
Mothers and Substance Use Services

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Background

Prenatal substance use exposure permanently impacts the child's development.

Postnatal environmental factors can dull or alleviate its impact.

Personal experience



Purpose



Understand services being offered.

How were these services helpful or not helpful? What would have been helpful in the first year of their child's life?



Timeline

October 2018-April: IRB Approval

Present-June: Interviews

Present-July: Transcribing/coding

July-October: Writing

Sample

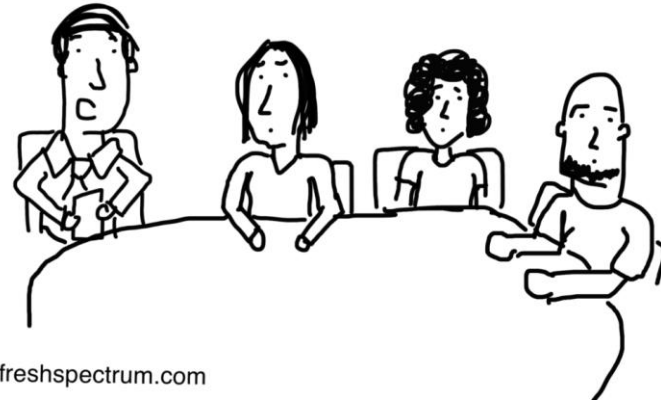
Mothers who used during pregnancy and that child is currently under age 3.

Residential Substance Use Treatment Program in Hartford, CT

8 Participants

Goal is 15-20

I invited you all to join our focus group because you were the easiest to track down and therefore should provide us with the best feedback.





Method

Qualitative Data (Interviews)

Screening

Consent form

Interview Questions (fake names)

Demographic Survey

Gift Cards :)

Important Questions: Background

Did your provider know about your pregnancy?

7 out of 8 responded Yes.

Were you referred to substance use treatment?

Yes, but not one participant was referred by their provider. They were either self referred or referred by DCF.



Important Questions: Services

What was the most important aspect of the services you sought out?

Parenting

Peer Support

Medicated Assisted Treatment

Wholesome Approach

Were you referred to birth to three?

1 in 8.





Stigma

“It’s not talked about enough...People try to keep it to themselves.”

“People case you aside. Even more so with pregnancy and addiction.”

“You are a terrible person.”

“I wish I knew not to go off Suboxone during pregnancy. I wouldn’t have relapsed if I didn’t.”

Possible Conclusions

An increase in services for mothers specifically is needed, not just for the mothers but for the family unit and children.

Information about the implications of use needs to be more widespread.

On a societal level, the judgment these mothers receive plays a huge part in delaying treatment and denial.



My Main Question

Why aren't more providers referring the mothers to treatment?

Why aren't more mothers referred to developmental services like birth to three?

Why aren't providers more involved with preventative services?





References

Behrke, M. & Smith, V.C. (2013). Prenatal substance abuse: Short and long-term effects on the exposed fetus. *Pediatrics*, 131(3).