



ACCESS
Mental Health
for Moms

Your link to psychiatric consultation, support,
and resources

Conflicts of Interest

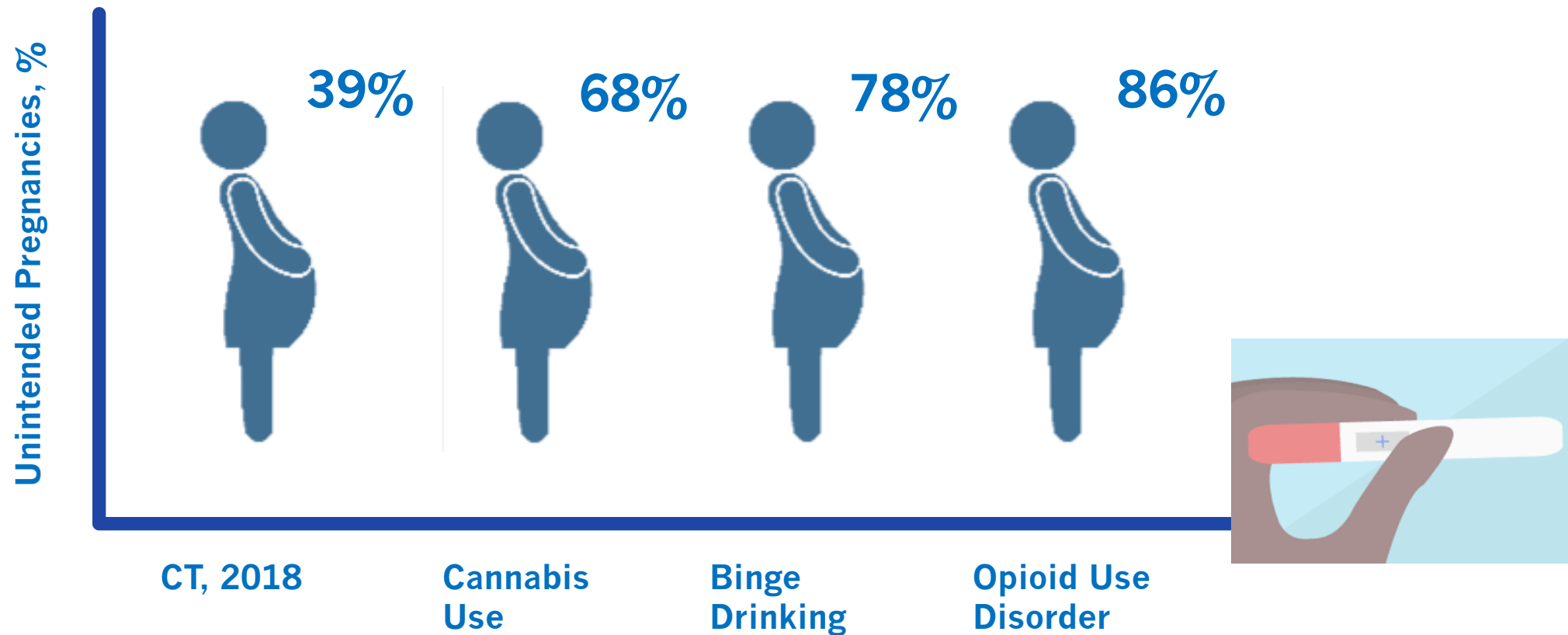
With respect to the following presentation, there has been no relevant (direct or indirect) financial relationship with any for-profit company which could be considered a conflict of interest.

Grant funding:

- PCORI MAT-2018C2-12891 (PI: Forray/Yonkers)
- NIMHD R21 (PI: Forray)

Background on perinatal substance use

Unplanned Pregnancies and Substance Use



Finer LB & Zolna MR, NEJM. 2016; 374:843-85

Kost K, Guttmacher Institute, 2015

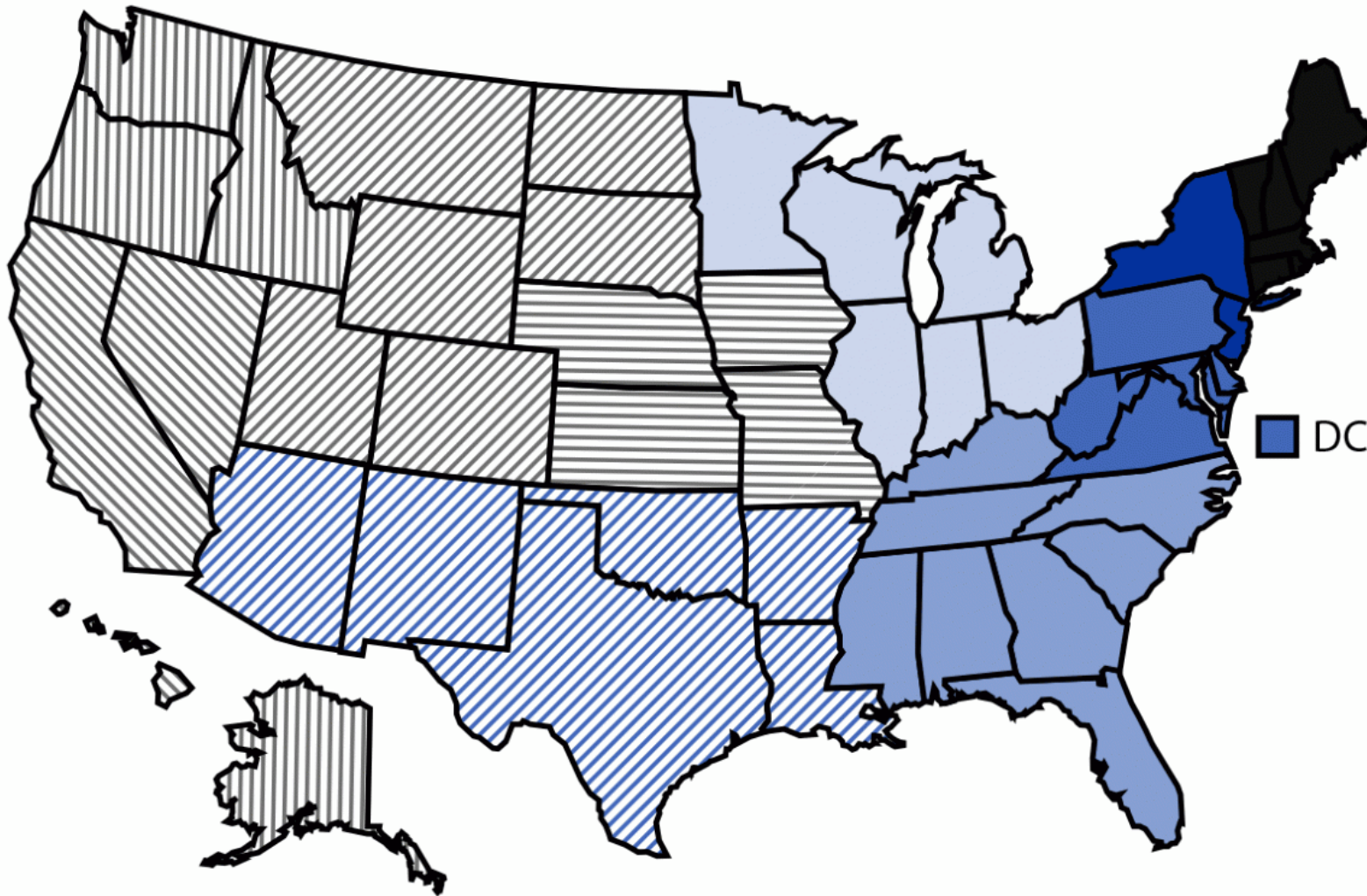
Lundsberg LS et al., J Addict Med. 2018;12(4):321-328

Connecticut Department of Public Health. Connecticut Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) 2018 Data Report. Hartford, CT; October 2019

What are risk factors for substance use in pregnancy?

- Demographic Factors: Rates of substance use during pregnancy **do NOT** seem to be influenced by race, social class, or age
- Environmental Factors
 - Adverse childhood experiences (ACE): women with **5 or more ACES** are **7-10x** more likely to engage in illicit drug use, have SUD
 - Childhood sexual abuse: **3X** more likely to have SUD adulthood
- Hormones: Ovarian hormones influence the effects of drugs and may contribute to an accelerated progression of initiation to dependency known as telescoping

Alcohol Use Among Pregnant Individuals: 2018-2020



Overall 14%

White 13%

Black 15%

Hispanic 13%

Other 17%

Region 1: 16.4% (11.8%–21.1%)
Region 2: 16.3% (12.1%–20.5%)

Region 6: 11.2% (6.0%–16.5%)
Region 7: 11.5% (7.5%–15.5%)

Gosdin et al., MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2022;71(1):10-13

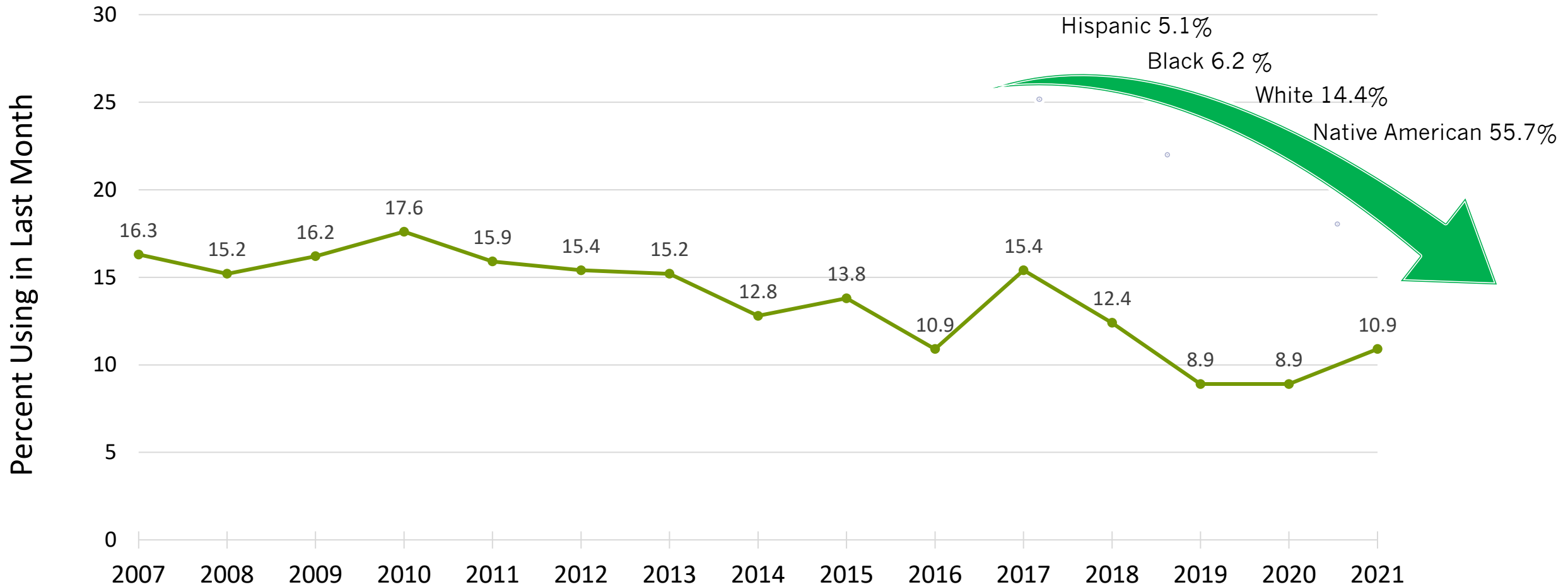
CT Prevalence of Perinatal Alcohol Use

| Question | | n | Weighted % | 95% CI |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Alcohol use in past 2 years | No | 609 | 31.4 | (28.5-34.3) |
| | Yes | 800 | 68.6 | (65.7-71.5) |
| Alcohol use 3 months prior to pregnancy | No | 757 | 41.5 | (38.3-44.7) |
| | Yes | 647 | 58.5 | (55.3-61.7) |
| Alcohol use during last 3 months of pregnancy | No | 1,323 | 92.5 | (90.6-94.3) |
| | Yes | 87 | 7.5 | (5.7-9.4) |
| Changes in alcohol during pregnancy | Nondrinker | 755 | 41.4 | (38.3-44.6) |
| | Drinker quit | 561 | 51.0 | (47.6-54.4) |
| | Drinker reduced | 39 | 4.4 | (2.8-5.9) |
| | Drinker same/more | 46 | 3.1 | (2.0-4.2) |
| | Nondrinker resumed | <i>Insufficient data to report</i> | | |



Connecticut Department of Public Health. Connecticut Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) 2018 Data Report. Hartford, CT; October 2019

Tobacco Use Trend in Pregnancy 2007-2021



NSDUH, 2007-2021: <https://pdas.samhsa.gov/>

CT Prevalence of Perinatal Smoking

| Question | | n | Weighted % | 95% CI |
|---|-------------------|-------|------------|-------------|
| Tobacco use in past 2 years | No | 1,218 | 84.1 | (81.2-86.9) |
| | Yes | 195 | 15.9 | (13.1-18.8) |
| Tobacco use 3 months prior to pregnancy | No | 1,245 | 86.0 | (83.3-88.7) |
| | Yes | 169 | 14.0 | (11.3-16.7) |
| Tobacco use during last 3 months of pregnancy | No | 1,354 | 94.2 | (92.1-96.3) |
| | Yes | 61 | 5.8 | (3.7-7.9) |
| Tobacco use now | No | 1,318 | 92.2 | (90.0-94.4) |
| | Yes | 98 | 7.8 | (5.6-10.0) |
| Changes in tobacco use during pregnancy | Nonsmoker | 1,245 | 86.0 | (83.3-88.7) |
| | Smoker quit | 107 | 8.2 | (6.2-10.1) |
| | Smoker reduced | 43 | 4.8 | (2.8-6.8) |
| | Smoker same/more | 18 | 1.0 | (0.4-1.6) |
| | Nonsmoker resumed | 0 | -- | -- |



Connecticut Department of Public Health. Connecticut Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) 2018 Data Report. Hartford, CT; October 2019

Illicit Substance Use in Pregnancy - 2021

7.8% of all pregnant people



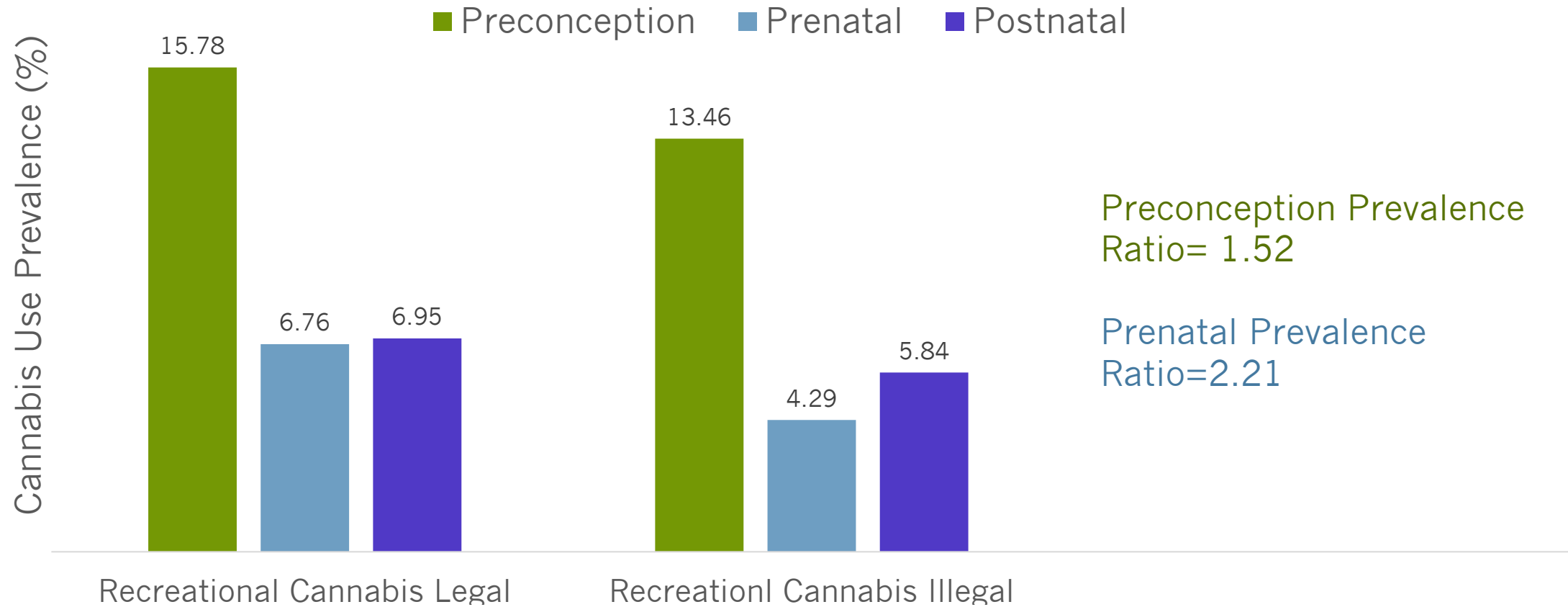
White 5.2%

Black 7.9%

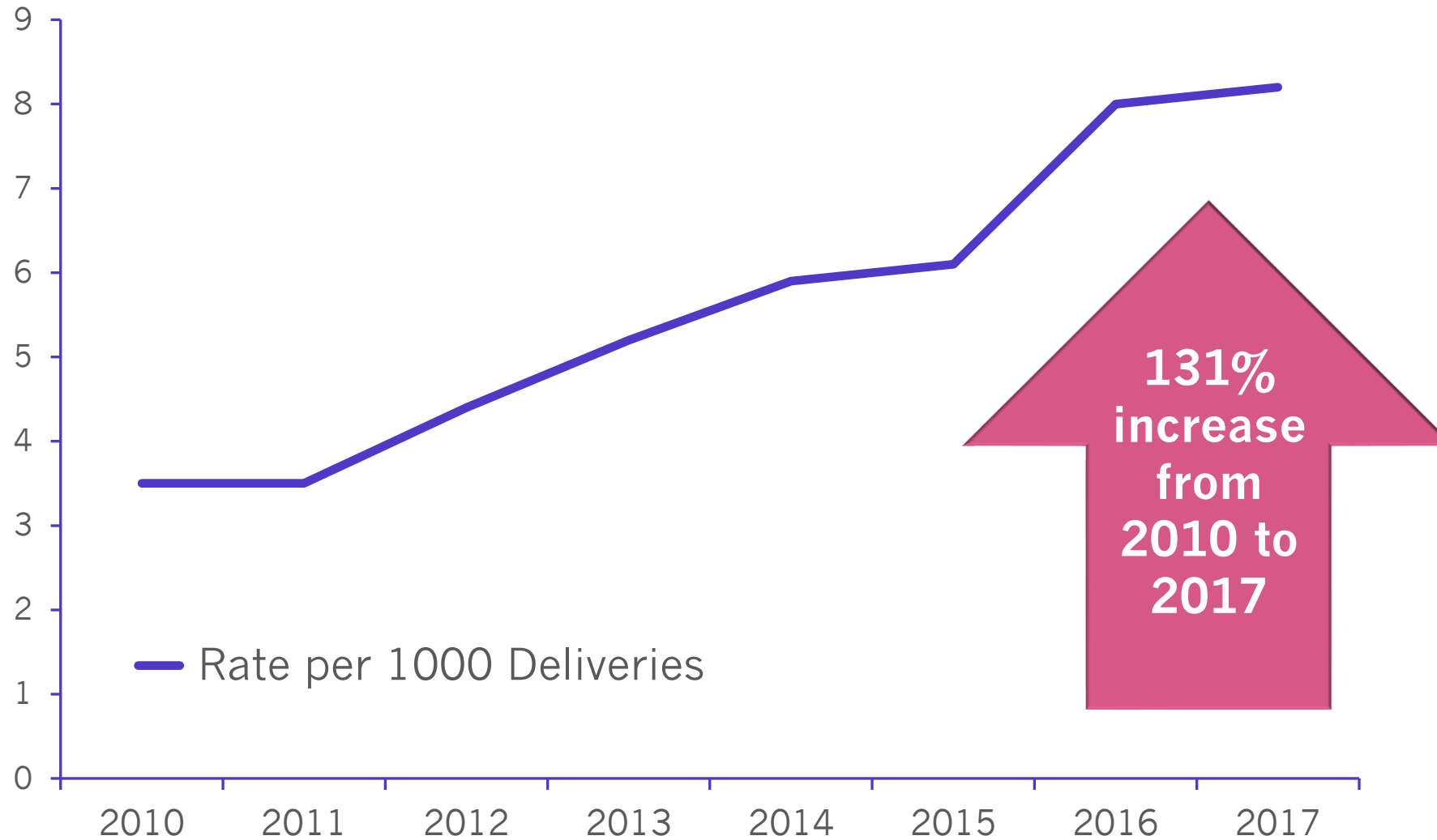
Hispanic 16.1%

Native American 39.5%

Impact of Legalization on Cannabis Use



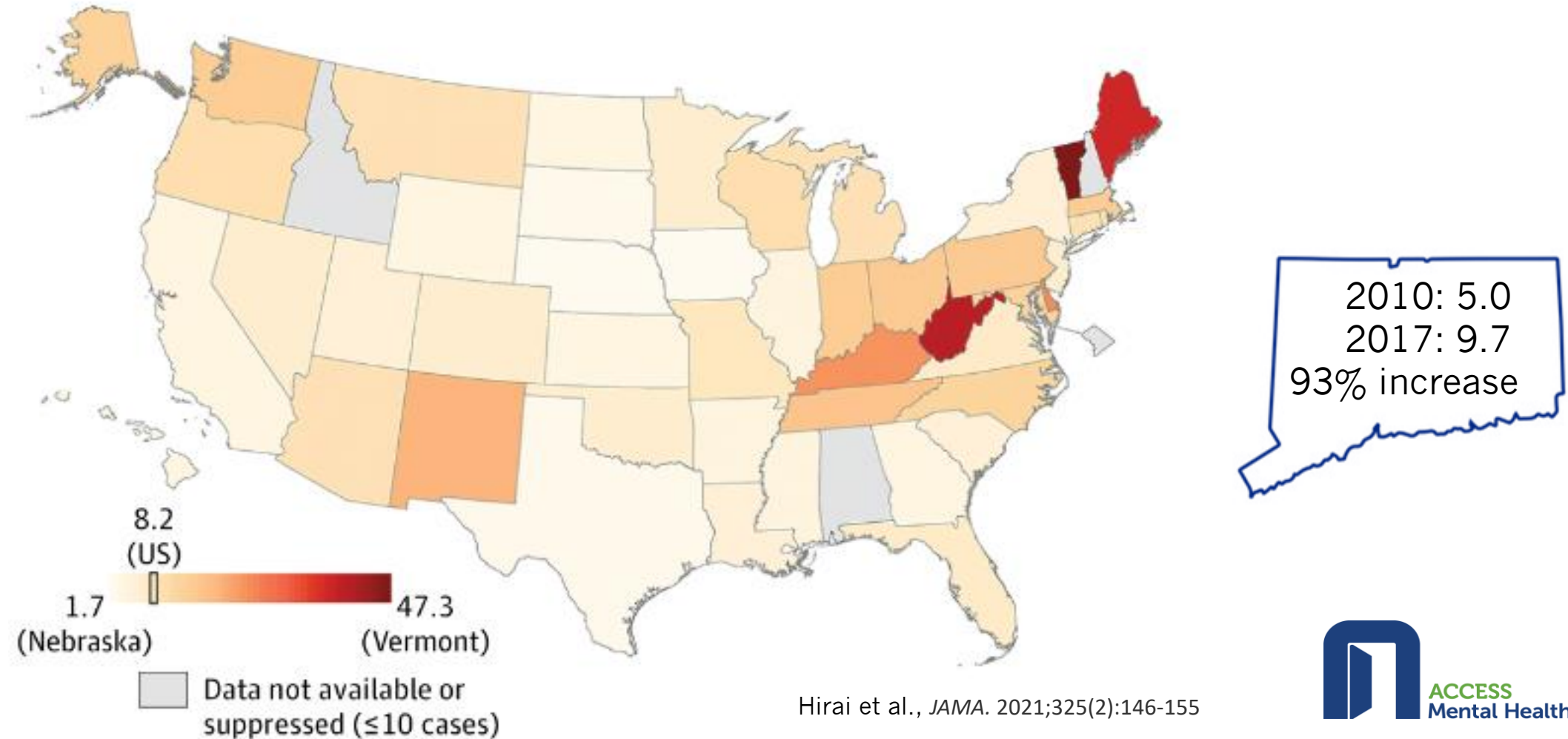
Maternal Opioid-related Diagnosis: 2010-2017




Hirai et al., *JAMA*. 2021;325(2):146-155

Maternal Opioid-related Diagnosis: 2010-2017

C Maternal opioid-related diagnoses rate per 1000 delivery hospitalizations in 2017



Trauma in Women



91% of survivors of rape and sexual assault are women

~90% of women with SUD have experienced at least 1 traumatic event

1 in 3 women experience intimate partner violence (IPV)

1 in 5 women experience childhood sexual abuse

Women with PTSD are

2.48 times more likely to have an Alcohol Use Disorder

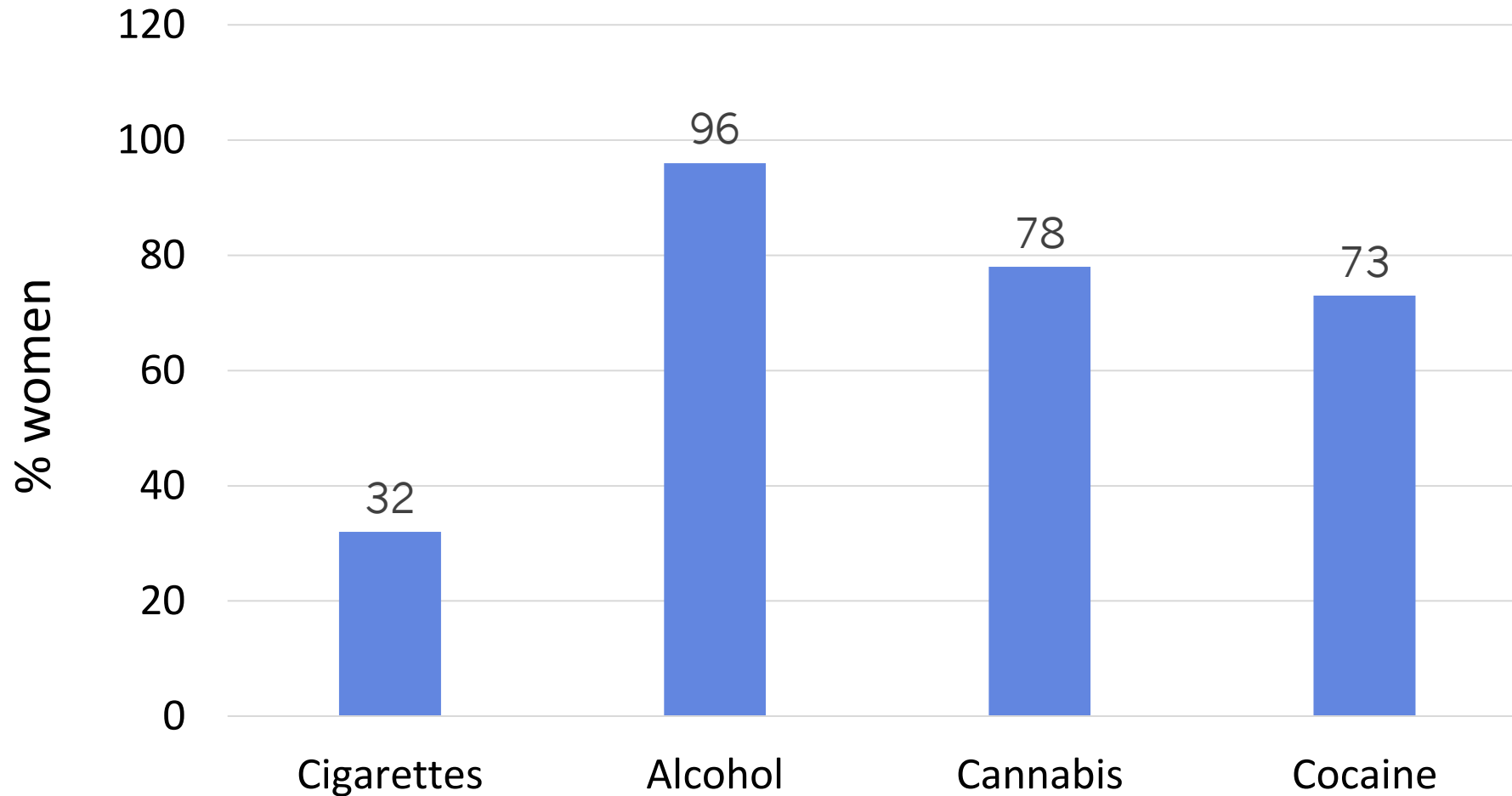


4.46 times more likely to have other Substance Use Disorder



What Happens to Substance Use in Pregnancy?

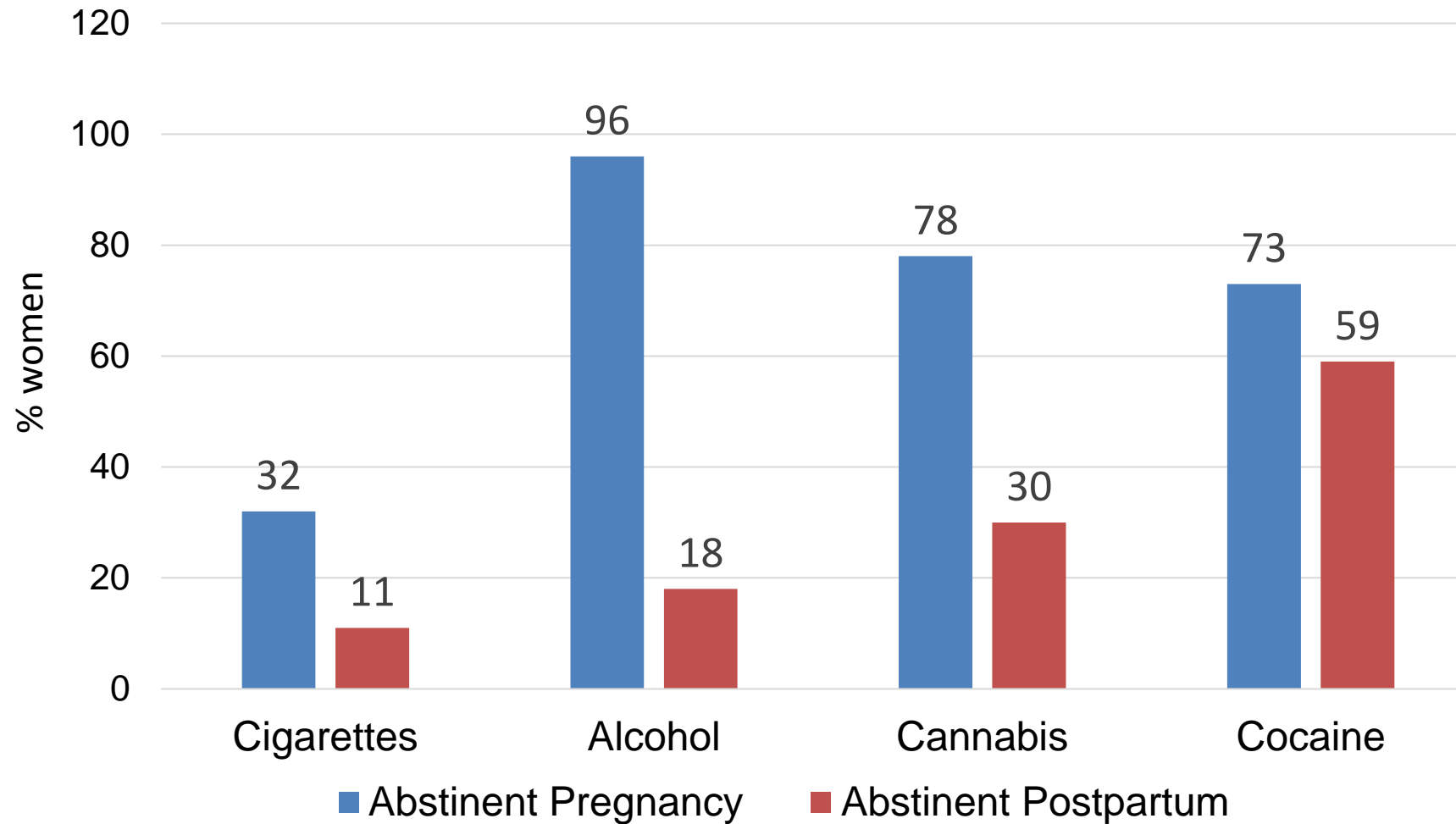
Abstinence by Substance Group



Forray A et al., Drug & Alcohol Dependence, 2015

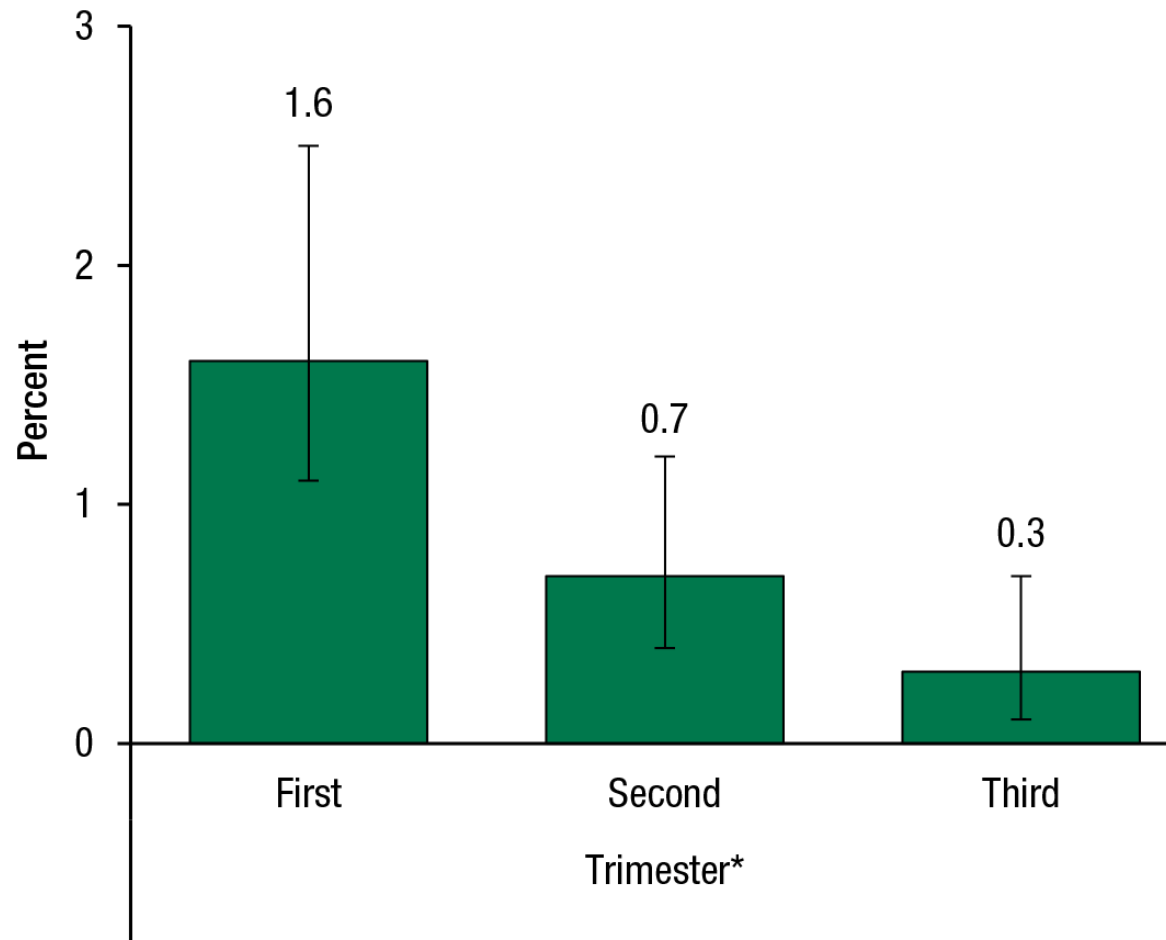
What Happens After Delivery?

Abstinence and Relapse by Substance Group



Forray A et al., Drug & Alcohol Dependence, 2015

Opiate Use Across Pregnancy



Smith, K. and Lipari, R.N. *Women of childbearing age and opioids.*
The CBHSQ Report: January 17, 2017.

The Good, Bad and Ugly

- **The good:** substance use decreases throughout pregnancy
- **The bad:** > 80% of postpartum women relapse to drug or alcohol use after delivery
- **The ugly:** substance use in pregnancy is associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes and can have physical & cognitive effects on offspring

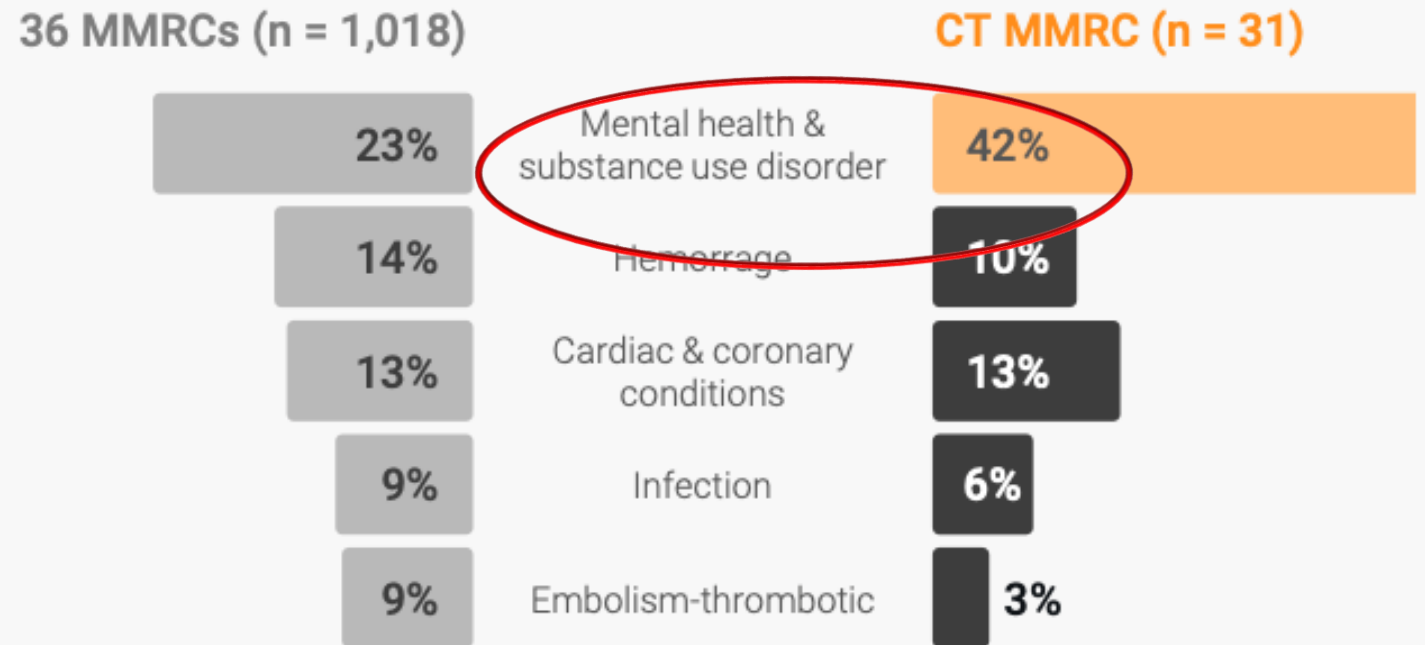
IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE USE IN PREGNANCY

Caveats in Assessing the Effects of Substance Use in Pregnancy

- Delayed care or no prenatal care
- Co-occurring substance use is more the rule than the exception and one must account for multiple possible drug effects
- Those that are heavy users of a substance are more likely to use multiple substances
- Co-morbid psychiatric disorders
- Chaotic neonatal environment has a strong impact on child development

Leading Underlying Causes of Pregnancy-related Deaths

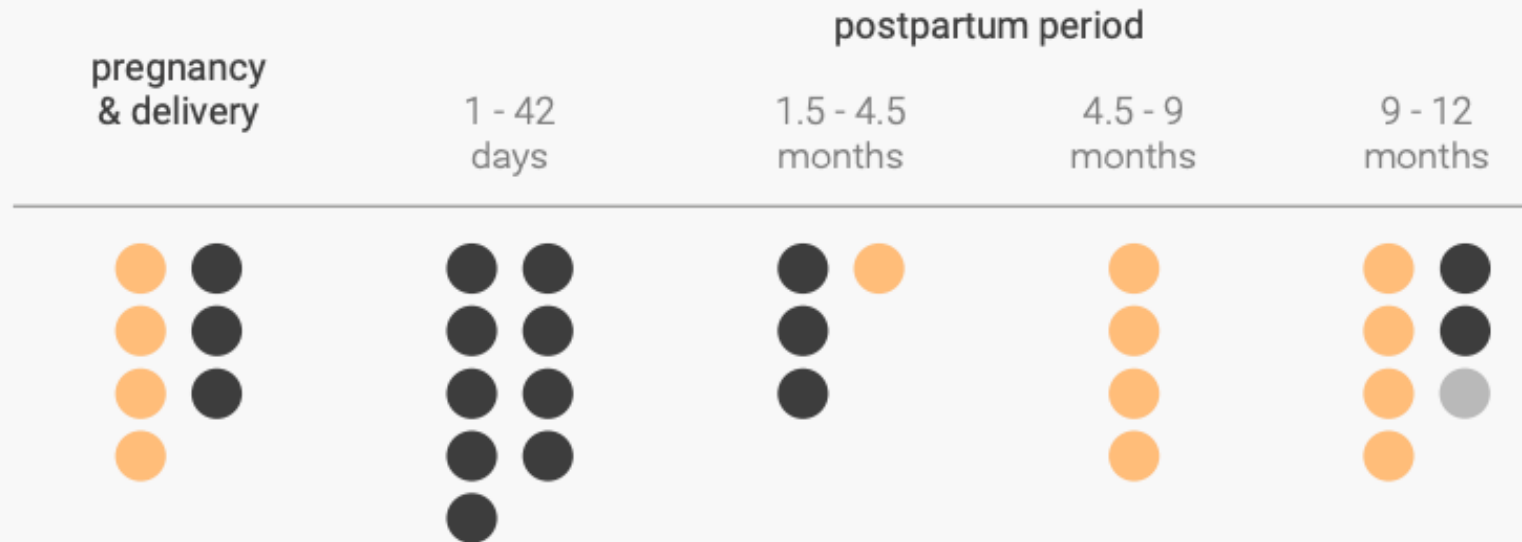
Mental health conditions, including substance use disorder, were the leading underlying causes of death both in Connecticut and in 36 US states that contributed data to the CDC's analysis of pregnancy-related deaths.



Data Sources: Connecticut Maternal Mortality Review Information Application (CT-MMRIA), 2015-2020 and data from Maternal Mortality Review Committees in 36 US states, 2017-2019.

Timing of Pregnancy-related Deaths

More than half of pregnancy-related deaths due to medical disease occurred within 1-42 days (6 weeks) after the end of pregnancy, whereas 7 in 10 deaths due to mental health conditions occurred 3-12 months after the end of pregnancy.



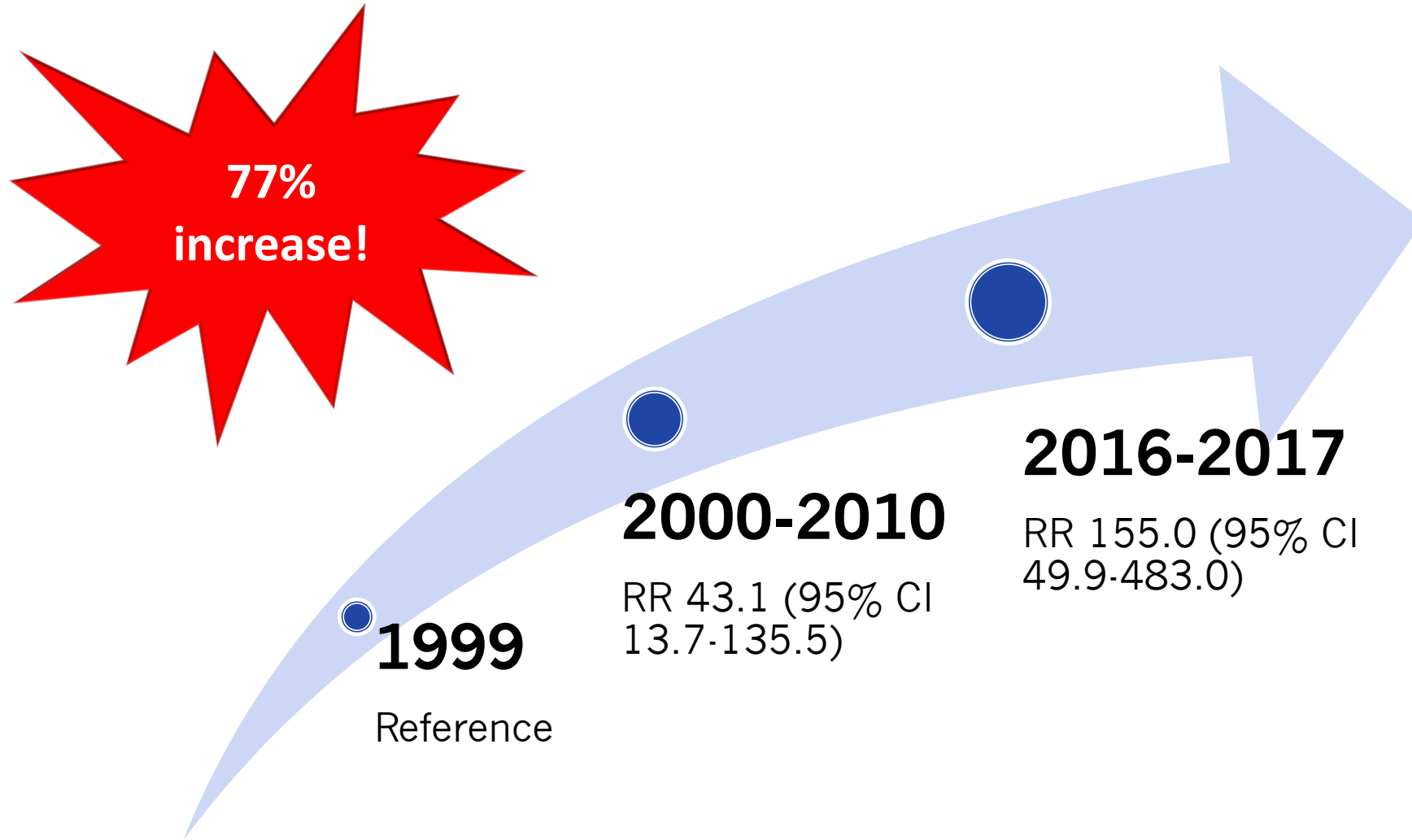
Cause of Death

- medical disease
- MHCs & SUD
- unknown

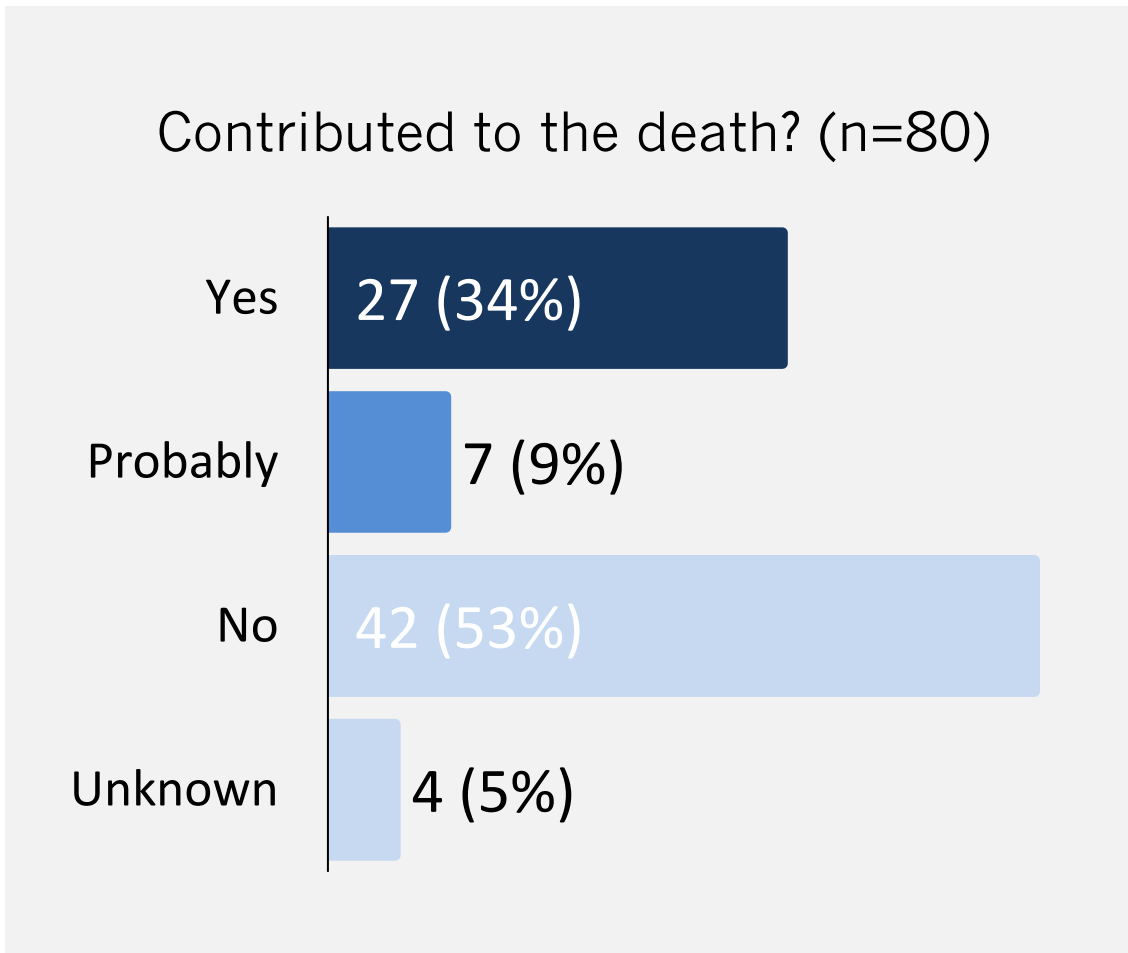
Note: MHC=mental health conditions; SUD=substance use disorder.

Data Source: MMRC case narratives for pregnancy-related deaths to which substance use disorder contributed or probably contributed, 2015-2020.

OUD-related Maternal Deaths 1999-2017



Substance Use Disorder



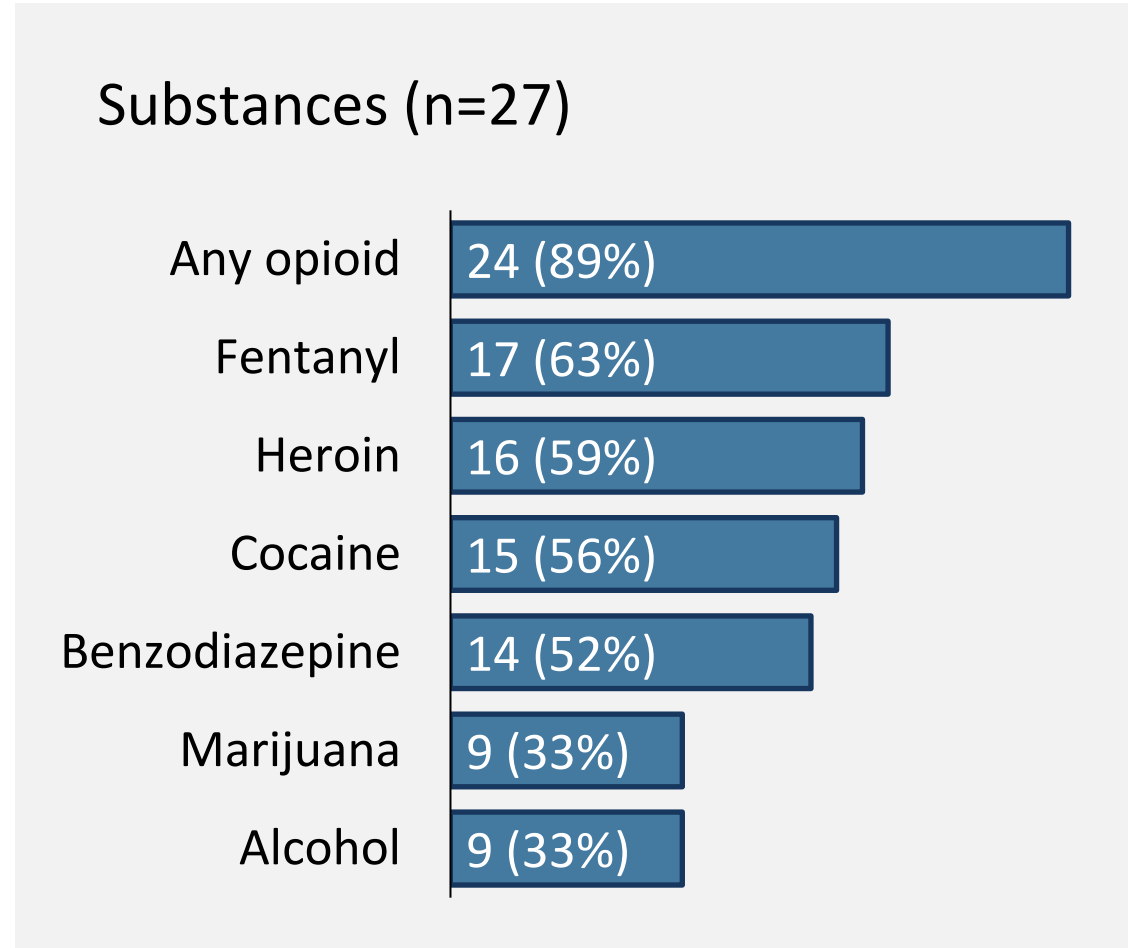
- Contributed to over one-third (34%) of pregnancy-associated deaths in Connecticut between 2015 and 2020
- *Probably* contributed to an additional 9% of pregnancy-associated deaths
- One-third (n = 9/27, 33.3%) were pregnancy-related

Preventability

**All 27 deaths to which
substance use conditions
contributed were
preventable**



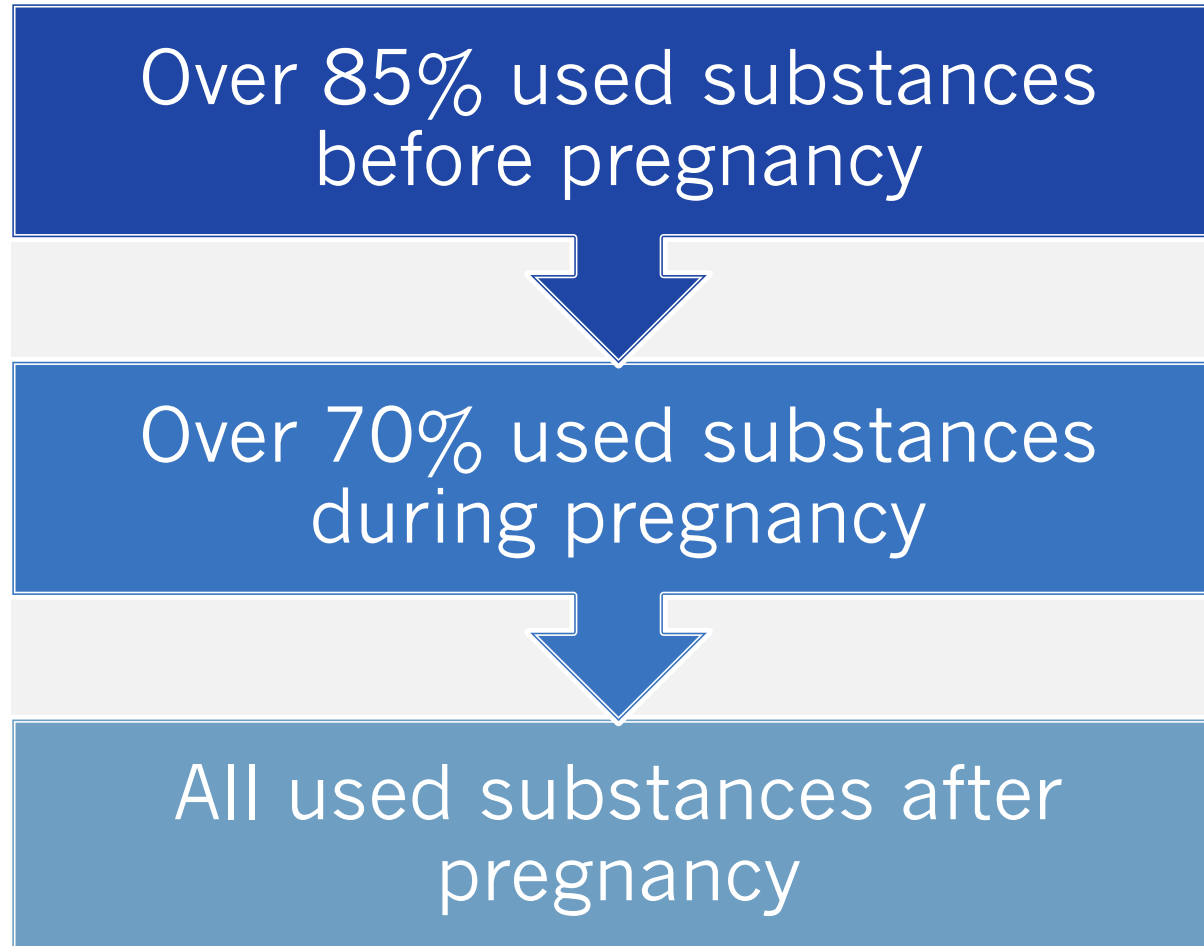
Types of Substances Used



Pregnancy-Related Deaths in Connecticut, Data from CT MMRC, 2015-2020

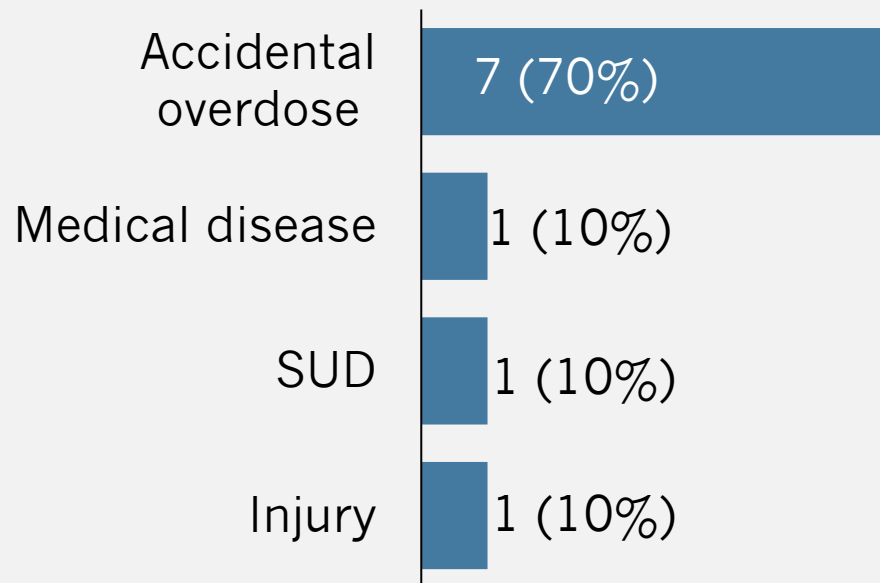
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DPH/Maternal-Mortality/2015-2020-Maternal-Mortality-in-Connecticut-Report_Final.pdf

Timing of Substance Use

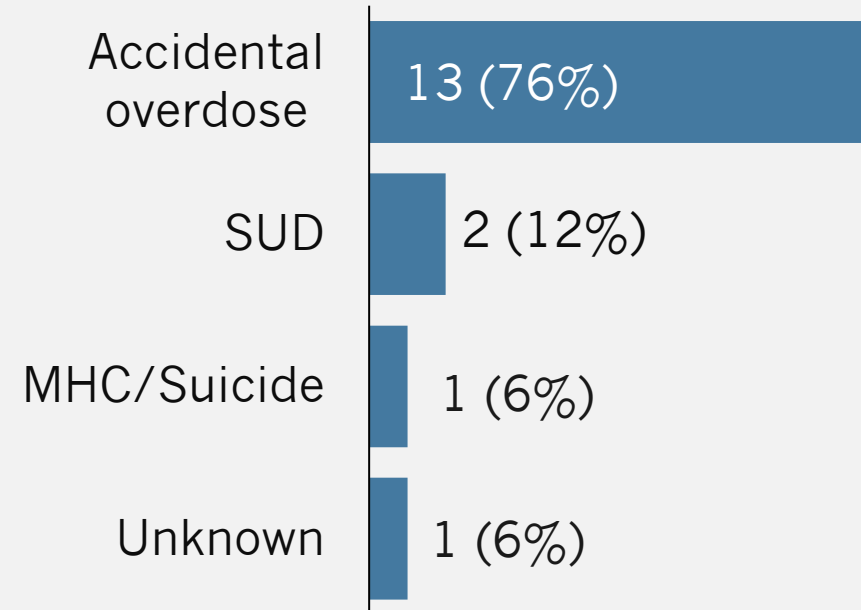


Timing and Cause of Death

Causes of death in pregnancy (n=10)



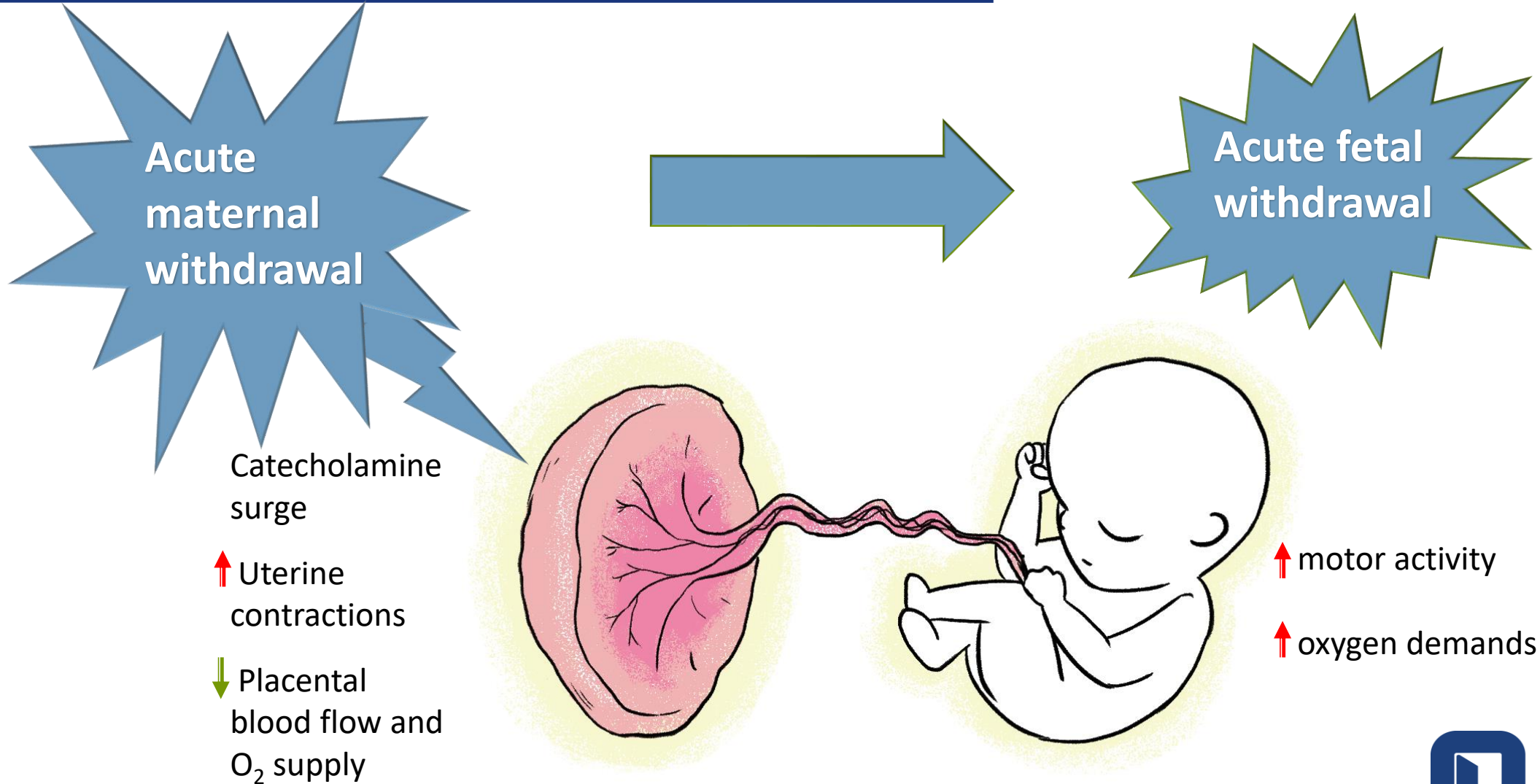
Causes of death in the postpartum period (n=17)



Summary of Perinatal Substance Use Effects on Pregnancy and Infant Outcomes

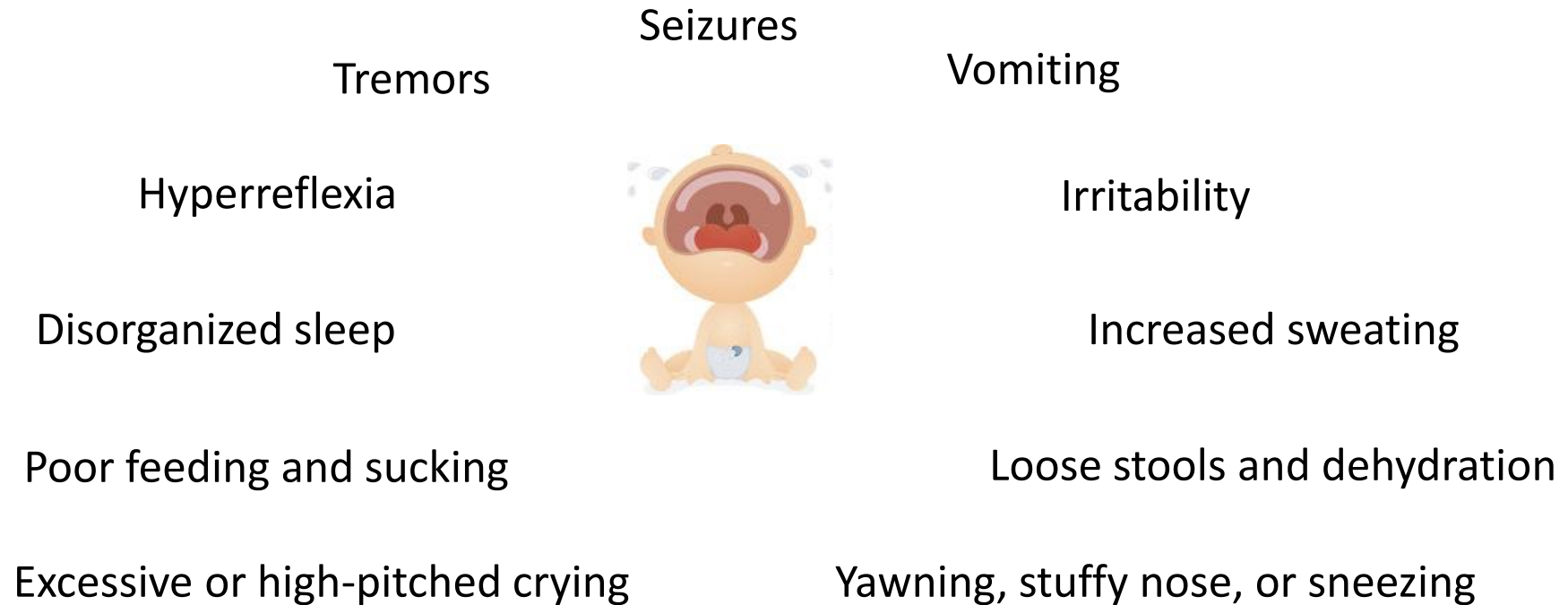
| | Tobacco | Alcohol | Cannabis | Stimulants | Opiates |
|---|---------|---------|----------|------------|---------|
| Pregnancy outcomes | | | | | |
| Preterm birth | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Small for gestational age | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Low birthweight | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Miscarriage/Spontaneous abortion | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Placental abruption | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Premature rupture of membranes | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| Ectopic pregnancy | ✓ | | | | |
| Infant effects | | | | | |
| Cognitive deficits | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Teratogenicity | | ✓ | | | |
| Infant mortality/Sudden Infant Death Syndrome | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Neonatal Withdrawal/Abstinence Syndrome | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Behavioral Problems | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Intrauterine Opiate Withdrawal



Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome

Occurs in 45%-95% of exposed infants



Patrick et al., JAMA, 2012

Committee on Drugs, Pediatrics, 1998;101:1079-1086

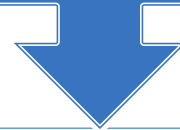
Ballard, J Perinat Neonat Nurs, 2002;15:76-85

Neurodevelopmental Outcomes in Offspring Exposed to Opioids In Utero

Findings limited by difficulties in following up cohorts and controlling for confounding factors



Confounding factors: other substance use, poor prenatal care



Most studies found no significant difference in cognitive development

TREATMENT

Alcohol Use Treatment in Pregnancy

Brief interventions, in particular those that utilize motivational interviewing, have been shown to reduce prenatal alcohol use

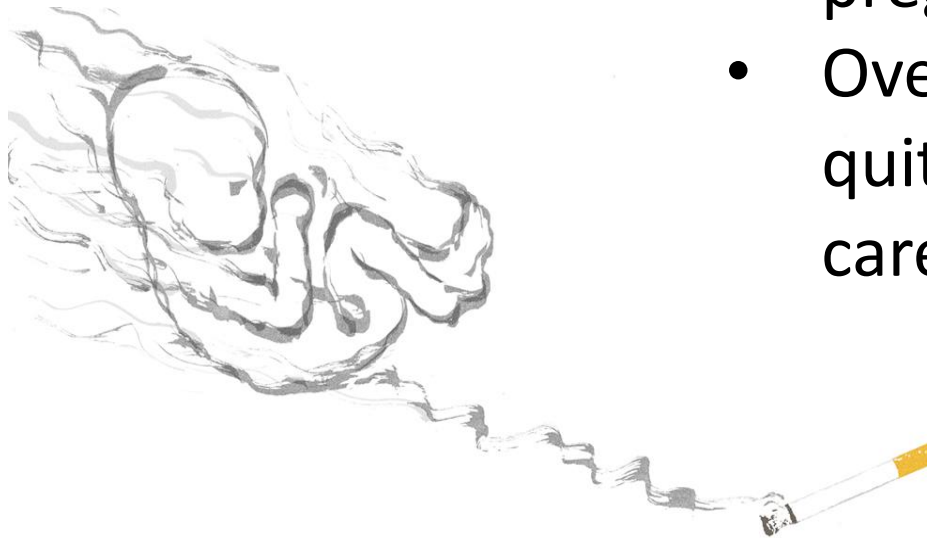
No published studies on the safety or efficacy of naltrexone for use in AUD in pregnant women

Chang G et al., *Obstet Gynecol.* 2005;105(5 Pt 1):991-8
Osterman RL et al., *J Subst Abuse Treat.* 2014;47(1):10-9
Rendall-Mkosi K et al., *Addiction.* 2013 Apr;108(4):725-32
DeVido et al., *Harv Rev Psychiatry.* 2015; 23(2): 112–121

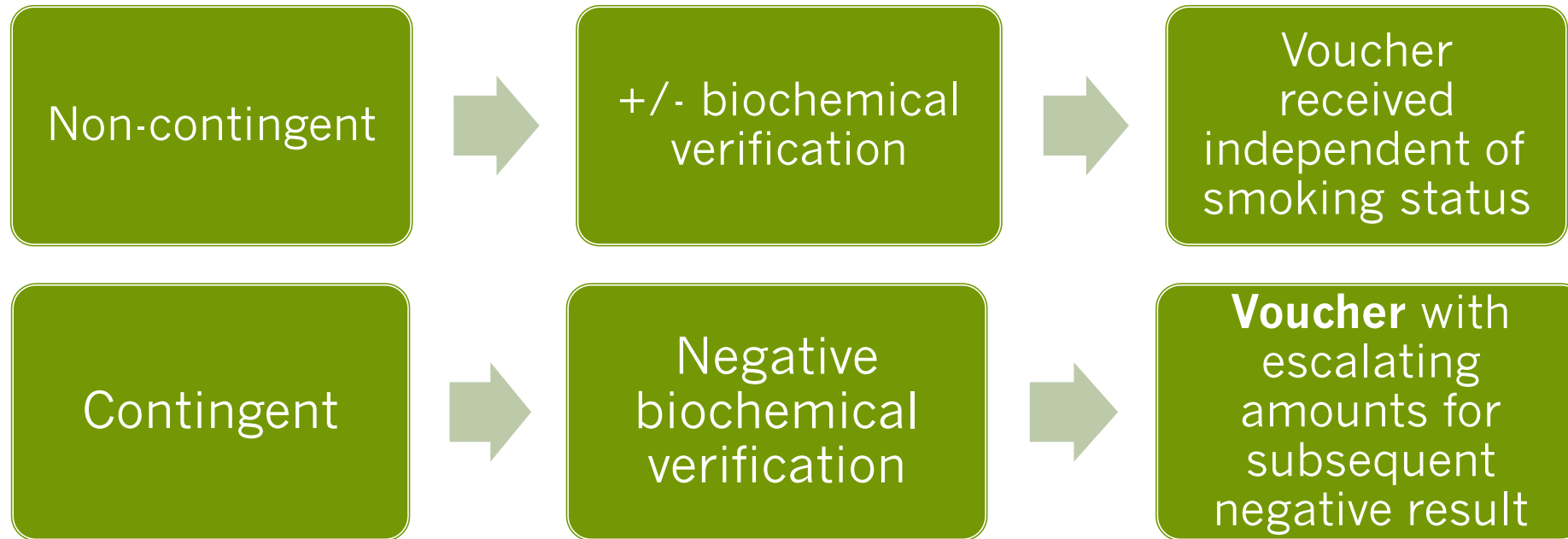


Treatment of Smoking in Pregnancy

- Behavioral counseling is the recommended treatment for pregnant smokers
- Overall has *small* effects - increasing quit rates by 6% to 10% over usual care



Contingency Management (CM)



- Effective in increasing smoking abstinence by 27% to 39% in pregnancy and early postpartum
- Shown to decrease percentage of low birthweight deliveries (5.9% vs. 18.5%, $p = 0.02$)

Pharmacologic Treatments

- The efficacy and safety of anti-smoking medications are not yet established in pregnant and postpartum smokers
- To date, all placebo-controlled trials of nicotine-replacement therapy (NRT) in pregnancy have been negative

Coleman, et al., NEJM, 2012



Silver Lining

There seems to be a dose response, so even reducing the number of cigarettes smoked daily improves the chances of a healthier pregnancy and baby

Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Pregnancy

- There is general agreement that women with opioid use disorder should remain on medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD)
- Some consensus that total withdrawal from opiates should be limited to 2nd trimester
- Methadone is still considered the gold standard for treatment of those who are pregnant and have an opioid use disorder

MOUD Treatment During Pregnancy

Advantages of maintenance treatment

- Increases adherence to prenatal care
- Reduces illicit drug use
- Reduces infection exposure secondary to IVDU
- Improves maternal nutrition and infant birth weight

★ Despite recent evidence suggesting fetal safety of medically assisted opioid withdrawal in pregnancy, studies have found low abstinence and high relapse rates (59-99%)

Bell et al, Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2016;215(3):374

Jones et al, Am J Addict. 2008;17:372–86

Mozurkewich et al, Obstet Gynecol Clin N Am. 2014;41:241–53

Use of Methadone in Pregnancy

Protects against “fetal withdrawal”

Associated with increases in birth weight

Decreases craving for other drugs

90% bioavailable but half life decreases across pregnancy

May need to be increased in the 3rd trimester

Use of other drugs and methadone may have worsened outcomes

Hulse et al, *Addiction*, 1997; 92:1571-1579

Johnson et al, *Addiction*, 2003;98:785-789

Archie et al., *Curr Opin Obstet Gyn*, 1998;10:435-440

Buprenorphine in Pregnancy

Approved since 2002

Buprenorphine + naloxone = suboxone

- Limited data in pregnancy but appears safe
- No difference in neonatal outcomes compared to buprenorphine alone

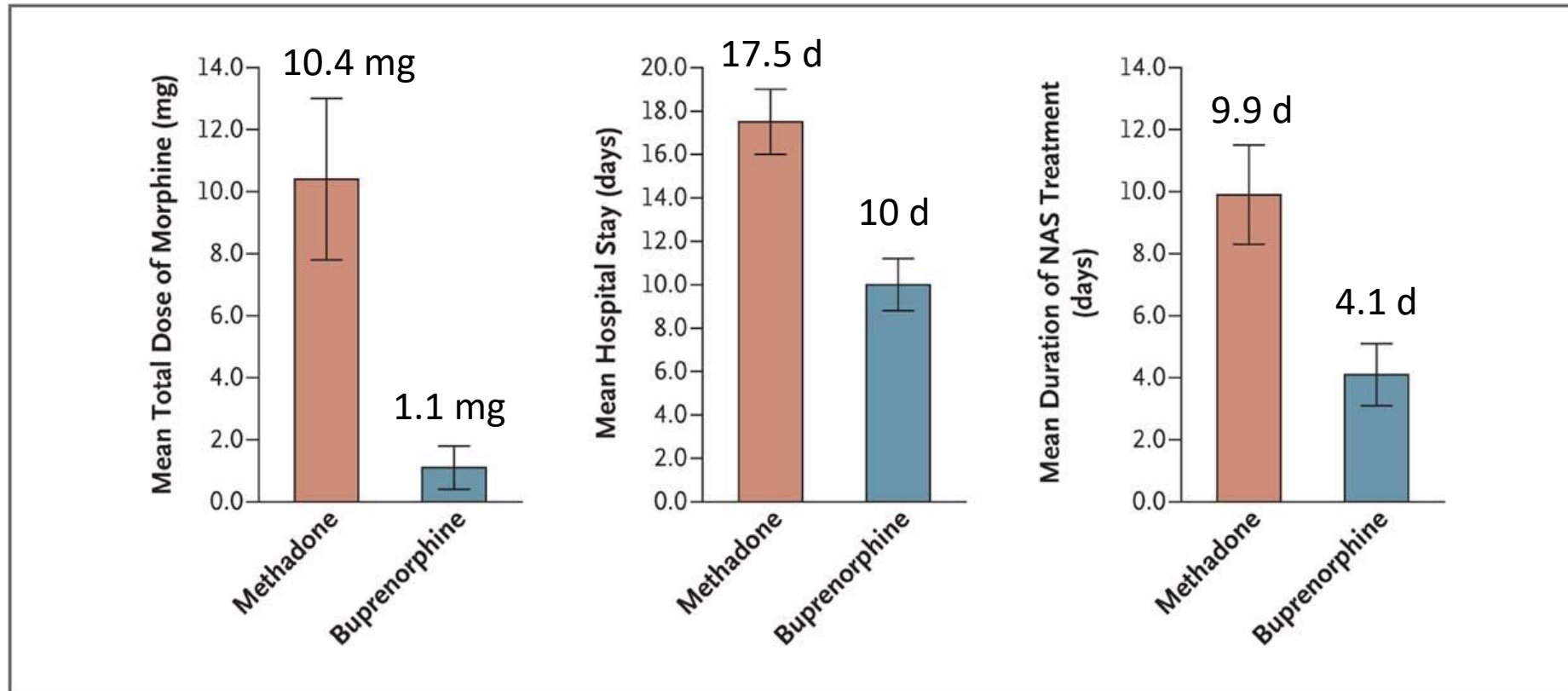
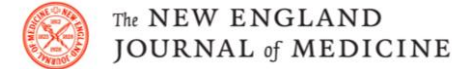
Typically requires 16 mg/d or higher

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome after Methadone or Buprenorphine Exposure: the MOTHER Study

Mean Neonatal Morphine Dose: 89% less (p=0.009)

Length of Neonatal Hospital Stay: 43% less time (p=0.009)

Duration of Treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: 58% less time (p=0.003)



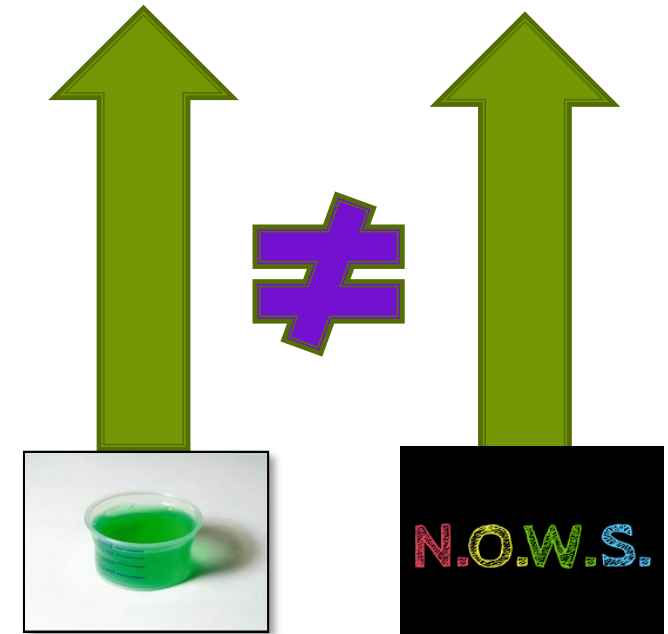
Methadone vs. Buprenorphine

| Advantages | Methadone | Buprenorphine |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| Reduces cravings for opioids | X | X |
| Prevents withdrawal | X | X |
| Blocks the effects of other opioids | X | X |
| Promotes increased health | X | X |
| Higher treatment retention | X | |
| Lower risk of overdose, fewer drug interactions, shorter NOWS | | X |
| Office-based treatment | | X |

Regardless of treatment concurrent smoking increases risk and severity of NOWS

MOUD Dosing in Pregnancy

- MOUD dose is not consistently related to NOWS severity
- Will need to increase MOUD dose as pregnancy progresses
- Recommend **split dosing** starting in second trimester
 - Maternal Benefits
 - ✓ Increase drug negative urines during treatment
 - ✓ Increased adherence with treatment
 - ✓ Decrease withdrawal symptoms
 - Fetal Benefits
 - ✓ Minimizes the reduction in breathing and movement
 - ✓ Fetal movement-fetal heart rate coupling less suppressed

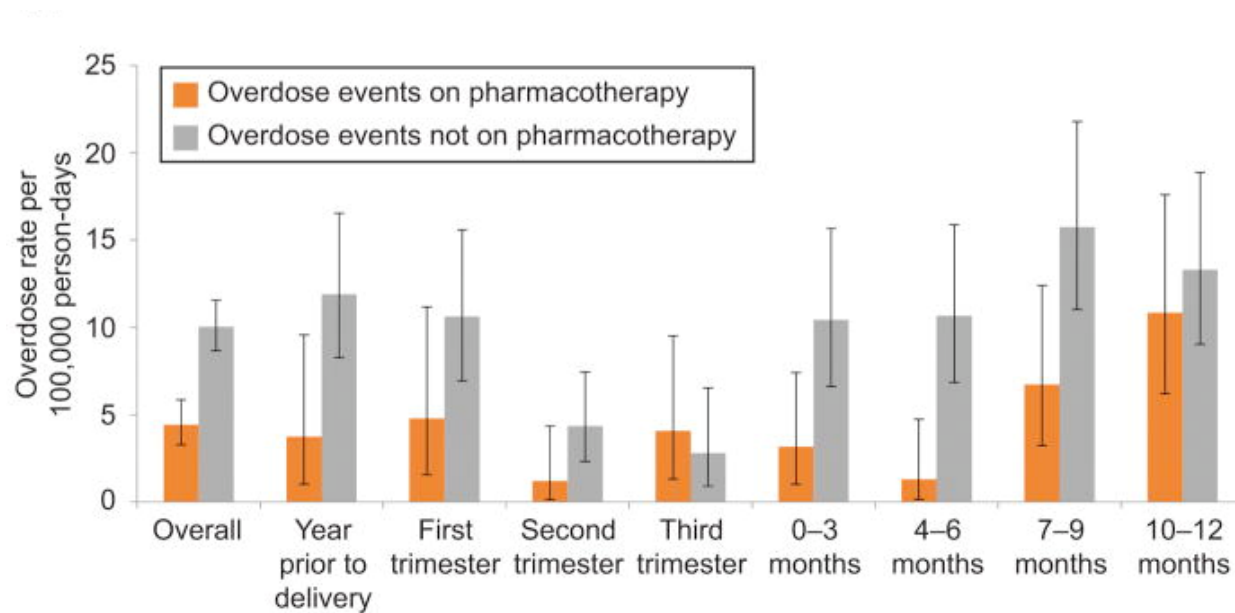


Naltrexone in Pregnancy

- Opiate agonist (oral/injectable/long-term implant)
- Limited data in pregnancy – appears safe
- Oral administration not superior to placebo
- Not typically initiated in pregnancy as detoxification must be achieved first → withdrawal symptoms → fetal stress
- Due to mechanism of action can be difficult to manage pain in labor/cesarean section and postpartum

Why MOUD and Harm Reduction is so Important in Pregnant and Postpartum Individuals

Overdose Mortality in MA 2012-2014



Key Reminders for Substance Use in Pregnancy

Harm Reduction

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DMHAS/Opioid-Resources/CT-Harm-Reduction-Resources-Flyer-2022.pdf>

Family Care Plans

<https://www.sepict.org/professionals/resources-for-professionals/>

Link to SEPI-CT recorded training:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T7Qe4CJoq0-P4wjNINty7g8W-VsOgW3W/view?usp=sharing>

Resources

FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR WOMEN

For additional community-based support for women who may be struggling with substance use, please contact the Women's REACH (Recovery, Engagement, Access, Coaching & Healing) program.

<https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS-REACH>



HERE TO HELP

Or, for real time statewide residential Substance Use Disorder treatment bed availability please visit:

ctaddictionservices.com



THE PROUD PROGRAM

If you have additional questions about PROUD or any Substance Use Disorder treatment options for women please visit <http://www.CT.gov/DMHAS>



PROUD IS FUNDED BY

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



portal.ct.gov/PROUD



SUPPORTING PROVIDERS IN PROMOTING THE BEST OUTCOMES

for infants born substance-exposed
and their families.



ABOUT US

The Substance Exposed Pregnancy Initiative of CT (SEPI-CT) works collaboratively with CT DCF and CT DMHAS to bring awareness to substance exposure during pregnancy, and to ensure families have access to the treatment, recovery, and support resources they need.

SEPI-CT provides free trainings and technical support to assist providers in:

Meeting the legislative requirements of CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act)

Creating Family Care Plans to ensure families have access to treatment, recovery, and support resources

FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

If you are pregnant and struggling with reducing or stopping your substance use, you are not alone. For impacted families in Connecticut, there are treatment, health, and recovery [resources](#) that can help.

OUR TRAININGS



The Evolution of CAPTA: Supporting Families Impacted by Substance Use

Presentation Contents:

- CAPTA/CARA Legislation
- CAPTA Notification
- DCF Report Considerations
- Family Care Plan Development
- Awareness of Stigma/Health Inequities
- Community Connections and Resources



CAPTA Notification Process

Presentation Contents:

- CAPTA Notification Requirements
- How to Access the Portal
- Screen by Screen Review of Notification
- DCF Report Considerations

Additional Presentations:
[DMHAS Women's Services](#)
[DCF Mandated Reporter Training](#)

FOR PROFESSIONALS

We provide [resources](#) that build your capacity to offer compassionate care to families and birthing people touched by prenatal substance exposure.



Ways to Contact SEPI-CT:

Mary Fitzgerald, SEPI-CT Family Care Plan Coordinator: mkfitzgerald@wheelerclinic.org

Pamela Mulready, SEPI-CT Project Manager: pamulready@wheelerclinic.org



Visit Our Website:

SEPICT.ORG



Additional Resources

- DMHAS Women's Services brochure: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DMHAS/Publications/DMHAS-WS-Brochure--updated-2023.pdf>
- DMHAS Access Line <https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Programs-and-Services/Finding-Services/Access-Line-for-Substance-Use-Treatment>
- DMHAS SUD Tx Bed Availability <https://www.ctaddictionservices.com/>

Questions

