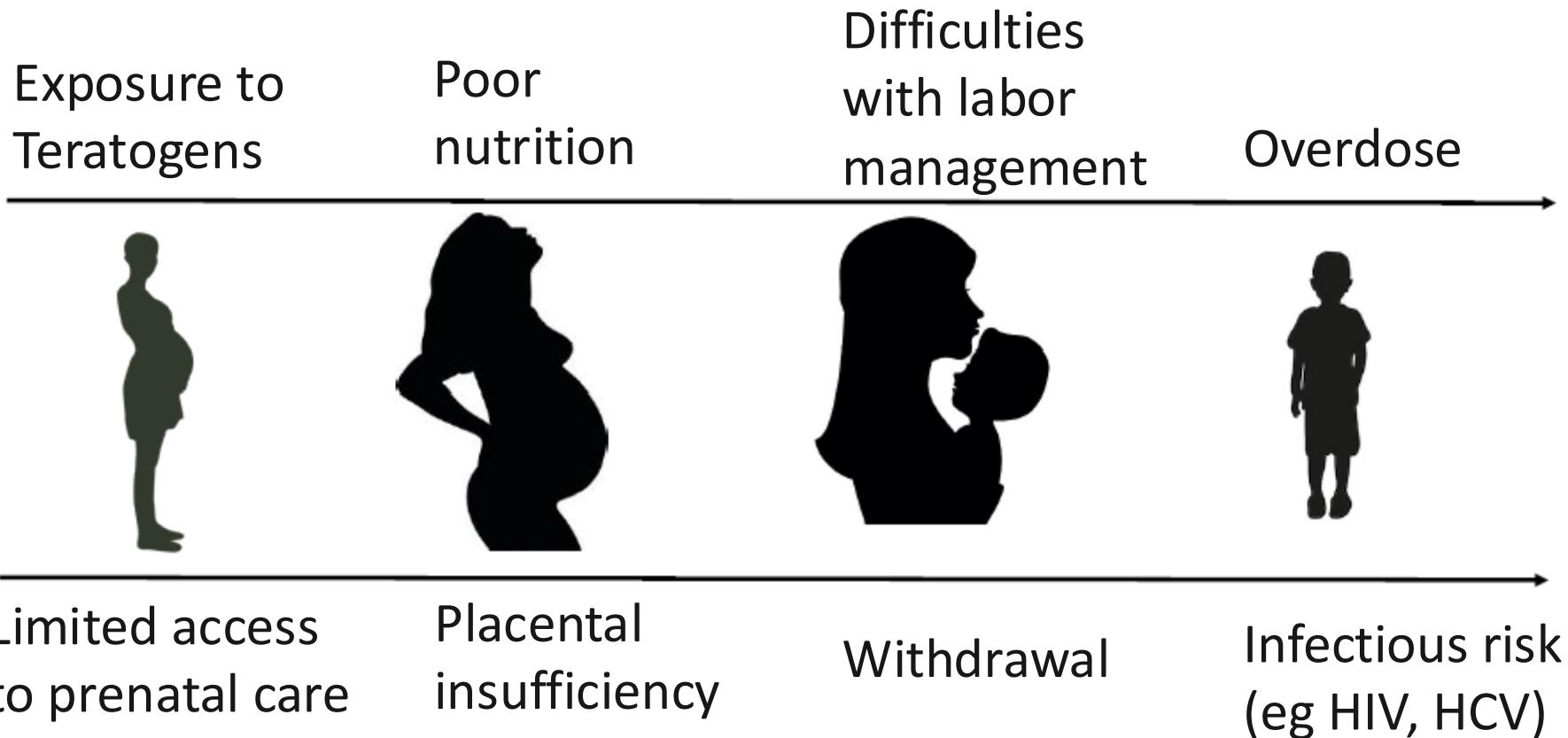
**Mortality is greatest after delivery**

# There are racial and ethnic inequities in annual mortality related to opioid overdose



\*Rate calculations based on death counts less than 5 are excluded due to rate instability.

# Substance use during pregnancy poses risk to the woman, fetus, and family

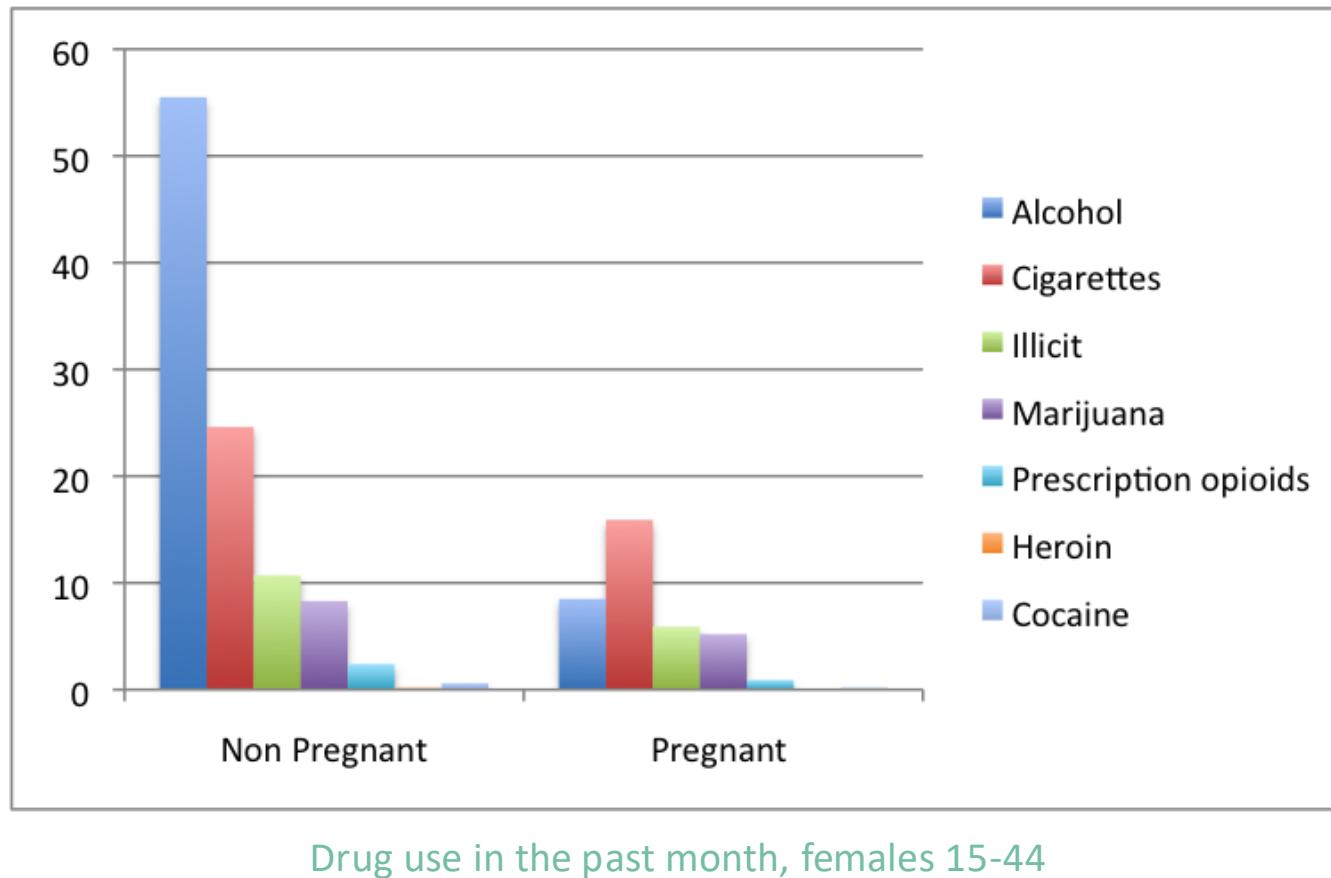


**Preventable cause of maternal & infant mortality**

# Substance use during pregnancy opportunities and challenges



# Pregnancy is a window of opportunity during which women stop using substances



Havens JR et al. Drug and Alcohol Dependence 99 (2009) 89–95; NSDUH 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2012); Harrison et al Maternal Child Health J (2009) 13:386–394

**Women with any history of substance use should be counseled as early as possible about possible social service reporting after delivery**



# Fear of loss of custody greatly impacts women with substance use disorders in pregnancy

Substance use and treatment leads to many reports to social services

There is increased scrutiny in this process for families affected by poverty and families of color

Losing custody increases the risk of substance lapse/relapse



# Pregnant and Parenting women with SUD benefit from the development of a team of providers

All perinatal individuals with SUD are encouraged to have a Family Care Plan





# Cannabis is the most commonly used substance in pregnancy in the U.S. and recreational use is legal in many states

**48-60%** of users continue during pregnancy

There are **limited** human data available for THC/CBD use in pregnancy

Marijuana and synthetic cannabinoids are **highly potent**



# The US Surgeon General, FDA, ACOG and AAP advise women to abstain from cannabis use in pregnancy and lactation



**Visual processing/cognition  
Neural Development**

**Low birth weight  
Head circumference**

**Concentrates in breastmilk  
May inhibit milk supply**



# Impacts of Alcohol Use in Pregnancy

## Effect on perinatal person

- Acute intoxication
- Risks of chronic use
- Withdrawal syndromes

## Effect on fetus/neonate

- Alcohol related birth defects
- Acute neonatal intoxication, hypotonia
- Neonatal withdrawal

## Effect on child/family

- Neurobehavioral Disorder associated with prenatal alcohol exposure (DSM-5)
- Impact on parenting/custody

# Prenatal Alcohol Exposure

A leading preventable cause of birth defects and neurodevelopmental deficits in the United States

Out of all substances used, alcohol has the greatest neurobehavioral effect on the fetus

It can cause a range of intellectual and behavioral problems, which appear at any time during childhood and last a lifetime

# Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

- ❖ FASD is not a clinical diagnosis and is used as an umbrella term for a range of physical, cognitive, and behavioral disorders caused by prenatal alcohol exposure
- ❖ Prevalence rates are estimated to be 1 in 20 in the U.S.
- ❖ It is highly misdiagnosed and underdiagnosed due to stigma, normalization of alcohol use and legislation, and most people with FASD lacking physical identifiers
- ❖ For centralized support in MA, visit <https://massfasd.org/>

# Brief Interventions can impact alcohol use in pregnancy

## Providers can:

1

Screen, assess and provide clear recommendations to abstain

2

Relay education regarding potential harms

3

Set goals and evaluate strategies to avoid triggers



Floyd 2007; Bhat 2015

# Medication treatment for alcohol use disorder is dependent on the presenting symptom

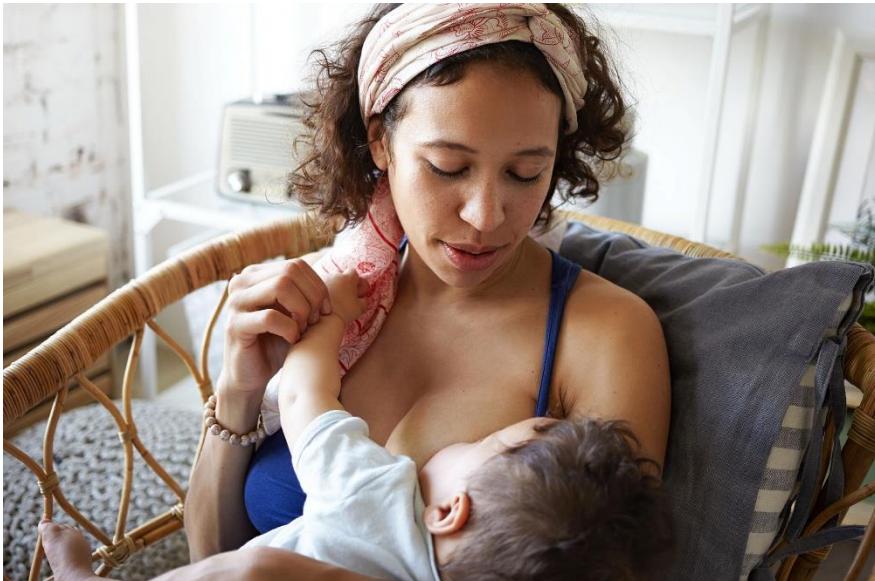
## Treatment for cravings

- Naltrexone has emerging data
- Less Data
  - Disulfiram
  - Acamprosate
  - Topiramate

## Treatment for withdrawal

- Benzodiazepine taper
- Lorazepam is preferred
- Monitor vital signs

# Alcohol can negatively impact lactation

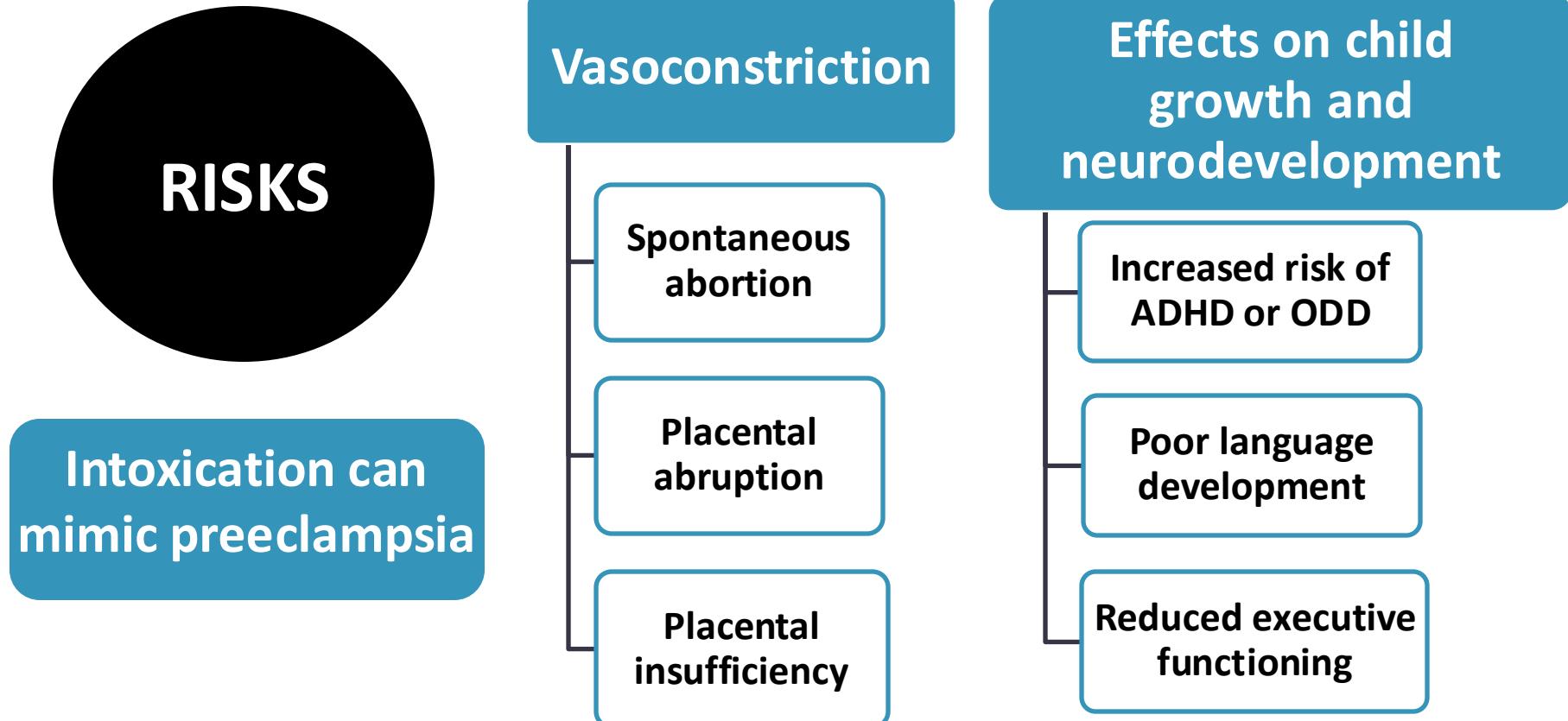


**Alcohol can *decrease* breastmilk volume and milk ejection reflex**

**HIGH EXPOSURE RISK**  
**Alcohol equilibrates across membranes**  
**within 30-60 minutes**



# The primary risks associated with cocaine use in pregnancy are due to vasoconstriction, not structural teratogenicity or withdrawal



**Stimulants carry some risk so therapeutic use should be assessed based on risks of untreated symptoms**



**Therapeutic use**

**Abuse**



# Opioid use disorders in pregnancy are treated pharmacologically with methadone and buprenorphine



**No FDA approved treatment**

**Mainstays of treatment:**  
**Methadone**  
**Buprenorphine (single or combination)**  
**Naltrexone (emerging)**

**High risk of relapse after discontinuation of opioids**

# Maintenance treatment is preferred, but medication assisted withdrawal can be considered

Some increasing literature supporting medication assisted withdrawal (aka Detox)



Absence MOUD provider  
Pt preference  
Risks for relapse remains high



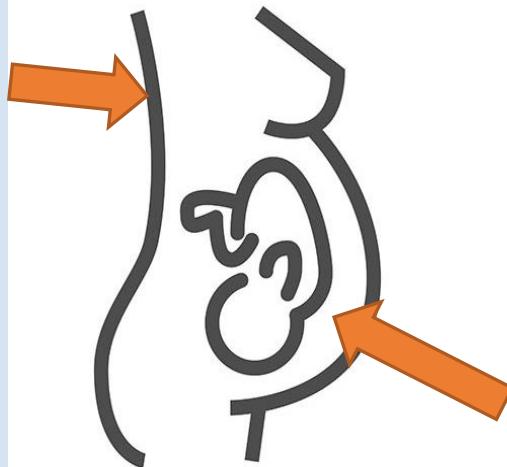
# For women with opioid use disorders, there are maternal and fetal benefits to medication during pregnancy

## Maternal Benefits:

70% reduction in overdose related deaths

Decrease in risk of HIV, HBV, HCV

Increased engagement in prenatal care and recovery treatment



## Fetal Benefits:

Reduces fluctuations in maternal opioid levels; reducing fetal stress

Decrease in intrauterine fetal demise

Decrease in intrauterine growth restriction

Decrease in preterm delivery

# Dose adjustments for MOUD are often needed in the third trimester due to the physiology of pregnancy

Breakthrough withdrawal symptoms may appear in the third trimester

Doses may need to increase in 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester

Increased frequency should be considered (split dosing in methadone)

# Buprenorphine is as effective as methadone for the treatment of opioid use disorder in pregnancy

No apparent difference between buprenorphine and methadone for:

Medical complications at delivery

Illicit drug use/relapse risk

Abnormal presentation

Use of analgesia

Maternal weight gain

Cesarean section

Positive drug screen

# Buprenorphine is now a first line treatment for opioid use disorder during pregnancy with distinct features

Fewer drug interactions

Office based treatment

Babies exposed have less severe withdrawal

Lower risk of overdose and sedation

Single formulation (Subutex) is preferred  
\*NOT Sublocade



Combination formulation (Suboxone) may be more accessible

Jones NEJM 2010, Blandthorn 2011, Park Psychosomatics 2012

# Treatment with buprenorphine during pregnancy consists of three distinct phases of management and monitoring

## Induction

Initiation of treatment requires mild withdrawal symptoms

Role for fetal monitoring

Inpatient vs Outpatient

## Maintenance

Dose adjustments if necessary

Planning for delivery and postpartum  
(Pain management & relapse prevention)

## Peri/Postpartum

Continue maintenance dose

Manage pain  
Transition to combination formulation

Adjust dose over 2-4 weeks PP

# Data regarding the use of naltrexone during is emerging

Limited human data

If the patient is stable on naltrexone may be reasonable to continue

Available as daily oral treatment or monthly injectable



# Peripartum pain management for women on buprenorphine and methadone patients requires a few special considerations

- Maintenance doses of methadone or buprenorphine are not sufficient analgesia
- Patients on agonist therapy report elevated pain scores and may have higher medication requirements
- Non narcotic pain treatment should always be offered such as regional (epidural or spinal anesthesia) or NSAIDs (postpartum)
- Avoid high affinity partial agonists (eg nalbuphine)



# Shifting from NAS to Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS)

More descriptive and specific

NAS and the other NAS



# Non pharmacologic treatment for NOWS is first line – Eat Sleep Console (ESC) decreases time in the hospital and empowers mother-infant relationships



30%

decrease in the development of NAS

50%

decrease in neonatal hospital stay

Breastfeeding should be encouraged if SUD stable though criteria vary by setting/institution

# How can MCPAP for Moms Help?

Call MCPAP for Moms at 855- 666-6272, Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. to request the following services:



## Trainings and Toolkits

<https://www.mcpapformoms.org/Toolkits/Toolkit.aspx>



## Real-time provider to provider phone consultation



## Linkages with community-based resources

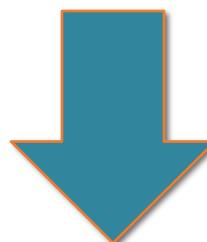
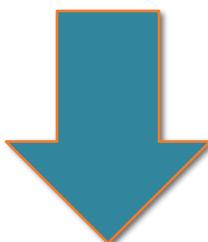
Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program



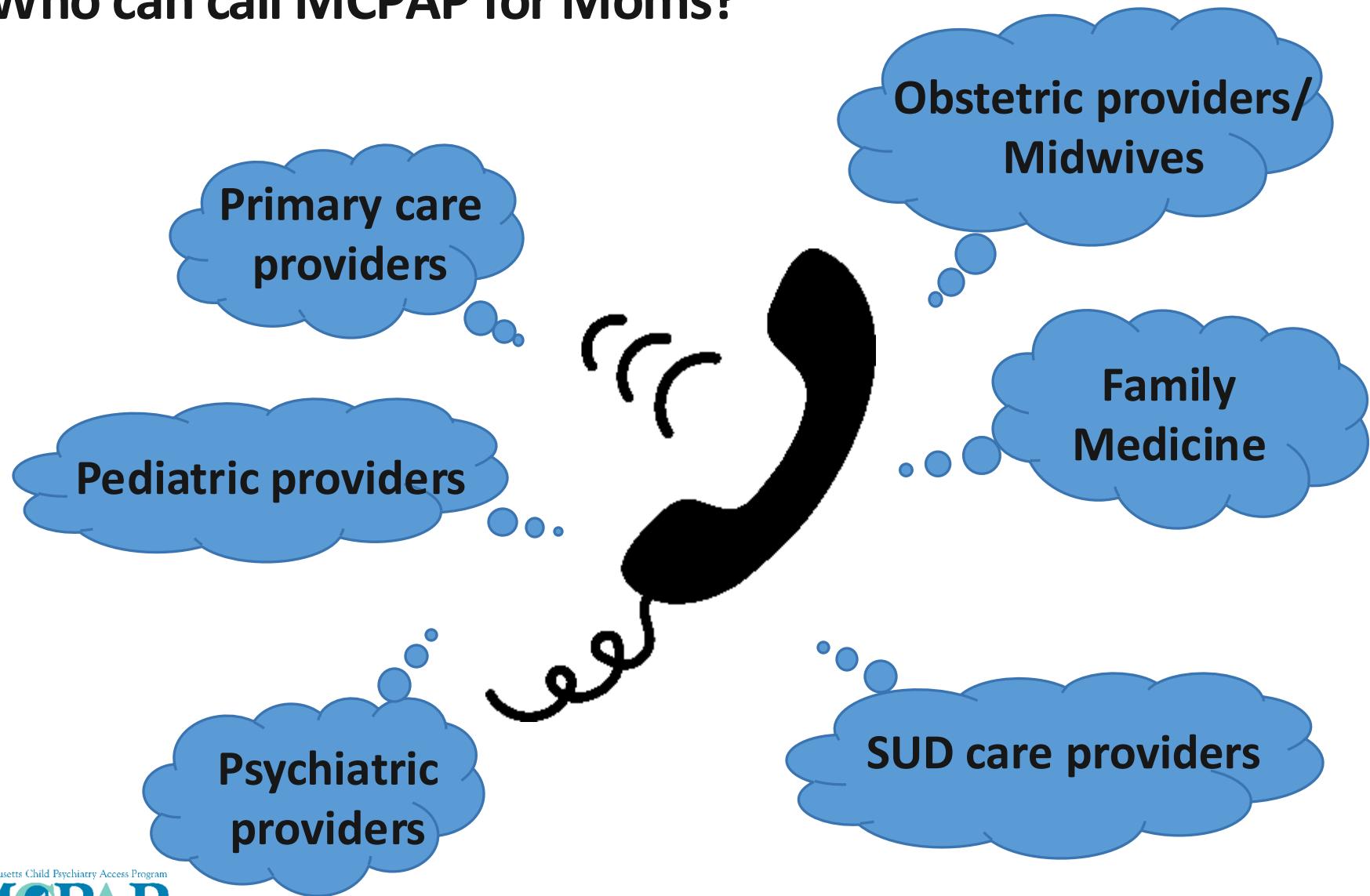
**Education**

**855-Mom-  
MCPAP**

**Resource &  
Referral**



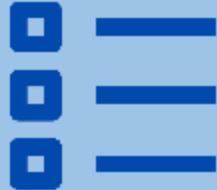
# Who can call MCPAP for Moms?



# Providers can call 855-Mom-MCPAP for consultation for mental health and SUD topics



# Resource and Referral is based on acuity, severity and need



## Resources to Provider

- RRS identify 2-3 targeted resources and share in a list form with the provider
- Does not involve speaking with mom



## Outreach to Patient

- RRS contact mom and work with them to schedule appointment
- Follow up after 2 weeks

# Our website has resources for providers as well as patients and families - [www.mcpapformoms.org](http://www.mcpapformoms.org)



Contact number for providers:  
855-Mom-MCPAP (855-666-6272)

Google Custom Search



## Promoting Maternal Mental Health During and After Pregnancy

[About MCPAP for Moms](#) [How We Help Providers](#) [Toolkits and Resources](#) [Our Team](#) [For Mothers and Families](#)



Click Below For Video



**MCPAP for Moms** promotes maternal and child health by building the capacity of providers serving pregnant and postpartum women and their children up to one year after delivery to effectively prevent, identify, and manage mental health and substance use concerns.



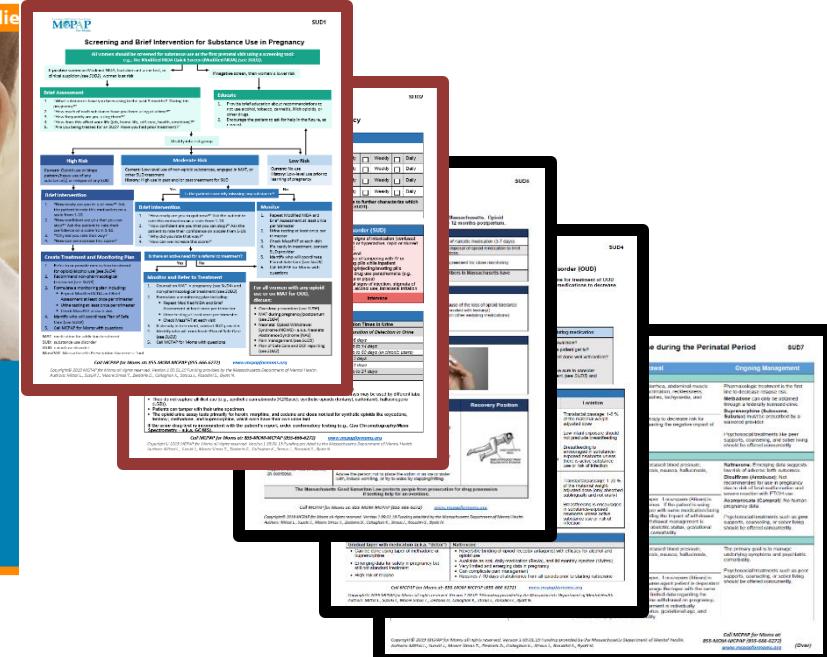
## Provider Resources



**Trainings and toolkits** for providers and their staff on evidence-based guidelines for: depression screening, triage and referral, risks and benefits of medications, and discussion of screening results and treatment options.



**Real-time psychiatric consultation and care coordination** for providers serving pregnant and postpartum women including obstetricians.



## One in Seven

One out of every seven women experience depression during pregnancy or in the first year postpartum.

Depression during this time is twice as common as gestational diabetes.

# SUD Treatment Provider Toolkit

<https://www.mcpapformoms.org/Toolkits/SubstanceUseProgramToolkit.aspx>



## Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders in Perinatal Individuals: A Toolkit for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers

Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program  
**MCPAP**  
For Moms

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## Non-Stigmatizing Language

### Reducing Stigma by Using Strength-Based Language



Substance use disorders are chronic illnesses, and recovery can be achieved with treatment and ongoing support. The language that we use can help create an inclusive environment that promotes treatment. Using strength-based and person-first language can help clients feel respected, valued, and help build trust.

| Non-Stigmatizing Language  | Stigmatizing Language   |
|--|---|
| Person who uses substances   | Substance abuser or drug abuser<br>Alcoholic<br>Addict<br>User<br>Abuser<br>Drunk<br>Junkie |
| Babies affected by maternal opioid use   | Addicted babies/born addicted   |
| Substance use disorder or addiction use, misuse<br>Risky, unhealthy, or heavy use<br>Non-medical use | Drug habit<br>Abuse<br>Drug problem   |
| Substance of use   | Drug of choice  |
| Person in recovery<br>Abstinent<br>Not drinking or taking drugs                                      | Clean   |
| Medication for addiction treatment (MAT)<br>Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)                | Substitution or replacement therapy<br>Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)                  |
| Positive/aberrant, negative (toxicology screen results)  | Clean or dirty urine  |
| Opioid Treatment Program (OTP)<br>Dispensing   | Methadone clinic<br>Dosing  |
| Impaired<br>Intoxicated  | Nodding<br>Stoned<br>High   |
| Non-adherent   | Failed/failure<br>Non-compliant   |
| Discharge<br>Transferred   | Termination<br>Shipped out  |
| Former client<br>Seeing multiple providers   | Frequent flyer<br>Doctor shopping   |

**Call MCPAP for Moms at 855-MOM-MCPAP (855-666-6272).**

Adapted from The Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center "Words Matter Pledge."  
 From Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders in Perinatal Individuals: A Toolkit for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers  
 Copyright © 2021 MCPAP for Moms all rights reserved. Version 1 October 2021. Funding provided by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. Authors: Mittal L., Gallagher R., Rosadini S., Byatt N.

# Summary of Impact and Management of Substance Use in Pregnancy



## Summary of Impact and Management of Substance Use during the Perinatal Period

SUD7

| Risks of Maternal Use  | Acute Intoxication   | Withdrawal  | Ongoing Management  |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Opioids</b>   |  |   |   |
| <p><b>Fetal effects:</b> Opioids do not cause structural fetal abnormalities. However, opioid use during pregnancy is associated with intrauterine growth restriction, fetal demise, meconium leakage/aspiration, and preterm labor.</p> <p><b>Neonatal effects:</b> Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)/Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS), hypotonia, respiratory depression at delivery</p> <p><b>Maternal effects:</b> Postpartum hemorrhage, risk of maternal overdose (mortality increases first year postpartum)</p> | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Sedation, euphoria, decreased respiration</p> <p><b>Management:</b> Naloxone (Narcan), monitoring respiratory status</p>   | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal muscle pain, leg cramping, rhinorrhea, lacrimation, recklessness, sweating, anxiety, hot and cold flashes, tachycardia, and yawning</p> <p><b>Management:</b> Initiate agonist therapy to decrease risk for relapse. There is mixed data regarding the negative impact of maternal opioid withdrawal.</p>   | <p>Pharmacologic treatment is the first line to decrease relapse risk.</p> <p><b>Methadone</b> can only be obtained through a federally licensed clinic.</p> <p><b>Buprenorphine (Suboxone, Subutex)</b> must be prescribed by a waivered provider.</p> <p>Psychosocial treatments like peer supports, counseling, and sober living should be offered concurrently.</p>   |
| <b>Alcohol</b>   |  |   |   |
| <p><b>Fetal effects:</b> Spontaneous abortion, pre-term labor, stillbirth, intrauterine growth restriction</p> <p><b>Neonatal effects:</b> Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and other developmental/behavioral problems, intoxication, withdrawal, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)</p> <p><b>Maternal effects:</b> Hepatic/pancreatic toxicity, physiologic dependence, risks of injuries/falls</p>  | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Disinhibition, sedation, slowed reaction time, vomiting, loss of coordination, sedation/loss of consciousness</p> <p><b>Management:</b> IV fluids (supplement with multi-vitamin thiamine and folate), prevention of physical injury</p>   | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Rapid heart rate, increased blood pressure, tremor, anxiety, flushing, diaphoresis, nausea, hallucinosis, delirium tremens, and seizures</p> <p><b>Management:</b> Benzodiazepine taper. Lorazepam (Ativan) is preferred over other benzodiazepines. If the patient is using benzodiazepines, manage the taper with same medication being used. There is limited data regarding the impact of withdrawal on pregnancy. The setting for withdrawal management is individually determined based on obstetric status, gestational age, and medical and psychiatric comorbidity.</p>  | <p><b>Naltrexone:</b> Emerging data suggests low risk of adverse birth outcomes.</p> <p><b>Disulfiram (Antabuse):</b> Not recommended for use in pregnancy due to risk of fetal malformation and severe reaction with ETOH use</p> <p><b>Acamprosate (Campral):</b> No human pregnancy data</p> <p>Psychosocial treatments such as peer supports, counseling, or sober living should be offered concurrently.</p> |
| <b>Benzodiazepines</b>   |  |   |   |
| <p><b>Fetal effects:</b> Not teratogenic, can slow fetal movement</p> <p><b>Neonatal effects:</b> Preterm birth, low birth weight, low apgar, withdrawal syndrome, admission to NICU</p> <p><b>Maternal effects:</b> Physiologic dependence, worsening of depression and anxiety, cognitive decline</p>  | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Anxiolysis, euphoria, amnesia, disinhibition and symptoms similar to alcohol intoxication</p> <p><b>Management:</b> Flumazenil can be used to reverse acute overdose, though it is associated with increased risk of seizure, and there is no human pregnancy or lactation data.</p> | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Rapid heart rate, increased blood pressure, tremor, anxiety, flushing, diaphoresis, nausea, hallucinosis, delirium tremens, and seizures</p> <p><b>Management:</b> Benzodiazepine taper. Lorazepam (Ativan) is preferred, but may also use the same agent patient is dependent on. If using benzodiazepines, manage the taper with the same medication being used. There is limited data regarding the impact of alcohol or benzodiazepine withdrawal on pregnancy. The setting for withdrawal management is individually determined based on obstetric status, gestational age, and medical and psychiatric comorbidity.</p> | <p>The primary goal is to manage underlying symptoms and psychiatric comorbidity.</p> <p>Psychosocial treatments such as peer supports, counseling, or sober living should be offered concurrently.</p>   |

| Risks of Maternal Use   | Acute Intoxication   | Withdrawal   | Ongoing Management  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Cannabis</b>   |  |  |   |
| <p><b>Fetal effects:</b> There is increased risk for psychiatric and substance use disorders in offspring. There are similar risks associated with smoking tobacco. Lipophilic (e.g., stores in fetal brain and body fat)</p> <p><b>Neonatal effects:</b> Associated with deficits in visual processing, executive function, attention, academic achievement</p> <p><b>In lactation:</b> Levels of cannabinoids in breastmilk can exceed maternal serum levels, and exposure via breastmilk is associated with lethargy, slowed motor development, and increased risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).</p> <p><b>Maternal effects:</b> Risks are associated with smoking, exacerbation of depression, anxiety or psychosis; heavy use could trigger hyperemesis syndrome .</p> | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Euphoria, anxiety or paranoia, impaired judgement, conjunctival injection</p>  | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Irritability, anxiety, sleep difficulty, change in appetite, mood changes, abdominal pain, shakiness, tremors, headache, and diaphoresis</p> | <p>Women should be advised to abstain during pregnancy/breastfeeding. Given the dose response for some risks, like growth restriction, even cutting down may be beneficial.</p> <p>Assess for mental health or comorbid condition.</p> <p>There is no FDA-approved pharmacotherapy for cannabis use disorder.</p> <p>Psychosocial treatments are indicated.</p>                         |
| <b>Cocaine, Amphetamines, and Other Stimulants</b>  |  |  |   |
| <p><b>Fetal effects:</b> Intrauterine growth restriction, placental abruption, increased risk for still birth</p> <p><b>Neonatal effects:</b> Transient hypertension, irritability, hyperreflexia. Vasoconstriction can increase the risk of necrotizing enterocolitis. There is mixed data on neurodevelopmental impact.</p> <p><b>Maternal effects:</b> Hypertension and coronary vasospasm, pregnancy loss</p>   | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Euphoria, agitation, hyperactivity, anxiety, disorientation, confusion, and psychosis</p> <p>Risk for placental abruption with binge use</p> | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Sedation/somnolence, dysphoria, vivid dreams</p>   | <p>Anti-craving agents such as topiramate, tiagabine, and modafinil are used in non-perinatal patients, however have not been well studied in pregnancy and lactation.</p> <p>Psychosocial treatments are the primary evidence-based treatment – peer supports, counseling, and sober living.</p>   |
| <b>Tobacco</b>  |  |  |   |
| <p><b>Fetal effects:</b> Smoking is associated with spontaneous abortion and intrauterine growth restriction. Nicotine is associated with miscarriage and stillbirth.</p> <p><b>Neonatal effects:</b> Preterm birth, low birth weight, SIDS, persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn</p> <p><b>Maternal effects:</b> Increased risk of deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, stroke, respiratory illness</p>   | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Acute use can result in increased heart rate, blood pressure, and GI activity.</p>   | <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Cessation has been associated with cravings, anxiety, insomnia, and irritability.</p>  | <p>Quitting is the goal, but cutting down has benefits. Nicotine replacement should be used with a goal of cessation, not for ongoing and/or concurrent use.</p> <p><b>E-cigarettes:</b> not well studied in pregnancy</p> <p><b>Bupropion:</b> minimally effective</p> <p><b>Varenicline:</b> effective, but limited pregnancy data</p> <p>Quitworks offers free phone counseling.</p> |

# Resources for perinatal individuals with substance use concerns

IHR Programs (Institute for Health and Recovery)

## **Women and Family Referral Center (WFRC)**

Connects pregnant and parenting people with treatment and recovery supports, including direct referrals to residential substance use treatment and family supportive living programs, warm handoffs to all levels of care, interim counseling, and follow-up support. Calls are answered live Monday-Friday, 9-5, or returned within one business day. (866-705-2807)  
[wfrc.healthrecovery.org](http://wfrc.healthrecovery.org)

## **MomsDoCare**

A statewide program designed to provide multidisciplinary, peer-led, recovery oriented, wrap around support for pregnant, postpartum and parenting individuals with a history substance abuse. For more information about services and locations please visit: <https://momsdocare.org>

## **Promise**

A caring and flexible outpatient program for pregnant and parenting people impacted by substance use. Offers assessment and care planning, individual, family and group therapy, recovery coaching, peer support and intensive case management

Referrals: [intake@healthrecovery.org](mailto:intake@healthrecovery.org) or call 617-661-3991

# Additional SUD Resources

## FirstStepsTogether

FIRST (Families In Recovery SupporT) Steps Together is a home visiting program that provides flexible, community based and virtual services.

<https://firststepstogetherma.org>

## Project NESST: Newborns Exposed to Substances: Support and Therapy (Jewish Family and Children's Services)

Project NESST® offers support and therapy for substance-exposed newborns and their families. For more information call **781-693-1200** or email [CERSintake@jfcsboston.org](mailto:CERSintake@jfcsboston.org)

## The Journey Recovery Project

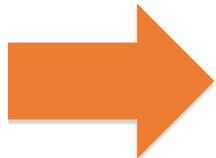
The Journey Project is an interactive Web resource for pregnant and parenting women who have questions or concerns about opioid and other substance use.

<https://journeyrecoveryproject.com>

## Free online substance use recovery group through PSI:

<https://postpartum.net>

**In summary, our aim is to promote maternal and child health by building the capacity of front line providers to address perinatal mental health and substance use disorders.**



**Call 1-855-Mom-MCPAP**  
**www.mcpapformoms.org**

Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program



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