

The Opioid Crisis

Addiction can suffocate a community—especially its youngest members. But schools that employ trauma-informed practices are giving childhood victims of the opioid epidemic a fighting chance. This thoughtfully researched and written article from *Teaching Tolerance* magazine pays specific attention to how the opioid epidemic affects children, how it manifests in the classroom, and what educators can do right now to make a difference. https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/summer-2018/the-opioid-crisis?utm_source=Teaching+Tolerance&utm_campaign=c040927be6-A+Letter+From+Our+Director&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a8cea027c3-c040927be6-83000183

Young Children who are Exposed Prenatally to Substances and Their Families

This collection focuses on the two broad types of prenatal substances that are most prevalent: prenatal exposure to alcohol, including the diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, and prenatally affected by illegal substance abuse or having withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure including the diagnoses of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and opioid exposure. The online resources include federal laws, research, policies and guidance, and state examples. <https://ectacenter.org/topics/earlyid/prenatalsubstances.asp>

Infants with Prenatal Substance Exposure

This website offers online access to resources, research, state examples, and archived webinars. <https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/resources/substance-exposed-infants.aspx>

Developmental Consequences of Fetal Exposure to Drugs: What We Know and What We Still Must Learn

This research article summarizes findings from current studies on outcomes of exposed individuals across various areas of functioning (neurobiology, physical growth, intelligence, executive functioning, behavior, and psychopathology) reviews treatment models in development, and highlights potential avenues for future research. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4262892/>

Sensory Integration: Shaping Perceptions of the World

One theme that has emerged in clinical care and research with children exposed to alcohol and drugs during pregnancy is related to deficits in sensory integration. For most children, sensory integration develops in the course of ordinary childhood activities. However, prenatal alcohol or drug exposure or lack of stimulation in the early years of development can damage the parts of the brain responsible for sensory integration. This blog highlights the signs that children are experiencing difficulty with sensory integration that may merit attention from an occupational therapist or other professionals.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/aristotles-child/201405/sensory-integration-shaping-perceptions-the-world>

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW)

NCSACW is a national resource center providing information, expert consultation, training and technical assistance to child welfare, dependency court and substance abuse treatment professionals to improve the safety, permanency, well-being and recovery outcomes for children, parents and families. The site offers resources, videos, webinars, and other information related to children who have been prenatally exposed and their families.

<https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/>

Natural Resources is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features high quality, readily available, and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through Grade 3, their families, and the professionals and systems who serve and support them. Natural Resources is compiled and distributed by Camille Catlett. To subscribe or unsubscribe, suggest resources, or get more information, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu