

Policies that Punish Pregnant Women for Substance Use *linked to* More Newborns Experiencing Drug Withdrawal

➤ *The opioid crisis increasingly affects pregnant women & infants:*

pregnant women w/ **opioid use disorder diagnosis** at delivery: **4x increase** from 1999-2014 # newborns experiencing **drug withdrawal after birth**: **7x increase** from 2000-2014

➤ *Some state policies punish pregnant women for substance use by:*



criminalizing
substance use
in pregnancy



considering it
grounds for civil
commitment



considering it
child abuse
or neglect

Examining 4.6 million births in 8 states between 2003 and 2014, our research found that:

➤ **More infants are born experiencing drug withdrawal** in states with policies that punish pregnant women for substance use:

