

How Substance Use Impacts Pregnancy

Pregnancies complicated by substance use are at risk for miscarriage, preterm delivery, restricted growth of the fetus, placental abruption, fetal hemorrhage, and other infant developmental effects.

An average stay for a baby exposed to a substance is 16 days in the NICU.

It is estimated that one baby is born substance exposed every hour in the United States and 13,539 babies are born with Neo-Natal Abstinence Syndrome.



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Senate Bill 512

Identifying and Supporting Substance Exposed Newborns and Parents



Washington County Health Department
Division of Behavioral Health Services



What is Senate Bill 512

The purpose of this legislation is to identify newborns exposed to substances and offer the mother and birth father treatment as well as other supportive needs.

It was created out of the Children in Need of Assistance- Drug-Exposed Newborns Program that went into effect October 1, 1997.

Vision

Our vision is to eliminate behavioral health related problems in the community by establishing evidenced-based model programs in partnership with other community agencies.

This program can assist pregnant/postpartum women and women with children in utilizing four long term residential programs. The goal of these specific residential programs is to allow children to live onsite during their mother's program of recovery.

Barriers In Accessing Treatment

- 70% of women entering addiction treatment have children. Women entering treatment are more likely to be the primary caregiver.
- The shame, blame, and guilt attached to addiction can be stronger for women, especially mothers as they may be viewed as a "bad" mother and unable to parent.
- The number one reported barrier in seeking treatment for women is the fear of stigma they will face.
- Women are more stigmatized by alcohol and illicit drug use than men, being characterized sometimes as a moral defect, sexually promiscuous, and neglectful mothers.
- In 2018, there were 120 Substance Exposed Newborns born in Washington County, Maryland.

Eligibility

- ✓ Washington County, Maryland resident
- ✓ Women who have given birth to a substance exposed newborn
- ✓ Birth father needing linkage to community providers for substance use treatment
- ✓ Women with children who are struggling with substance use

Services Offered

- Assisting women in being referred to a long term residential treatment program specifically for pregnant/postpartum women and women with children for the following programs:

CAMEO House
Gandeniza
Chrysalis House
Safe Harbor

- Assisting the mother and or birth father in finding an inpatient/outpatient provider in addressing substance use
- Referring women to Recovery Support Coordination for Pregnant/Postpartum Women and Women with Children Program
- Act as an liaison in getting connected with other community resources

Patient Centered

- The assessor can meet women at the hospital, detention center, and or office to conduct an assessment and to complete the referral process.
- The assessor can work collaboratively with other supportive entities to include other community providers and family to ensure needs are met.