

Drug policies and Rural Children



Dhrubodhi Mukherjee, Ph.D., LCSW-S

Scope

8.1 million children (17 and younger) live in households one parents with SUD

623,000 parents with OUD live with children

Opioid related mortality is highest among 24- 44, parents of young children

2019 – 35% rise in opioid related overdose death (70630)

In 2019, self-reported data shown that 7% of women reported using prescription opioids during pregnancy

Opioid use disorder has gone up more than 4X among pregnant women

Approximately every 19 minutes one baby is born with neonatal abstinence syndrome or almost 80 newborns diagnosed every day

Population

- Substance-Exposed Infants
- Drug Endangered Children
- Pregnant Women in opioid addiction
- Parents with opioid addiction
- ACE

Rural Community Opioid Response Program

Southern Illinois

RCORP Planning Grant

RCORP Implementation Grant

Healthy Tomorrows

Rural Health Network Grant

Consortium

- Federally Qualified Health Center
- Community Mental Health Providers
- Community Substance Use Providers
- Child Protective Services
- Maternal and Child Health Providers
- Pediatric Primary Care
- Law Enforcement

Policies

- Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act 2016
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act 1974
- American Rescue Plan 2022

American Rescue Act 2022

- Expanding access
- Advancing racial equity
- Enhancing evidence-based harm reduction efforts
- Supporting evidence-based prevention efforts
- Reducing supply of illicit substances
- Advancing recovery ready workplaces and expanding the addiction workforce
- Expanding access to recovery support services

Focus

- Downstream issues
 - Limited Supply
 - Increasing access
 - Overdose
 - Child removals
- Focus
 - Persons in addiction and recovery
- Out of focus
 - Ripple effect families and children
- Making policies to fund “put out the fire” interventions

Parents with polysubstance addition

- Systems aimed at single men
- Parental roles
- Family support
- Health system shortcoming and misalignments
- Additional stigma
- Leaving out early childhood and education settings
- Trauma-informed approaches
- Stigma Harm Reduction Interventions
- Non-homogeneity of parents who use drugs
- Time frame child reunification
- Ease of use and Medicaid dependence

Social Determinants of rural parental addiction

- Lack of family preservation and family support
- Workforce shortage long waiting list
- Economic recovery
- Decline and poor infrastructure
- Lack of knowledge
- In some communities receiving medication addiction treatment automatically voids parental custody rights

The enigma of systems of care

- System coordination
- Consortium
- System linkage
- HIPAA fears
- Too much focus on Deep End Systems
- Too less focus on Mainstream Systems

The Fentanyl Question

- Additional Risk
- Time to hit rock bottom philosophy
- Law enforcement and Drug Policy differ in philosophy
- Fentanyl testing kits
- Fentanyl awareness
-

Family Proofing Parental Drug Policy

- Environmental impact assessment
- Social and Equality Impact Assessment
- Family Impact Assessment
- Family Proofing
 - Need focus change
 - Family issues are explicit and constructs are quantifiable

Thank you

- Questions?