



Babies Born with Opioid Addiction in the North Shore of Staten Island



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Introduction

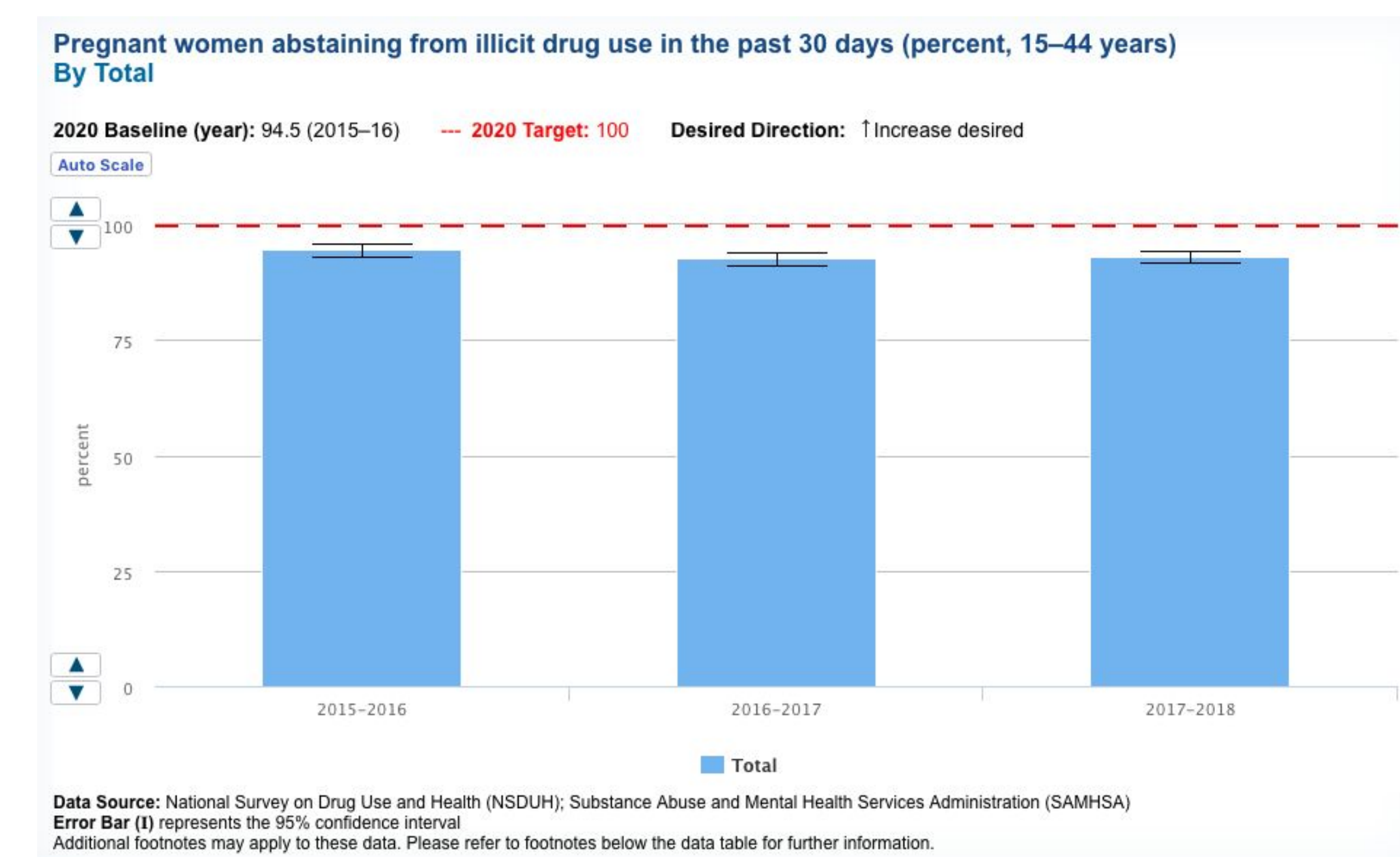
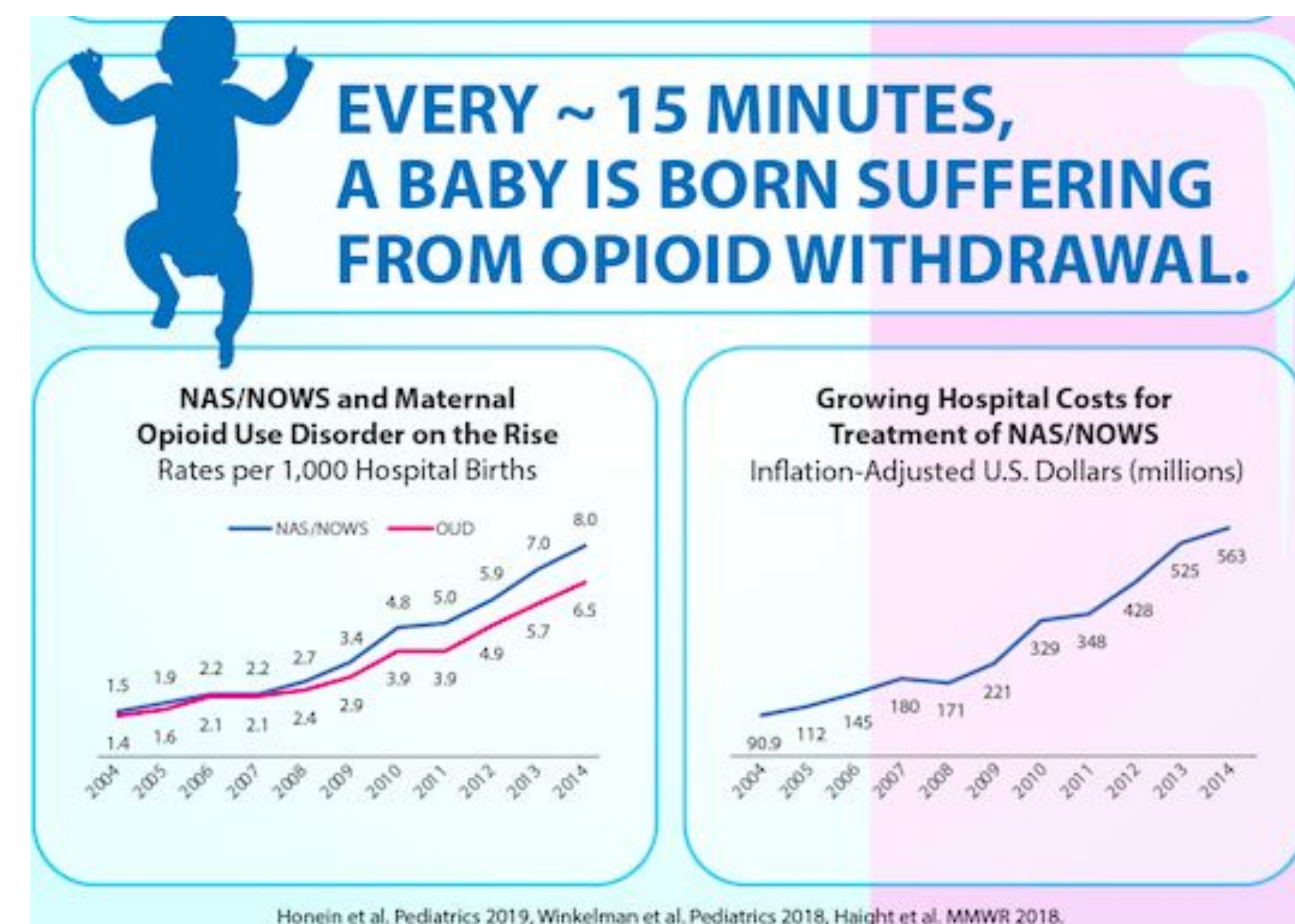
According to Healthy People 2020, approximately 5.2% of women abuse illicit drugs, such as cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and opioids, during pregnancy.¹ The use of illicit drugs during pregnancy can lead to multiple health and social complications for both the mother and the child. Children born to maternal substance abuse mothers often suffer from problems during delivery such as low birthweight, prematurity, and birth defects.^{2,3,4} These problems can later manifest to impair the child's cognitive, developmental, behavioral, and social development (NIH, 2015). Maternal substance abuse during pregnancy is a national problem, however, prevalence has been placed on certain areas in the United States, including Illinois (6.3%), Ohio (6.8%), and Michigan (6.6%).¹ Our proposed solution to this problem will be a program that encourages techniques that will be aimed at the establishment of a trusting bond between mother and infant.

Community Assessment and Analysis

- women ages 15-44 years of age and of different ethnic backgrounds. Statistical trends had revealed non-Hispanic black women, or African American women, have the highest incidence of illicit drug abuse during pregnancy (7.7%), followed by non-Hispanic white women (4.4%), and Hispanic women (3.1%). These expenses were often paid by state Medicaid programs, indicating these women often resided in lower economic communities.
- The CDC states approximately 558,662 non-Hispanic black women give birth annually.^{6,7} Among the female African American population 13.5% remain in fair or poor health.^{6,7} Additionally, approximately 11.3% of these women remain without health insurance.^{6,7}
- New York State currently has the lowest percentage of mothers using illicit substances during pregnancy, which is 4.2%¹
- Data from healthy people 2020 shows that about 94.4% of the pregnant females aged 15-44 years old are abstaining use illicit drugs from all reporting states. New York state has a 95.8%¹
- local news from Staten Island from 2016, there were 17 babies that had been born with NAS. Six out of every 1,000 newborns were born with NAS nationally.⁶
- Substance abuse among high school students is the highest . about 20.4% of high school students on Staten island use Marijuana.⁸
- "The current drug use among the youngest and possibly the From the available data, Illinois (6.3%), Ohio (6.8%) and Michigan (6.6%) have the highest number of mothers using illicit drugs during pregnancy . about 4.2% Moms using illicit substances during pregnancy.⁹

Problem in the Community

- studies have found various links amongst maternal substance abuse during pregnancy and its' adverse effects on children. Adverse effects of maternal substance abuse have been found in the growth and development of children and adolescents.
- With the increasing use of opioids during pregnancy, more newborns are experiencing utero exposure to either prescription and illicit opioids which causes lots of adverse effect to babies.
- After exposed, The fetus begins to form drug dependency and cause fetal malformation. The substance will quickly enter the nervous system and stored in brain tissue in the fetus.
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome(NAS) is one of the significant complications from opioid exposed infants. In the past ten years, the number has risen fivefold in the United States. NAS is a postnatal withdrawal syndrome that presents severe symptoms in the newborn shortly after birth as a result of being exposed to legal or illegal prescriptions
- Opioid withdrawal symptoms can affect the child through their life span for babies born with NAS
- Infants born with addiction has become a global issue around the world. Use of substance during pregnancy has a strong relationship to the health of the child. It increases the risk of developmental delays, physical illness, growth limitation and social interactions
- parental substance abuse is associated with children's mental disorders and their chance of attempt to use the substance.⁷
- Researchers been analyzing empirical trends between racial discrimination, poverty, and substance abuse in African American women and found a correlation between stressful events and negative health outcomes, including substance abuse.
- Essentially researchers theorized that stressors, such as racism, sexism, and economic oppression may influence women to begin abusing illicit drugs to escape feelings of marginalization and alienation.
- Additionally, as cited in Steven-Watkins et al., factors, such as low self- esteem and social interactions, may also contribute to illicit drug abuse.



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Proposed Solution

HOW WILL OUR SOLUTION WORK?

- Our proposed solution will be a 6-month program called "Hugs Not Drugs"
- Many studies show that programs that involve parenting care and therapeutic care of the child, are less likely to result in relapse than programs that focus only on prenatal drug use.¹⁰
- According to theorist Erik Erikson, the first stage of life is to establish basic trust vs. mistrust, and this developmental theory supports the progression of therapy because there are few frustrations that cannot be endured once an individual establishes basic trust in the beginning of life.¹¹
- "Hugs Not Drugs" will aid in the establishment of that trusting relationship between mother and child and educate mothers enough so they will want to participate for the good of their child.
- Kangaroo care is something that will be a vital part of our program because it is the main method that allows that emotional bond to grow. Studies show that kangaroo care immediately following birth, rather than bringing the child straight to the NICU, is likely to reduce the adverse effects of substance abuse.¹²
- Our proposed solution is focused on establishing trust through holding and comforting. We believe that by providing the infant with this type of care will enable them to thrive well despite their conditions at birth.

OBJECTIVES

- Mothers of infants born addicted will verbalize the importance of establishing a trusting relationship with their newborn.
- Mothers will display proper technique of kangaroo care with their newborns.
- Mothers will express an understanding of the newborn's condition and a desire to be clean in order to provide the proper care for their child.

GOALS

- The main goals of our program will be to ensure frequent contact between mother and newborn from birth through skin to skin contact and kangaroo care, while keeping mothers clean and teaching them how to efficiently provide this care.
- "Hugs Not Drugs" will ultimately ensure that affected infants and mothers will form a trusting bond within the first 6 months of life.
- This program will be directed at treating the addicted newborns while ensuring that the mother is seeing how this has affected her newborn and is constantly involved in the treatment.
- The goals of our program, once achieved, will come together to provide the therapy that we believe is necessary to turn the effects of maternal drug use on infants around.