The Opioid Epidemic Impact on Children and Adolescents

Infancy/Preschool

Every 15 Min

From 2004 to 2014

1 baby is born with Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS) (CDC)

433% increase in the incidence of NOWS

Opioid Misuse during Pregnancy: Risks to the Newborn

1. Signs of opioid withdrawal following birth include:
   - Sleep wake cycle disturbances
   - Muscle tone difficulties
   - Tremors or jitteriness
   - Sweating
   - Sneezing, nasal stuffiness
   - A mottled appearance
   - Frequent yawning
   - Fever
   - Irritability and crying with any stimuli
   - Feeding difficulties resulting in poor weight gain
   - Irregular respiration
   - Gastrointestinal problems

2. Opioid misuse during pregnancy: Risks to the baby:
   - Preterm birth
   - Low birth weight
   - Developmental delay
   - Behavioral and cognitive concerns
   - Motor problems
   - Craniofacial defects
   - Problems with the eyes and vision
**SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN**

1 in 8 US children live in a household with at least 1 PARENT suffering from a substance use disorder

1 in 35 US children live in a household with at least 1 PARENT suffering from an illicit drug use disorder, including opioid use

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**OPIOID SUBSTANCE USE IN THE HOME: RISKS TO CHILDREN**

1. **Impaired parenting and attachment which may result in:**
   - Physical or emotional neglect and inadequate supervision
   - Medical neglect
   - Exposure to domestic violence
   - Physical or sexual abuse

2. **Extended separation of the child from parents due to:**
   - Parental incarceration
   - Residential psychiatric or drug treatment
   - Parental death due to overdose
   - Placement in foster care

3. **Impaired brain development due to exposure to toxic stress during critical periods of brain development.**
Injection drug use places teens at direct risk for HIV

Drug use broadly places teens at increased risk of overdose

1. Risk factors for teen drug use include:
   • Family history of substance use
   • Favorable parental attitudes towards substance use
   • Poor parental monitoring
   • Family rejection of sexual orientation or gender identity
   • Association with delinquent or substance using peers
   • Lack of school connectedness
   • Low academic achievement
   • Childhood sexual abuse
   • Mental health concerns

2. Impact on teens:
   • Affects brain development
   • Associated with other risky behaviors, such as unprotected sex and dangerous driving.
   • Contributes to the development of adult health problems, such as heart disease, high blood pressure, and sleep disorders
   • Increases risk for being a victim of physical or sexual dating violence.
   • Associated exposure to violence
   • Increased risk for developing mental health and suicidal concerns


