

We Can Help

If you are abusing drugs while you are pregnant help is available. Ross County Children's Services will work with you to set-up services and ensure you have a healthy baby. Call our agency to volunteer for services. We can assist you in obtaining treatment, counseling, prenatal care, and other referrals and services.

Additional Help

Crisis Center
(740) 773-4951

National Drug Help Hotline
(800) 662-4357

National Alcohol & Drug Dependence
Hotline
(800) 622-2255

Ross County Children's Services
(740) 702-4453

Websites:

www.americanpregnancy.org

www.marchofdimes.com

www.OTISpregnancy.org

www.rwh.org.au/wads

www.drugfree.org



Ross County
Job & Family Services
Children's Services

150 East Second Street
Chillicothe, OH 45601
(740) 702-4453

Drug Use During Pregnancy

What if my baby is Born Positive?



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How Does Drug Use During Pregnancy Affect My Child?

Using drugs while you are pregnant is dangerous for you and **your child**. The drugs can travel through the placenta to enter into your child's bloodstream. The effects of the drugs on your baby will vary depending on the kind of drug being used.

Marijuana use during pregnancy will increase your heart rate and blood pressure which will in turn reduce the amount of blood flow to your baby. Smoking marijuana during pregnancy can increase the chance of: miscarriage, low birth weight, premature birth, developmental delays, or behavioral and learning problems.

When **Cocaine** is used during pregnancy it crosses through the placenta and enters into your baby's circulation. Cocaine leaves the baby's body slower than it leaves your body (the body of an adult). Cocaine use early in pregnancy may increase the risk of miscarriage. The risk of birth defects is greater when you have used cocaine frequently during your pregnancy. There is also risk of lifelong disabilities, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, vision, or hearing problems. Your baby, if exposed to cocaine during pregnancy, may have a smaller head, and have his/her growth hindered. Your baby may be born cocaine dependent and suffer from withdrawal symptoms such as: tremors, sleeplessness, muscle spasms, and feeding difficulties. There may also be defects of the genitals, kidneys,

and brain as your child gets older. If you use cocaine during your pregnancy it can also cause your baby to have a stroke, resulting in irreversible brain damage.

Heroin is a very addictive drug that crosses through the placenta to your baby. Because it is so addictive, your baby can become dependent on the drug during pregnancy. Heroin use during pregnancy can increase the chance of: premature birth, low birth rate, breathing difficulties, low blood sugar, bleeding within the brain, and infant death. If your baby is born addicted, your baby can suffer from withdrawal symptoms such as irritability, convulsions, diarrhea, fever, sleep abnormalities, and joint stiffness.

Meth use during pregnancy causes your heart rate and your baby's to increase. The use of meth can result in problems similar to those of cocaine.

Prescription Pills and Pregnancy

Prescription drug abuse is currently the fastest growing rate of addiction among teens and young adults. It is also reported that females are more likely to abuse and become addicted to prescription drugs than males.

Be **SURE** to tell your physician if you are pregnant or suspect that you may be pregnant. The use of any medication while pregnant can affect your unborn child. The effects will vary depending on the medication being abused. The use of medication **NOT** prescribed to you will also greatly affect your unborn child. If your child is born positive for a medication that is

NOT prescribed to you, it is the same as if your child was born positive for an illegal drug. Any newborn that has a **Positive** screening at birth or **exhibits physical indicators of withdrawal** for an illegal drug is considered to be physically abused by the state of Ohio. (ORC 2151.031)

What Drug Use Can Do To Your New Baby

Your baby could be born addicted to drugs and may have to take morphine for pain therapy, or Fentanyl or another medication to control seizures. Your baby may cry a lot (uncontrollably) or may not be able to sleep. Drug usage can also cause your baby to have tremors or muscle spasms. It could also be difficult to feed your child or get them to eat. Your baby could possibly have a learning disorders or birth defects, and grow up not knowing how to socialize with other children.

The worst part is, your baby may **not** get to come home from the hospital with you!

