

Opioid Use During Pregnancy

- 1** **Opioid use during pregnancy** is directly related to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), a group of conditions caused when babies go through withdrawals from drugs they are exposed to in the womb before birth.
- 2** **A baby exposed to opioids before birth** could experience drug withdrawal after birth.
- 3** **Opioid use can cause** babies to be born with low birthweight, increased rates of growth restriction, breathing and feeding problems, Jaundice, Sepsis, seizures, and impaired parent-infant attachment.
- 4** **Average length of stay** for a newborn with NAS is 16.9 days (without NAS is 2.1 days).
- 5** **Average cost of hospital stay** is \$66,700 (without NAS is \$3,000).
- 6** **Infants exposed to opioids in utero** are more likely to develop acute renal failure and suffer mortality prior to hospital discharge.
- 7** **Substance exposed newborns** are more likely to experience abuse or neglect, adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes and re-hospitalization after birth.

• "Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)." March of Dimes, [www.marchofdimes.org/neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-\(nas\).aspx](http://www.marchofdimes.org/neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-(nas).aspx).
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