# COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES and TOOLS to influence POLICY

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# WHO ARE YOU?

- Name
- Organization/Affiliation
- One issue you'd like to better communicate to decisionmakers



## WHO AM 1?



### **OPIOID CRISIS INCRE** AFFECTING PREGNA

RATES OF NEONATAL ABSTINENCE S' OPIOID-RELATED DIAGNOSES (MOD) MOST STATES SINCE 2010, CONTINUI



Untreated opioid use disorder is associated with poor health outcomes for

PERCENT CHANGE IN NAS PER 1.000 BIRTH HOSPITALIZATIONS



PERCENT CHANGE IN MOD PER I-000 DELIVERY HOSPITALIZATIONS



\*Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) is a withdrawal syndro opioid-exposed infants after birth.



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and after Firefly, you treats you healthy ba is free.

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# ROADMAP



- Communication strategies
  - Audience
  - Context
  - Storytelling
- Communication tools
  - Data visualization
  - Video
  - Infographics
- Put it into practice



Rising hospital costs due to an increase in substance-exposed infants





Who is the right audience?

Who has the power to make change on your issue?



- What motivates your audience?
  - Research/statistics
  - Economics/finances
  - Constituent satisfaction
  - Human Rights
  - Etc



Rising hospital costs due to an increase in substance-exposed infants



# CONTEXT



 What is the political, social, and cultural context surrounding your issue?

# CONTEXT



- Contraceptive access in India
- Condom usage in the Dominican Republic

# STORY TELLING

 What stories from your own life or that of those you work with can help make your case?

# STORY TELLING



- Sex education in India
- Lactation consultation for Firefly
- Yours?

# TOOLS

- Data visualization
- Info—videos
- Infographics
- Slide Decks

# DATA VIZ



Data visualization is the graphical representation of information and data. By using visual elements like charts, graphs, and maps, data visualization tools provide an accessible way to see and understand trends, outliers, and patterns in data.

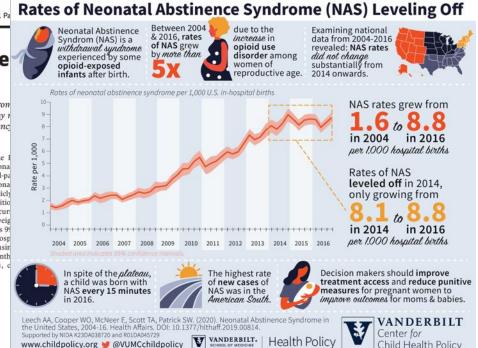
### By Ashley A. Leech, William O. Cooper, Elizabeth McNeer, Theresa A. Scott, and Stephen W. Pa DATAWATCH **Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome** The United States, 2004-16

After increasing for nearly two decades, rates of neonatal abstinence syndron recently leveled off, reaching a plateau as early as 2014. These findings may r successful efforts to prevent and treat opioid use before and during pregnanc

neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), a drug withdrawal syndrome characterized by irritability, increased muscle tone, tremors, poor feed- Sample provides the largest publicly ing, and respiratory difficulties. The increasing discharge data in the US on condition prevalence of opioid use disorder among reproductive-age women during 2004-16 resulted in a inpatient hospital stays.5 The unweig five-and-a-half-fold increase in NAS rates (exhibit 1).1,2 Recent provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest that rates of opioid-related overdose deaths have plateaued.3 However, there are no recent data on Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM).

### ewborns exposed to opioids in Study Data And Methods

utero are at risk for developing Data for 2004-16 came from the I Sample, a nationwide sample of all-pa tal admissions in the US.4 The Nationa dures, and diagnostic tests that occur ple size for the period 2004-16 was 99 hospital visits and 10.3 million in-hosp We identified NAS diagnoses usin



# INTERACTIVE DATA VIZ

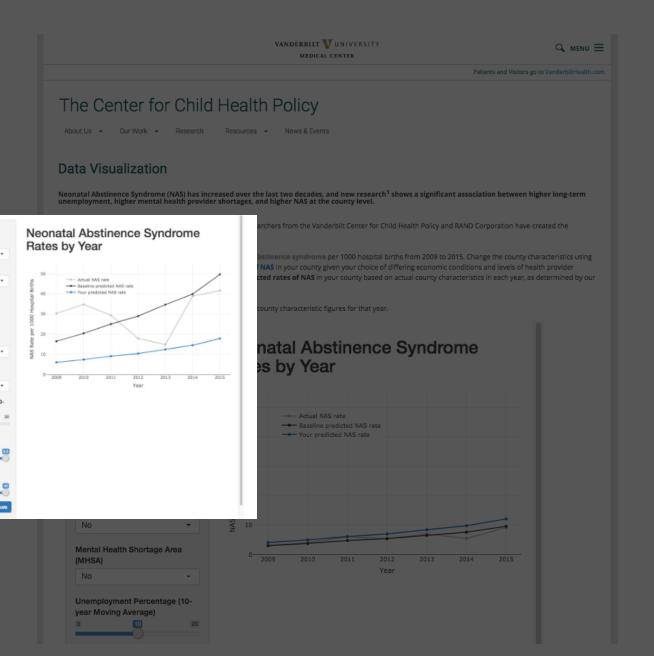
County

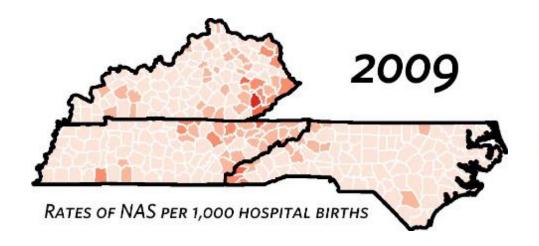
County Characteristics

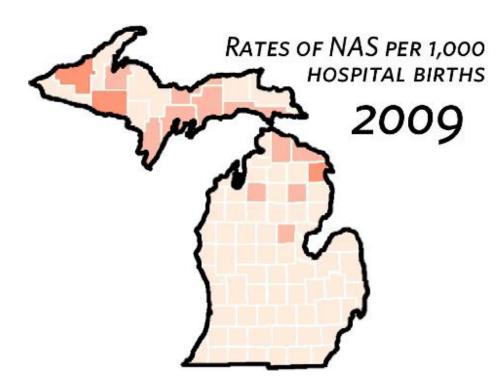
Mental Health Shortage Area

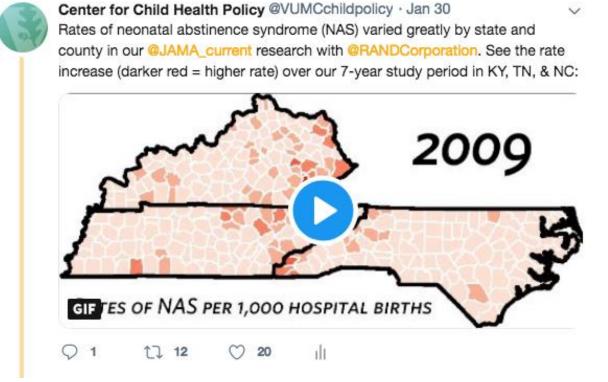
year Moving Average)

Obstetricians per 1000









giphy.com

### CHARACTERISTICS ASSOCIATED WITH VERTICAL INTEGRATION OF SURGICAL PRACTICES

Accept Medicaid (at time of integration)



81% vs 60.8%\*

<sup>2</sup> Accept Medicaid (after integration)



OR 2.72\*

Higher proportion of female surgeons



12.1% vs 10.0%\*

General or multispecial surgery provider



OR 1.81, OR 2.12\*

 $^{\star}\mathsf{Comparing}$  surgical practices that vertically integrated to those that did not

Haddad, DN, Resnick, MJ, Nikpay, SS. J Am Coll Surg, August 2019



Journal of the American College of Surgeons

### VIDEO



- Make your own using reels,
   TikTok, or free online tools
- Invest in training and software to create your own
- Allocate grant funds for film production



### VIDEO



- Firefly commissioned a short video from a local film agency (Cumberland Creative)
- Cost: \$10,225

# INFOGRAPHICS

"Infographics are visual representations of information, data or knowledge intended to present information quickly and clearly. They can improve cognition by utilizing graphics to enhance the human visual system's ability to see patterns and trends."

65% of people are visual learners.

Visuals with color increase people's willingness to read a piece of content by 80%.

Infographics are liked and shared 3x more than any other type of content.

### **OUTPATIENT PHARM**

### FIGHT STIGMA LANGUAG **MATTERS**

**FOR MOMS & BABIES** 

Pregnant people with substance use disorder face stigma that often prevents them from seeking medical care and engaging in services. Using the right language matters.



Amond

by Med

2009-

36°



Maalouf, F.I., Coope Outpatient Pharma Pediatrics, 7(1), Fun



**DON'T USE** 

USE

**Born addicted** 

Infant with withdrawa

### Why?

Addiction occurs when people cannot stop using substances despite negative consequences. Infants cannot be addict but can have drug withdrawal after beir exposed to opioids.

### **OPIOID CRISIS INCREASING** AFFECTING PREGNANT WO

RATES OF NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME\* OPIOID-RELATED DIAGNOSES (MOD) HAVE INCRE MOST STATES SINCE 2010, CONTINUING A TREND



Untreated opioid use disorder is associated with poor health outcomes for moms and babies.





### PERCENT CHANGE IN MOD PER I,000 DELIVERY HOSPITALIZATIONS



\*Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) is a withdrawal sy opioid-exposed infants after birth



Hirai AH, Ko JY, Owens PL, Stoc Syndrome and Maternal Opioid 2010-2017. *JAMA*. Published on

### IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR SUBSTANCE **EXPOSED INFANTS & THEIR FAMILIES**

Federal policy should utilize a public health approach



More than 50,000 infants enter foster care each year in the U.S., most due to parental substance use.



The foundational legislation meant to protect infants & children, called the Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA), wasn't set up to meet the needs of families affected by substance use.



Counties with a

shortage of mental health providers

ong-Term Unemployment

enced by some opioid-exposed infants after birth.

Rates of NAS

per 1000 hospital births

from 2009-2015

increased from

were associated with

Adjusted IRR, 1.17

1drome\*



infants and families receive needed support.

States should eliminate criminal-justice approaches to substance use in pregnancy.

A new bill to strengthen CAPTA was introduced this spring, but

additional changes could improve our ability to support families:

identified, and current eligibility requirements are

vague. Clearer guidance should be provided to states and

data collection systems should be updated to ensure that

Important new changes to CAPTA support a

Additional, sustained appropriations

funding will be required to realize the goals of CAPTA's reauthorization bill.

broad public health response to prenatal substance exposure, but states need

technical assistance and monitoring

support to implement the changes.

Families in need of services must be easily

The federal government should provide clearer guidance on the negative health impacts of these punitive policies, and on the importance of family assessments that are culturallyresponsive and oriented to a family's strengths.



**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** 10-year moving average

RATE OF NAS

onomic S affect AS,

**POLICYMAKERS** should recognize a healthy can contribute to a HEALTHY **POPULATION** 













# FIRST AND FOREMOST



Is your data conducive to an infographic?



### COVID-19 IMPACTING WELLBEING OF U.S. **FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, POLL SHOWS**

es since the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread in March. Resu

### MENTAL & PHYSICAL **HEALTH WORSENED**

for both parents & children, as reported by parents surveyed



Mental health worsened for more than:

1 IN 4 PARENTS 1 IN 7 CHILDREN



WORSENING PHYSICAL HEALTH

PARENTS REPORTED FEWER CHILDREN BEING COVERED BY EMPLOYER-SPONSORED INSURANCE COVERAGE

### >1 IN 3 FAMILIES

reported cancellations or delays in their children's health care

MOST COMMONLY DELAYED VISIT TYPES:

Visits With 13% Subspecialists

Behavioral 9% Health Visits



### FOOD INSECURITY ROSE FROM 33% TO 36%

MODERATE TO SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY\* ROSE FROM 6% TO 8%

\*defined as sometimes or often not being able to afford enough to eat

### 18% OF CHILDREN

received free or reducedprice lunch at school prior to the pandemic

received free food from school since the pandemic began

were enrolled in Pandemic-EBT

### 24% OF PARENTS REPORTED A LOSS OF REGULAR CHILDCARE



39% OF PARENTS with children ages 0-5 lost regular childcare



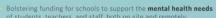
23% OF PARENTS lost regular childcare



with children ages 6-12 with children ages 13-17 lost regular childcare



### POLICYMAKERS SHOULD CONSIDER the unique needs of families with children as they respond to COVID-19 by:



Extending waivers for flexibility in the delivery of existing USDA

school nutrition programs to simplify access for families.

Strengthening the Pandemic-EBT program by expanding eligibility, funding administrative costs and removing enrollment barriers.

Providing economic relief to child care providers to operate safely and at reduced enrollment.



@VUMCchildpolicy . www.childpolicy.org/poll Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago



# REVISIT YOUR AUDIENCE

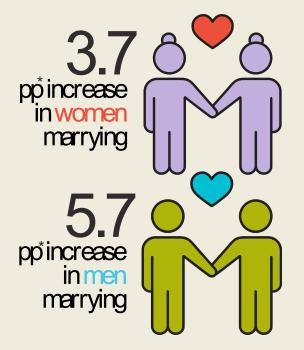


- Researchers
- Clinicians
- Policymakers
- Parents
- General Public
- Community groups
- Adolescents



# Legal Access to Same-Sex Marriage:

1. Increased marriage take-up among individuals in same-sex households



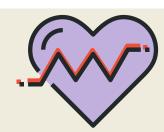
2. Increased health insurance & health care utilization among men in samesex households



pp\*increase in having health insurance



pp\*increase in having a usual source of care



pp\*increase in having a check up

3. Did not affect access to health care for women





More research on LCBT people and policies is critically needed



LGBT Policy Lab

Effects of Access to Legal Same-Sex Marriage on Marriage and Health: Evidence from BRFSS, Christopher Carpenter, Samuel T. Eppink, Glibert Gonzales Jr., and Tara McKay, NBERWorking Paper No. 24651, July 2018.

Support for this research was provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foundation.

<sup>\*</sup>percentage point (pp) = the difference between two percentages, for example moving from 20% to 25% is a 5 pp increase



- What pieces of data/information are most conducive to visualization?
- What can be left out?
- What context can you provide?
- Can you make it actionable?



# Testing Inadequate for Hepatitis-C Exposed Infants



Lopata SM, McNeer E, Dudley JA, Wester C, Cooper WO, Carluccia JG, Espinosa C, Dupont W, Patrick SW. Hepatitis C Testing Among Perinatally Exposed Infants. *Pediatrics*.

Supported by NIDA K23DA038720 & R01DA045729

Background

**Hepatitis C Virus** (HCV) is the most common blood-borne infection in the U.S.



HCV attacks the liver, and can lead to long-term, chronic infection, and even death



**HCV** infection rates have risen rapidly among pregnant women, nearly doubling since 2009



Mothers can transmit the infection to their infants, yet exposed infants are commonly not tested

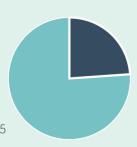


**Research** Our study of maternal-infant dyads on Medicaid in Tennessee from 2005-2014 revealed that:

HCV-exposure varied widely by county.

Number of exposed infants per 1,000 live births:





of HCV-exposed infants were tested for HCV in the first 24 months of life.



of the HCV-exposed infants tested met our definition for adequate testing.



Only **1 in 10** HCV-exposed African American infants were *tested* compared to 1 in 4 overall infants.



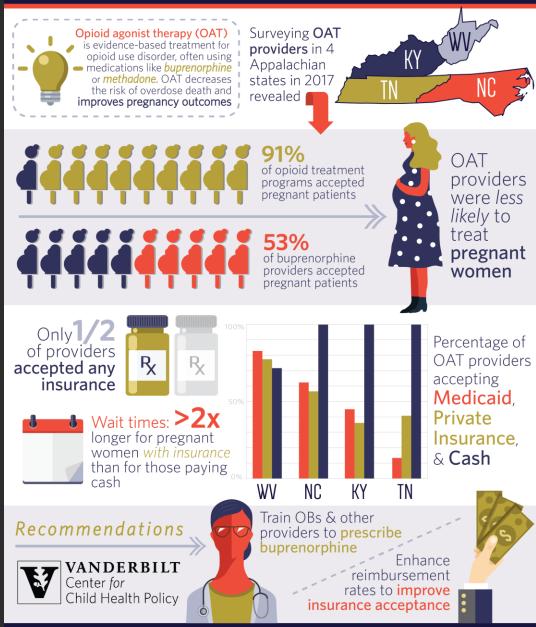
HCV-exposed infants in rural counties were less *likely* to be tested. (aOR 0.73)

Recommendations:

1. *Universal* HCV screening for **pregnant women** 

2. Increased provider education on national guidelines for HCV testing, esp for at-risk groups

### Pregnancy, Insurance: Barriers to Accessing Opioid Treatment



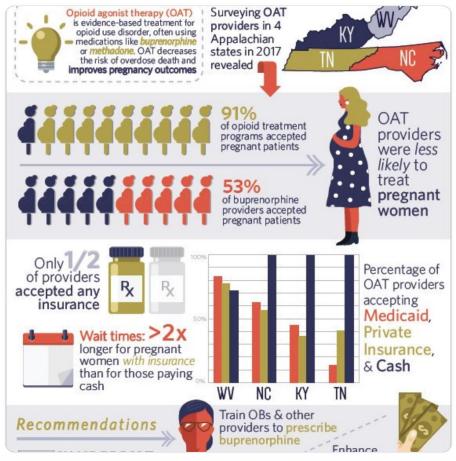


4:46 PM - 9 Oct 2018





Reminder: Expanding Medicaid is a crucial tool in the fight against the opioid epidemic. Other states are using Medicaid for more access to opioid treatment, and they see overdose deaths decline. #TNGovDebate



# MAKE YOUR OWN



### Adobe Create Suite -

https://helpx.adobe.com/illustrator/tutorials.html

Canva.com

Piktochart.com

Venngage.com

Freepik.com

PowerPoint

Surgeryredesign.com

# DIMENSIONS

- Handout (8.5in x 11in)
- Instagram (square)
- Website (Any of the above, or longform)

# Pre-Exposure Prophyl Prescribing for HIV is N

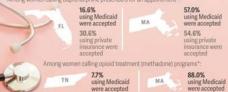


### **WOMEN FACE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING OPIOID** TREATMENT, ESPECIALLY WHEN PREGNANT

opioid use disorder (OUD), yet many women - especially pregnant women - face barriers when seeking addiction treatment. Reduce relapse Reduce overdose death Reduce risk of preterm birth

Appointment access was also associated with insurance acceptance, which varied widely by state.

Among women calling buprenorphine prescribers for an appointment\*:



Appointments were only offered if women could pay in cash at:

26.1% of buprenorphine prescribers 32.5% of opioid treatment (methadone) programs



\$250 buprenorphine prescribers \$34 opioid treatment programs



The "secret shopper" study used trained actors to attempt to make appointments for opioid use disorder treatment.

Phone numbers were obtained from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) publicly available treatment locator.



23% of telephone numbers were called at least 5 times with no answer



19% of medical offices reached did not provide addiction treatment

Even for callers who reached a clinician, appointments were granted on the first attempt in less than one-half of completed calls.

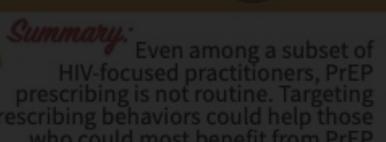
There remains an urgent need to systemically improve access to medications for opioid use disorder among all women, and in particular, pregnant women.

- Policy makers should increase outreach, training, & incentives to incre the number of clinicians willing to treat pregnant women with OUD.
- States should implement & enforce policies that prioritize pregnant
- (SAMHSA) should update or audit publicly available provider lists.



VANDERBILT | @WUMCchildpolicy





### Concerns of Georgia parents vary by rurality

- DRUG A BUT NO
- GUN VIC NOT FOI
- 23% OF BE REQU

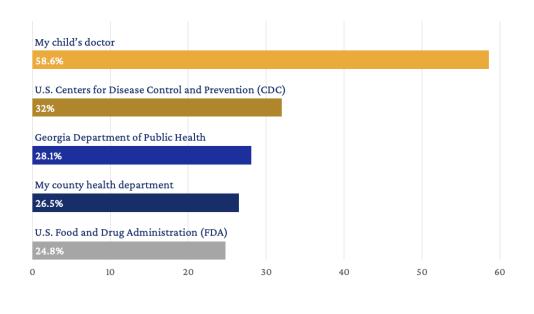
Medicai coverag also var by rural status

Compared to 10 years ago 60% of pare think school are now less s

### 3 out of 5

Georgia parents trusted their children's doctor a great deal to provide accurate safety information about vaccines

### Vaccine information sources with a **high** level of trust among Georgia parents, %



## TIPS & TRICKS

- Color Scheme
  - https://coolors.co/ Color Palette Generator
- Icons
  - Google Image Search -> Tools -> Usage Rights -> Creative Commons license
- Charts & Graphs
  - Easy to create in Excel or PowerPoint, save and place into design
- Custom Fonts
  - www.1001freefonts.com
- Utilize ChatGPT

# DATA VIZ & PRESENTATION RESOUCES



Storytelling with Data Cole Nussbaumer Knaflic

Visualize This: The Flowing Data Guide to Design, Visualization, and Statistics Nathan Yau

Resonate: Present Visual Stories that Transform Audiences Nancy Duarte

The Functional Art: An Introduction to Information Graphics & Visualization Alberto Cairo

Better Presentations: A Guide for Scholars, Researchers, and Wonks Jonathon Schwabish

Important new research from @VUMChe Jan. 20 in JAMA is the first to show the economic conditions, healthcare provid NAS. Learn more here bit.ly/2RWNOUD



MOST COMMONLY DELAYED VISIT TYPES

Based o countydata fro

Well Child

### MENTAL HEALTH

rural counties counties

IN OUR STUD had a shortag of ment health provide

### ECONOMIC FACTORS

and wa From 2009-2015 n associa the 10-year higher unemployment rate increased from

In rural remote counties. a higher proportion of manufacturing jobs WAS ASSOCIATED WITH higher rates of NAS

remote Adjusted IRR CO

Parents and children across the U.S. are struggling under the torrent of disruptive #COVID19 changes. The pandemic has worsened physical and #mentalhealth + destabilized food security and routines,

@VUMCchildpolicy @LurieChildrens report in @AAPJournals.

Visits With 13%

18% OF CHILDREN

price lunch at school

prior to the pandemic

received free or reduced-

Subspecialists

Behavioral 9%

FOOD INSECURITY ROSE FROM 33% TO 36%

MODERATE TO SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY\*

"defined as sometimes or often not being able to afford enough to eat

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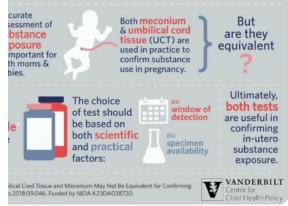
the pandemic began

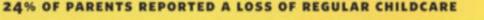
were enrolled

in Pandemic-EBT

is the gold standard ig in #newborns. Is cal cord tissue equally ting study funded by @VUMCchildpolicy terosubstanceexposure

### **IECONIUM MAY NOT BE EQUIVALENT** SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE





ROSE FROM 6% TO 8%

Health, well-being and food security of families deteriorating under COVID-19... The ongoing disruptive changes from efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 are having a substantial negative impact on the physical and mental well-bein... @ news.vumc.org















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rII



Following

We are proud of our support for this important work on neonatal abstinence syndrome and its association with unemployment and mental health

clinician sh

@stephenw RWF

@VUMCchi

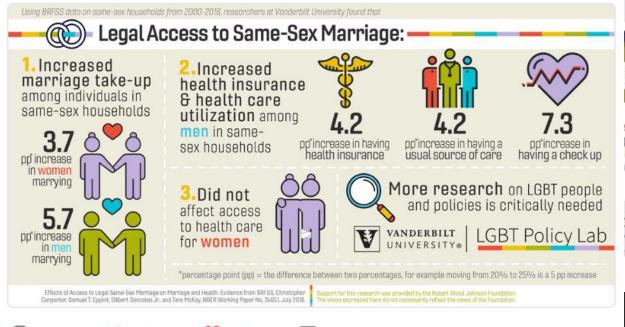
@DrLaura1:

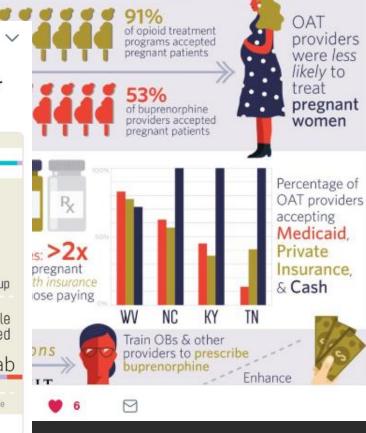


9:38 AM - 30 Jan 2019

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation @ @RWJF - Jul 14

Research offers the first evidence that protecting marriage equality is good health policy. More men in same-sex households gaining access to care under same-sex marriage laws. on.mktw.net/2ucZCEo





NIDAnews @ @NIDAnews · 57m

drugabuse.gov/news-events/la... #NIDAscience

oploid use disorder, often using

or methadone. OAT decreases

the risk of overdose death and

mproves pregnancy outcomes

medications like buprenorphine

is evidence-based treatment for

\*utional Institut \* Drug Aber Pregnant women in Appalachia face barriers to opioid treatment:

providers in 4

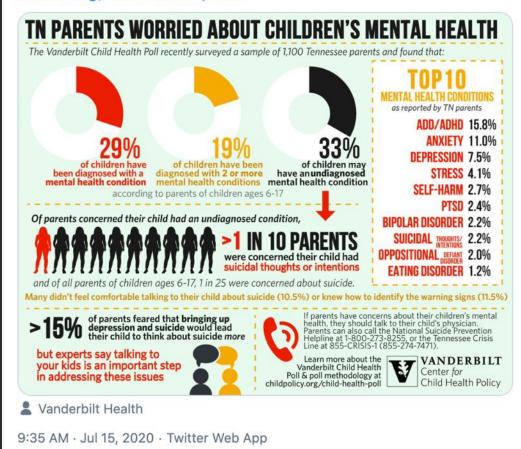
Appalachian

states in 2017

revealed

One third of Tennessee parents with children aged 6-17 are worried their child has an undiagnosed mental health condition, a new poll from the @VUMChealth Center for Child Health Policy found. Learn more:

vumc.org/childhealthpol...



Michael Warren @michaelwarrenmd

#Tweetiatricians, this is why we need #WellChildWednesdays. Thanks to @VUMCchildpolicy for highlighting impact of COVID-19 on families. >1/3 of families reported cancelling/delaying their child's health care as a result of the pandemic. 49% cancelled/delayed well-child visits.

Center for Child Health Policy @VUMCchildpolicy - Jul 24

New! Vanderbilt Child Health #COVID19 poll sheds light on challenges faced by parents & kids during the pandemic.

>1 in 4 parents reported worsening mental health, >1 in 7 worsening behavioral health for their children.

Full results in @AAPJournals:

pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/...

Show this thread

**39% OF PARENTS** with children ages 0-5 lost regular childcare

23% OF PARENTS with children ages 6-12 lost regular childcare

with children ages 13-17 lost regular childcare





POLICYMAKERS SHOULD CONSIDER the unique needs of families with children as they respond to COVID-19 by:

> Bolstering funding for schools to support the mental health needs of students, teachers, and staff, both on site and remotely

Extending waivers for flexibility in the delivery of existing USDA school nutrition programs to simplify access for families.

Strengthening the Pandemic-EBT program by expanding eligibility, funding administrative costs and removing enrollment barriers.

Providing economic relief to child care providers to operate safely and at reduced enrollment.



@VUMCchildpolicy . www.childpolicy.org/poll



- Know your audience and what motivates them to action
- Always take into account the historical, cultural, and political context in which you're communicating.
- Share personal stories of your own, or of others, to generate emotional connection to an issue
- Use visual and other creative tools, online and in print, like infographics, videos, and data viz to make your case clearly and concisely

kim.lovell@vumc.org

