Today’s piece was prepared by Mike McNeil, MD, based on a CNN story [Report finds skyrocketing rate of babies going through opiate withdrawal](http://www.cnn.com/2016/12/12/health/heroin-opiates-babies-new-research/index.html)

This article summarizes a recent *JAMA Pediatrics* article regarding urban vs. rural rates of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) from 2004 to 2013, emphasizing an almost 5-fold increase in NAS over that decade span and a growing disparity between higher urban vs. rural rates associated with higher rural maternal opioid use. Challenges address infant opioid withdrawal and call for better resource support to parents with addiction.

The statistics in the story are difficult to understand as the journalist describes proportion, incidence, and frequency of NAS and maternal opioid abuse with no clarification of these terms or details regarding statistical measurements. He also spoke about the acute complications and signs of NAS but only briefly spoke about the long-term impact of opioid and other drug abuse on children and their families.

**RESOURCES ON DRUG ABUSE:**

[Alcohol/Drug 24 Hour Help Line](http://www.adhl.org/) WA State Div of (Substance) Abuse confidential assistance & guidance
[Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery](https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bhsia) Contracts w/11 Regional Support Networks for Medicaid-eligible persons

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!