



AMERICA'S OPIOID CRISIS: THE UNSEEN IMPACT ON ALASKA CHILDREN

AS ALASKA FAMILIES STRUGGLE WITH ADDICTION, CHILDREN ARE CAUGHT IN THE FRAY.

A GROWING CRISIS



28% MORE
opioid-related deaths
nationwide since 2015.



88.2% of people
in Alaska suffering from
drug dependence or
abuse go untreated.



**8.7 MILLION
CHILDREN**
nationwide have a parent
who suffers from a
substance use disorder.

A NEED FOR FAMILY-CENTERED POLICIES

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER IMPROVES
OUTCOMES AND LOWERS COSTS



**MORE
THAN HALF**

of children placed in foster care
go home to their families. Keeping
families together from the start
helps prevent further trauma and
improves outcomes.

**MEDICAID PAID 81%
OF THE \$1.5 BILLION**

that hospitals billed for treating
babies suffering from opioid
withdrawal in 2012.

Sources for this document are available at
www.aap.org/OpioidFactsheets.

A DEVASTATING TOLL ON CHILDREN

FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS ON
THE RISE

1,336 ALASKA
CHILDREN
were placed in foster care in 2016.



19%
WERE INFANTS.

In **48%** of these placements,
parental substance use was a factor.

MORE BABIES BORN EXPOSED
TO OPIOIDS



Every **25 minutes** in
America, a baby is
born suffering from
opioid withdrawal,
which can mean:

- 1 LOWER BIRTHWEIGHTS
- 2 RESPIRATORY CONDITIONS
- 3 FEEDING DIFFICULTIES
- 4 SEIZURES
- 5 LONGER HOSPITAL STAYS

A LIFELONG IMPACT

Children dealing with traumatic
experiences can face social, emotional,
physical, and mental health challenges
that last into adulthood.

Left unaddressed, early childhood
adversity can lead to **school failure**, risky
behaviors like **alcohol and drug use**, and
increased chance of health conditions
like **obesity and heart disease**.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

RETHINK OUR APPROACH: SUPPORT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN HEALING TOGETHER



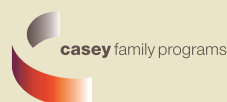
Create policies that prioritize prevention and allow children to
remain safely with their families during treatment.



Give providers tools to recognize, treat, and support children and
their parents affected by trauma to lessen the lifelong impact and
promote healthy families.



Ensure families have real and timely access to services through
Medicaid and other prevention and treatment programs.



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