

COCAINE

How It Affects Your Baby



It's never a good idea to use any drugs during your pregnancy unless they are prescribed and monitored by your health care provider. Any drug that you take passes through the umbilical cord and into your baby's body.

Using cocaine during your pregnancy is especially dangerous and can lead to serious, long-term health complications for your baby.

If you use cocaine during your pregnancy, your baby may experience any of the following:

- Low birth weight
- Smaller brain with damage
- Premature birth
- Heart attacks and strokes in utero
- Birth defects
- Seizures
- Withdrawal
- Increased risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Developmental delays and learning problems
- Behavior problems
- Increased risk of diseases (HIV, Hepatitis, etc.)
- Sensory problems (difficulties with touch, sound, etc.)

Cocaine can be passed to your baby through breast milk. This can cause serious health problems and damage brain development in your baby.

Cocaine and crack may cause miscarriages, stillbirths, strokes before birth, and brain injuries. After birth, babies can have a difficult time breathing. They also may have withdrawal symptoms including a high pitched cry and tremors.

School-age children that were exposed to cocaine have been shown to have ongoing behavior problems, learning delays, and problems with maintaining focus and attention.

The good news is:

It is never too late to stop using cocaine during your pregnancy! No matter how far along you are in your pregnancy, it is better for your baby if you quit. The baby's brain and body will grow better if you stop using cocaine.

Talk to your health care provider. Ask for help. Start living healthier for you and your baby today!



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KANSAS ALLIANCE
FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN
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Shawnee County

For questions or further information:
Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered
Children-Shawnee County
For further information contact:
Jennifer Gassmann at 785-221-0424
Email: jgassmann@kcsf.org