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## **Prenatal opioid dependence: What are the outcomes?**

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Substance abuse is a growing concern among our nation today. Today, it is categorized as a disorder itself, and affects the individual's lifespan, families and friends. When recovery programs are not exercised, it is a distressing disorder to witness one struggling with. This article will focus on maternal substance abuse in pregnancy and its effects on the newborn resulting in neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). A review of literature will be examined to particularly determine neonatal outcomes with illicit maternal opioid abuse and opioid maintenance therapy in pregnancy. The significance of this issue as well as the implications for practice affecting the advanced practiced nurse will be discussed. Lastly, a significant gap in research will be recognized and essential future research will be identified.

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