

Geographical Disparities Relating to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, Methadone Maintenance Treatment Facilities in Florida

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There is currently a widespread epidemic of opioid dependence in the US. Approximately 4% of pregnant women use illicit drugs including opioids. Many identified pregnant women using opioids are encouraged to begin methadone maintenance programs (MMTs) which are thought to improve outcomes of the mother. These outcomes include: improved participation in prenatal care, less illicit drug use, less risk taking behaviors. Opioid use in pregnancy, does however, lead to neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). NAS is a known and treatable side effect of opioid maintenance.

The purpose of this research study is to evaluate the epidemiology of NAS in the state of FL, identifying high risk areas throughout the state. This will be combined with identification and location of substance treatment facilities throughout the state. We will investigate possible geographical disparities throughout the state with regards to access of care to MMTs, NAS diagnoses, and hotspot areas that may benefit from educational and interventional efforts.

The MSRP student will do a retrospective analysis of data available from the state and databases that are available to Dr. Brown, after IRB approval. I would expect this data to be published as a poster and submitted as a manuscript along with external data from Kentucky by Dr. Brown.