

Perinatal Substance Use Data Linkage Project

Colorado Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force | November 4, 2022

Data-informed Recommendations for Cross-System Policy and Practice Investments

www.ColoradoLab.org

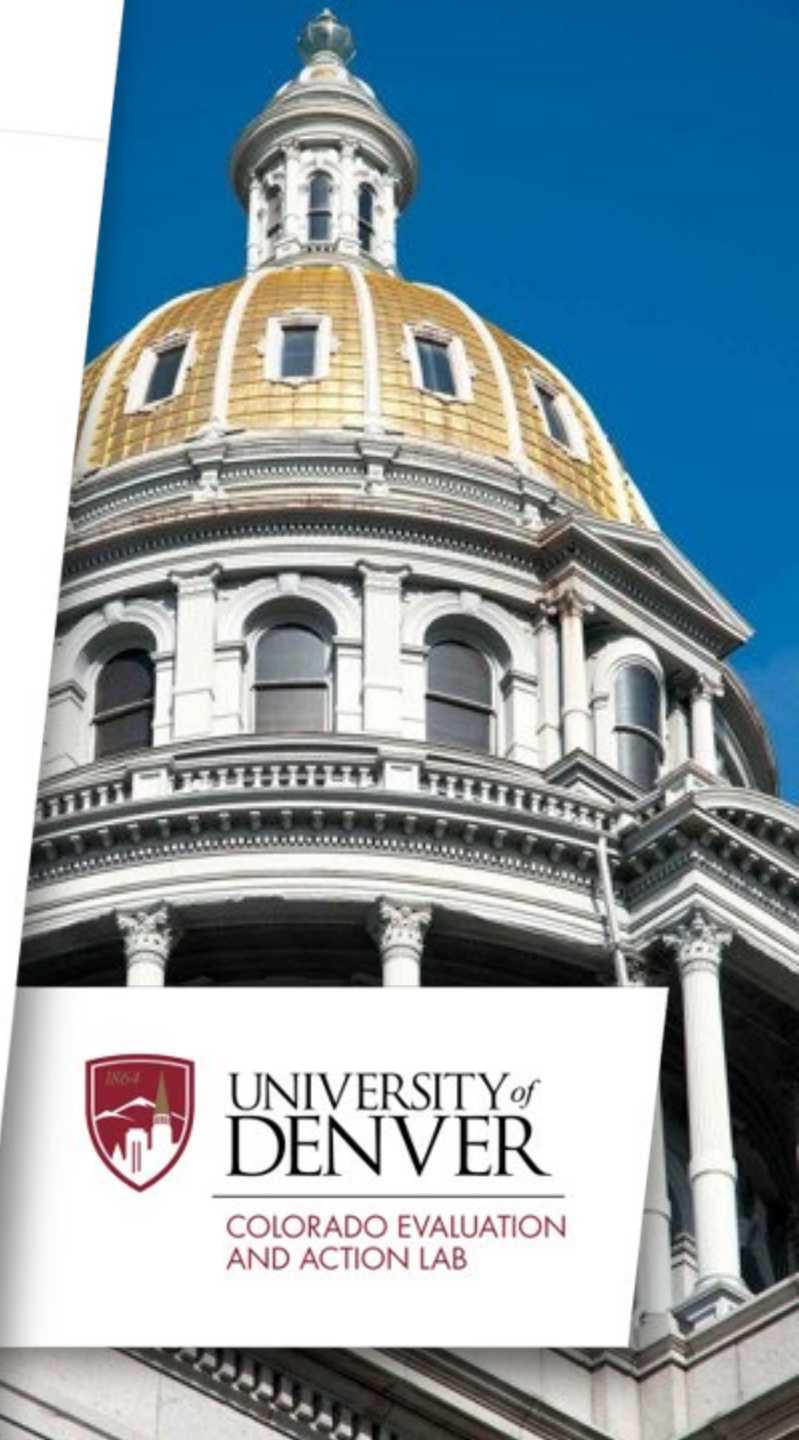
Dr. Elysia Clemens, PhD, LPC

Dr. Courtney L. Everson, PhD



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

COLORADO EVALUATION
AND ACTION LAB



Project Origins: Responding to the Need for Better Data to Inform Public Health and Human Service Strategies

Senate Bill 19-228 (SUD Prevention Measures)

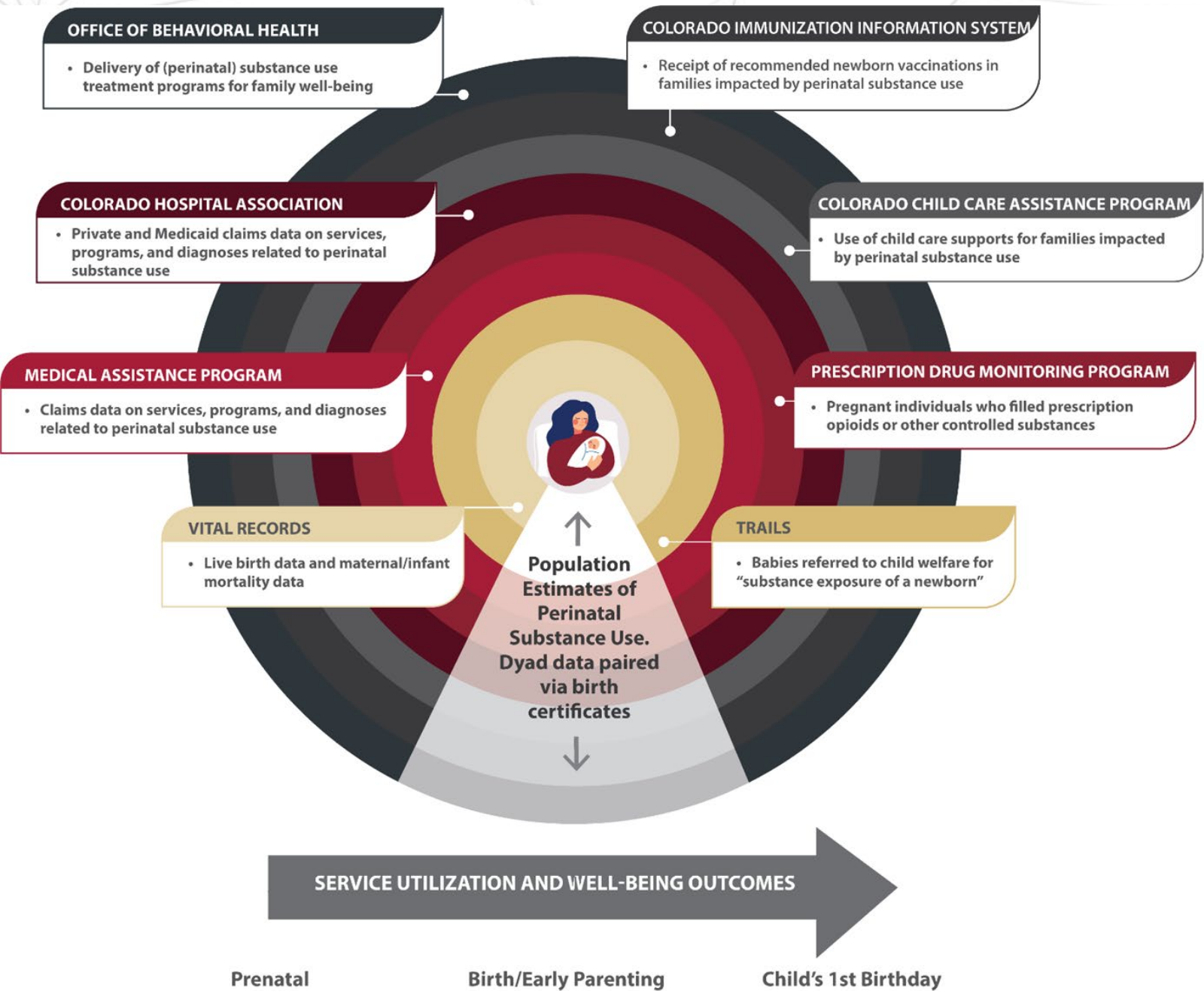
Senate Bill 20-028 (SUD Recovery)

Senate Bill 21-137 (Behavioral Health Recovery Act)

Goals:

1. Connect data from multiple state-administered data sources to comprehensively understand perinatal SUD and affects on family health & well-being
1. Generate population estimates of prenatal substance use that can be used to guide investments and track progress.





UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

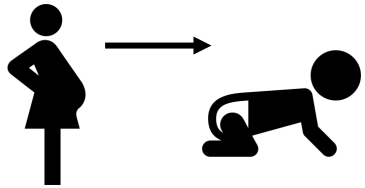
COLORADO EVALUATION
AND ACTION LAB

What Makes This Project Unique?

First of Its Kind in Colorado



Centers the health and well-being of ***pregnant persons and infants as a unit.***



Examines outcomes and service navigation **prenatal through the first year of life**

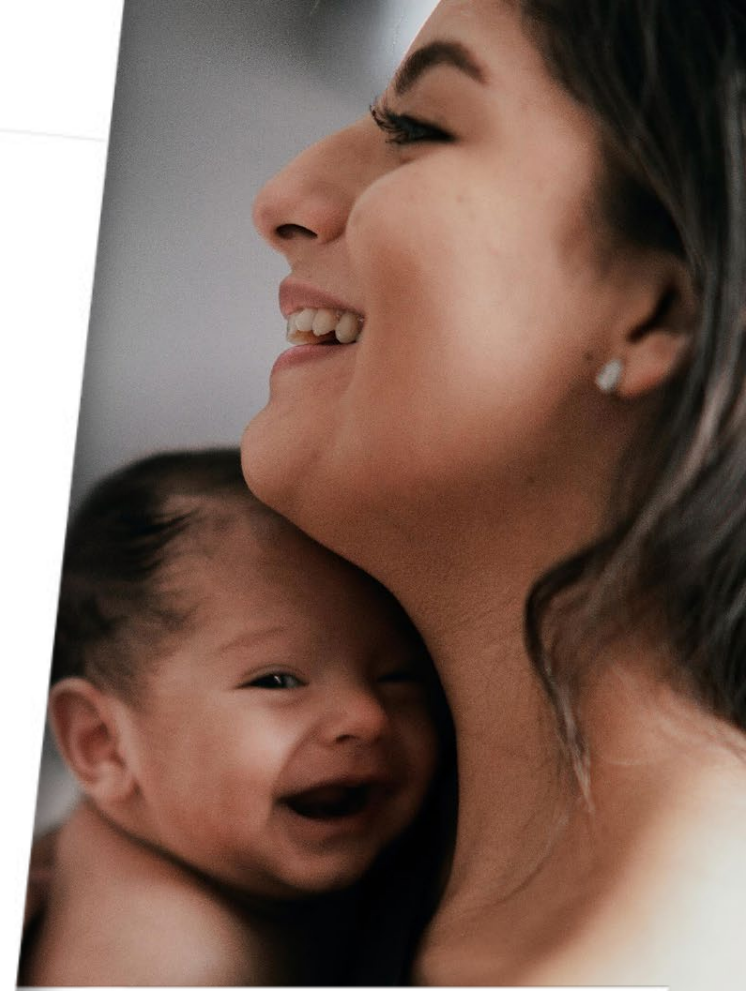


Breaks down data silos to understand real life experiences that **cross systems.**



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

COLORADO EVALUATION
AND ACTION LAB



Part One Focus: Risk & Protective Factors for Dyads Involved in Child Welfare

Why? Separating an infant from their family can disrupt early bonding, negatively affect healthy child development, heighten mental and behavioral health disorders, and decrease opportunities for family thriving overtime.

What? 5-Year data trends (2013 to 2018)
4,178 unique dyads



Risk Factors Associated with Infant Removal

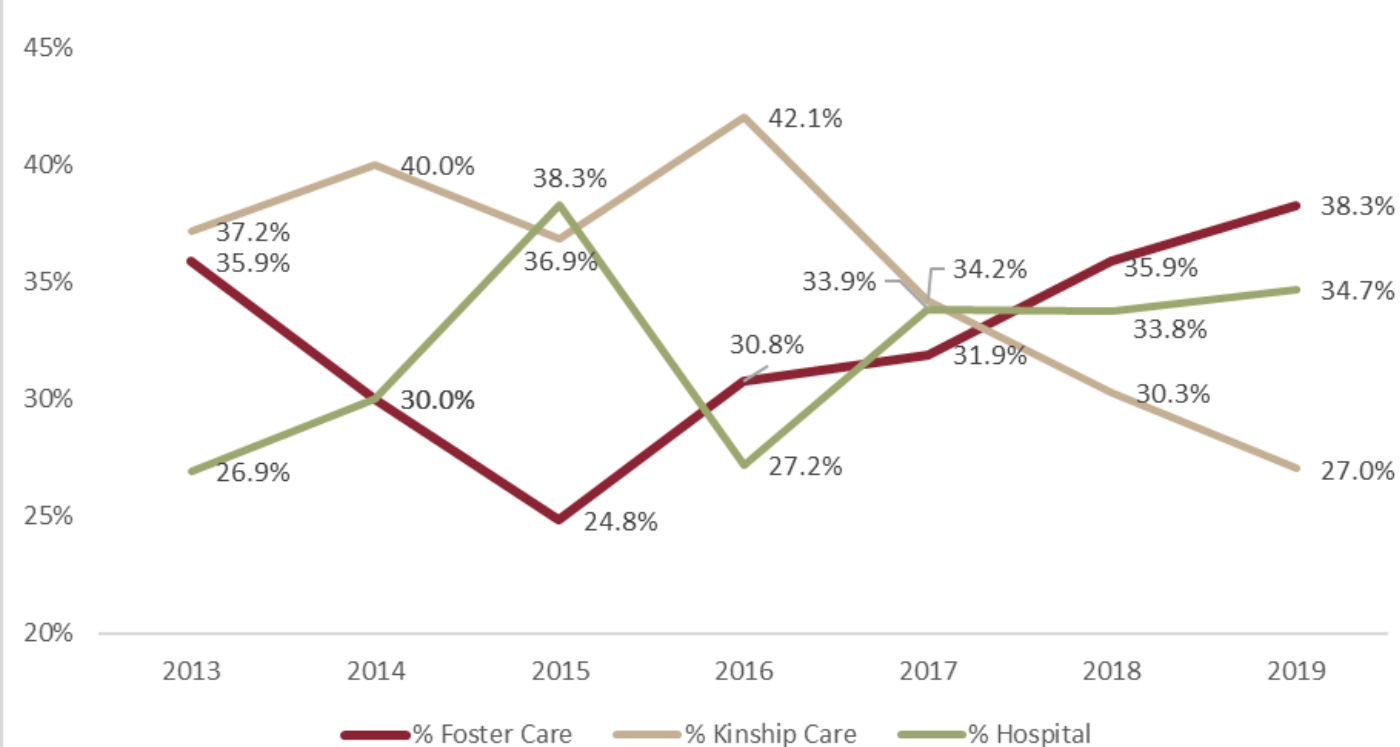
The odds of the infant being removed was related to key social, economic, and health vulnerabilities. An increased likelihood of removal was associated with:

- Increasing age of the pregnant person
- Lower income households
- Lower educational attainment
- Maternal-infant dyads who received no prenatal care or inadequate prenatal care
- Late preterm infants born between 35 and 36 weeks of pregnancy
- Newborns experiencing respiratory complications at birth

Decreased Use of Kinship Placement

- 13.5% increase in placement of newborns into non-relative foster care
- 11.3% decrease in placement of newborns into kinship care

Rate of Placement in Non-Relative Foster Care
has Increased Since 2015



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER
COLORADO EVALUATION
AND ACTION LAB

Protective Factors Associated with Infant Removal

Multiple social, economic, and health characteristics and conditions were associated with decreased odds of the infant being removed from the home:

- Pregnant persons who identified as American Indian and Native American
- Pregnant persons who were married
- Maternal-infant dyads who received WIC during pregnancy
- Deliveries paid for by private insurance

Additionally, there was no evidence of disproportionality in infant removal for Black mothers when considering other factors included in the model. Analysis specific to other race/ethnicity groups was limited because of sample size issues.

Implications for Policy and Practice

- ✓ Increase consistent participation in **prenatal care**
- ✓ Invest in **concrete supports** for families (e.g., public assistance)
- ✓ Improve **WIC participation**
- ✓ Increase **well-being services** for families
 - Develop targeted supports for families with medically fragile children
 - Promote use of kinship placement when infant removal is unavoidable and does occur
 - **Use Plans of Safe Care as a strategic lever**
 - Introduce wraparound services (home visiting, co-located care, Maternal Opioid Misuse model, etc.)
- ✓ Incentivize **cross-system care coordination** for providers



We Welcome Your Partnership!

What can the Colorado Lab do to advance data-informed solutions for SATF priorities?

Project Page: <https://coloradolab.org/prenatal-substance-exposure/>

Elysia Clemens, PhD, LPC
Elysia@ColoradoLab.org

Courtney Everson, PhD
Courtney@ColoradoLab.org

www.ColoradoLab.org



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

COLORADO EVALUATION
AND ACTION LAB