



LEARNINGbyte

Substance Exposure

Opioids and Substance Exposed Infants



PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY

This activity is designed to provide national quick facts and data related to opioid use and effects on substance exposed infants.



RESOURCES NEEDED

- Infographic: [US Opioid Crisis: Addressing Maternal and Infant Health](#)
(can be downloaded as handout)



SPECIFIC STEPS

1. Pass out the downloadable infographic, *US Opioid Crisis: Addressing Maternal and Infant Health*.
2. Give participants an opportunity to review the infographic.
3. Select some of the following sample questions to facilitate discussion:
 - *Why do you think opioid usage has increased by 4 times between 1999 and 2014?*
 - Opioids are legally prescribed for many reasons including pain management after surgery or injury or chronic pain
 - Opioids are easy to inhale or inject
 - Opioids are easy to access
 - Drug cartels have increased production and technology transfer between distributors
 - **Source:** [Increased Drug Availability is Associated with Increased Use and Overdose](#)
 - **Source:** [Prescription Opioids and Heroin](#)
 - *What health outcomes are linked to opioid use during pregnancy?*
 - Preterm birth
 - Low birthweight
 - Breathing problems
 - Feeding problems
 - Maternal mortality
 - *How do these health outcomes correlate with increased referrals for early intervention services?*
 - CAPTA (The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act) mandates referrals.
 - Virginia prematurity policies mandate that an infant born at 28 weeks or less gestation qualifies for early intervention services.
 - Poor feeding and other health concerns may qualify the infant for early intervention services.

- *What is the most surprising fact or data element on this infographic? Why?*
 - *What is one thing you would like to learn more about regarding the opioid crisis and substance exposed infants?*
4. Discuss with the group what next steps they would like to take to continue learning about this topic, based on what they wanted to learn more about. Identify a staff member who will agree to explore the next topic and share information about it at a future meeting.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Family-Centered Care and the Substance Exposed Infant Parts I and II Talks on Tuesday](#) webinar
- [Early Intervention: Impact of Perinatal Substance Use on Infants \(online module\)](#)
- [Collaborative Care: Developing and Implementing Plans of Safe Care for Substance Exposed Infants](#)