Dramatic Increases in Maternal Opioid Use and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

The use of opioids during pregnancy can result in a drug withdrawal syndrome in newborns called Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), which causes lengthy and costly hospital stays. According to a new study, an estimated 21,732 babies were born with this syndrome in the United States in 2012, a 5-fold increase since 2000.

Every 25 minutes, a baby is born suffering from opioid withdrawal.

### Average Length or Cost of Hospital Stay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With NAS</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>$66,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W/O NAS</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### NAS and Maternal Opioid Use on the Rise

![Graph showing the rise in NAS and maternal opioid use.]

- Newborns suffering from opioid withdrawal
- Maternal opioid use*

*2012 maternal opioid use data not currently available


National Institute on Drug Abuse