

OPIOIDS and NAS

When reporting on mothers, babies,
and substance use

LANGUAGE MATTERS



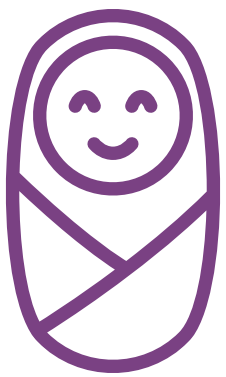
I am not an addict.

I was exposed to substances in utero. I am not addicted. Addiction is a set of behaviors associated with having a Substance Use Disorder (SUD).



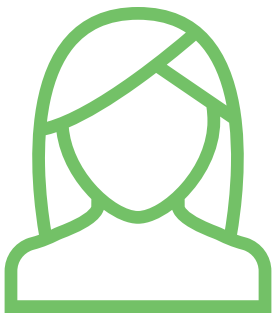
I was exposed to opioids.

While I was in the womb my mother and I shared a blood supply. I was exposed to the medications and substances she used. I may have become physiologically dependent on some of those substances.



NAS is a temporary and treatable condition.

There are evidence-based pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.



My mother may have a SUD.

She might be receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). My NAS may be a side effect of her appropriate medical care. It is not evidence of abuse or mistreatment.

My potential is limitless.

I am so much more than my NAS diagnosis. My drug exposure will not determine my long-term outcomes. But how you treat me will. When you invest in my family's health and wellbeing by supporting Medicaid and Early Childhood Education you can expect that I will do as well as any of my peers!



Learn more about
Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
at www.nationalperinatal.org

 National
Perinatal
Association