

FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES EXPOSED TO SUBSTANCE USE

NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

A syndrome that occurs when babies are exposed to drugs in utero before birth and experience drug withdrawal after birth.

SIGNS OF SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE IN INFANTS

- High-pitched cry or fussiness
- Shaking or jitteriness
- Difficulty feeding or eating
- Stiff arms and legs
- Fast breathing and heart rate
- Fevers

Wisconsin Connect

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

“The lead agency, as part of the child find system, must ensure that all infants and toddlers with disabilities who are eligible for early intervention services under this part are identified, located, and evaluated, including Infants and toddlers identified as directly affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure.”

[34 CFR 303.303\(b\)](#)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- 1 Connect with local health systems and clinics to increase awareness about the Birth to 3 Program and to encourage timely referrals
- 2 Distribute child find materials and [“Tips for Birth to 3 Program Referrals”](#) to local hospitals and health clinics
- 3 Encourage staff to track referral sources related to substance exposure in online database for more accurate reporting and data collection
- 4 Be sensitive and use thoughtful language when communicating with families affected by substance exposure and adjust language appropriately (refer to Real Talk Wisconsin in the “Resources” section)

RESOURCES

- [Well Badger Resource Center](#): Matching individuals to helpful services and supports. It connects anyone living in Wisconsin to a certified resource specialist for free, or provides an online, searchable directory.
- [Resilient Wisconsin](#): Free support resources, helplines, and hotlines available to anyone in need.
- [Real Talk Wisconsin](#): Offers simple and proven techniques and tips to have effective conversations about substance use.
- [First Breath](#): Free program to help individuals make positive changes to their substance use during pregnancy

