

# Substance Abuse and Child Development.

Presenter:

**Rizwan.Z.Shah; MDFAAP.**

Medical Director, Regional Child Protection Center.

DesMoines; Iowa.

# Impact of Parental Substance Abuse on Children.

Parental substance use affects children in three ways, often multiple factors coexist in such families.

1. **Immediate drug effects:** i.e direct teratogenic effects or withdrawal symptoms or drug toxicity symptoms.
2. **Latent drug effects:** or developmental consequences of neurotoxic effects of drugs.
3. **Postnatal environmental effects:** Such as inadequate parenting skills and support , violence , poverty and parental mental illness.

# Drug use among pregnant women.

- IDEAL Study ( 2004 )

Alcohol use=22.8 %

Tobacco use=25.4 %

Marijuana use=6.0 %

Methamphetamine use=5.2 %

Any illicit drug use= 10.7 %

- NPHS Survey ( 1992-1993)

Alcohol Use = 18.8 %

Tobacco use= 20.4 %

Marijuana Use= 2.9 5

Methamphetamine use =0.1 %

# Prenatal exposure-impact on children(Alcohol )

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder from prenatal exposure to Alcohol.

- FASSNet showed FAS prevalence rates from 0.2 to 1.5 per 1000 births ( CDC 2005 )
- ARND and ARBD occur three times as often as FAS ( CDC 2005 )
- Financial cost per person for FAS =1.6 million

# Prenatal exposure-impact on children(COCAINE ).

- COCAINE exposure ;
  1. Cocaine exposed infants are smaller in size ( weigh one pound less and are one inch shorter.Bauer.2005)
  2. Exposed infants have more jitteriness , tremors and irritability.
  3. At one month of age, exposed infants have lower arousal, poor self control, increased tone and poorer reflexes.

# Prenatal exposure-impact on children( COCAINE )

1. Motor development at 18 months shows initial poor development with later recovery. (Loncar et al, 2005 )
2. Poorer feeding interaction and insecure attachment noted at 18 months.
3. Severity of symptoms is proportionate to severity of exposure.

# Prenatal exposure-impact on children.

- **NARCOTIC exposure:**
  1. Opiate exposure impacts physical growth.
  2. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome ( NAS ) in 55-90% of exposed infants.
  3. Onset of symptoms within 48-72 hours after birth.
  4. Symptoms can last up to 12 months.
  5. Medication necessary for symptomatic relief.

# Prenatal exposure-impact on children.

## METHAMPHETAMINE EXPOSURE:

1. Newborns are 3.5 times more likely to be small for gestational age.
2. One out of five newborns will be born prematurely.
3. Less arousal , poor quality of movement and cry, poor suck and swallow function noted in first four months of life.
4. Sensory integration dysfunction and disorganised play at one year of life.

# Development-DEC 11

Incidence of Abnormal Developmental Screen: 31%

Incidence in Age Group 13-24 months = 18 %

Incidence in Age Group 49-60 months = 53 %

Motor Dev. Concerns = 27 % and Language Delays = 33 % in this age group.

# Behavior.DEC 11

## Behavior symptom list.

- Depression and Anxiety.
- Irritability and Fussiness.
- Aggressive Behavior.
- Hyperactivity with/without Attention Deficit.
- Self Mutilating/Self Stimulating Behavior.
- Attachment Issues.
- Parentified Child.
- Sleep Problems , School Problems and Eating Disorder.

# Behavior.DEC11.

- Incidence of Behavioral concerns = 34 %
- Behavioral concerns in Ages 36-60 months = 46%
- Behavioral concerns in Ages 13-17 yr = 45%

# Placement Of DEC 11 Children.

Sample size = 421.

- Relative placement = 50 %
- Foster placement = 30 %
- Using Parent = 5 %
- Non-using Parent = 4%
- Guardian = 5%
- Shelter = 4%
- Missing info = 2 %

# CLOSING REMARKS

- Children from substance using families are affected both by physiological effects as well as psychological and social effects of living in a high risk environment.
- A collaborative response from child protection , Juvenile court, Drug treatment programs , Mental health , Medical providers , education, early intervention and family support services is needed to accomplish successful outcome for children and families.