

PRENATAL AND POSTPARTUM SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

Child Dependency Courts

The prenatal and postpartum period presents a unique and important opportunity for dependency court systems to collaboratively address the complex and challenging health needs of people who are pregnant or post-partum and have a Substance Use Disorder (SUD).

Since 2012, there has been a steady increase in the number of infants reported to Child Welfare who are indicated as being substance-exposed/affected.

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/Infants-SubstanceExposure-Birth2022.pdf>



The first weeks and months of being a new parent can be overwhelming.

This may increase the risk for relapse and overdose events, making support for people in treatment for SUD critical in the postpartum period.



Substance Using Pregnant People (SUPP) Programs

SUPP Programs provide substance-using pregnant people immediate access to medical care in a hospital setting with the goal of reducing harm and improving birth outcomes.

[WAC 182-533-0701](tel:182-533-0701)



[FIND SUPP PROGRAMS IN WA](#)

Resources



WA Department of Health Lactation Guidance and Patient Education

Evidence-based guidance and resources for providers and patient education materials created by WA Department of Health.



Perinatal Harm Reduction Toolkit

Evidence-based guidance the impacts of exposure to different substances prenatally and through breastfeeding.



Eat, Sleep Console

Eat, Sleep and Console assesses function, rather than medical symptoms, to determine treatment, and prioritizes care like swaddling, cuddling and a dark, quiet environment for the baby.



For questions please contact [Family & Youth Justice Programs](#)