Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

News on the Issue: these articles specifically address the impact that the opioid epidemic has had on child welfare caseloads.

- VT takes custody of unprecedented number of young children, Sept. 16, 2015
- Senate (NH) approves bill to define opioid abuse as child neglect, March 10, 2016
- Concern mounts on opioid crisis’ toll on children, October 17, 2015
- Heroin, Opioid Abuse Put Extra Strain on U.S. Foster Care System, October 27, 2015
- Children at Risk: Drug Epidemic Affecting Child Safety, March 10, 2016
- Children caught in the crosshairs of substance abuse, March 11, 2016
- Pa. seeing more heroin-addicted babies, abused children of addicted parents, April 8, 2016

Other resources:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau, 2014 AFCARS Report: shows foster care numbers have increased over the last few years.
- State Programs:
  - Ohio 2014 Child Welfare Opiate Engagement Project
  - Connecticut Pay for Success Program, Governing Magazine
  - New York Office of Children and Family Services, Opiate Abuse Resources and Services
- Reports and Research:
  - Rocky Mountain Quality Improvement Center, funded 2002-2006 by Children’s Bureau, Looked at Colorado Specifically
  - 2007 Economic Impact Study, Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States
    - Report
    - Inventory
    - Benefit-Cost Results
    - Inventory Flowchart
    - Legislation
  - Parental substance abuse and outcomes (Info Request from Roundtable)
    - Child Welfare Information Gateway, Parental Substance Use and the Child Welfare System
    - U.S. GAO, Parental Substance Abuse: Implications for Children, the Child Welfare System, and Foster Care Outcomes => this is from 1997 so it is pretty outdated, although the concepts may not have changed.
    - 2005 Substance Abuse Child Welfare Waiver Demonstrations, Synthesis of Findings
    - National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW)
    - NCSACW, Presentations and Publications for Legislators
    - Parental Drug Use as Child Abuse, Child Welfare Information Gateway, April 2015

Compiled by the National Conference of State Legislatures, April 2016
Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome:

- **Reuters Investigates, Helpless and Hooked**, Dec. 2015
- Propublica, a journalistic public interest organization, chart of state laws (Tennessee is the only state with a statute that specifically makes it a crime to use drugs while pregnant. In Alabama and South Carolina, high courts have interpreted existing child endangerment and chemical endangerment statutes to allow prosecution of drug-using pregnant women and new mothers): [https://projects.propublica.org/graphics/maternity-drug-policies-by-state](https://projects.propublica.org/graphics/maternity-drug-policies-by-state)
- Vermont’s [CHARM Collaborative](https://www.charmcollaborative.org)
- Child Welfare Information Gateway, [Parental Substance Use and the Child Welfare System](https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventionprotection/substanceuse/), October 2014: This report discusses the impact of parental substance abuse on children, co-occurring issues such as mental illness, and statutes addressing illegal drug use including exposing children to drug related activity. The report also highlights programs such as Illinois' Recovery Coaches, King County Washington Family Drug Treatment Courts, and strategies including permanency planning, routine screening and assessment, wraparound and comprehensive community services, flexible financing, collocation of substance abuse specialists, and linked data systems.
- Child Welfare Information Gateway, [Parental Drug Use as Child Abuse](https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventionprotection/substanceuse/), April 2015: (with prenatal drug exposure legislation current through April 2015) – According to this document states have responded to this problem by expanding the civil definition of child abuse or neglect to include this concern.
- [Treatment for Opioid Dependence during Pregnancy](https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventionprotection/substanceuse/), The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: This site includes several webinars on the topic, provides information and programs related to neonatal abstinence syndrome.