The Opioid Epidemic and Child Well-being:
Two Generations at Risk

By Laura Tach, Elizabeth Day, and Maria Fitzpatrick, Cornell University

Background
1. The opioid epidemic is having devastating consequences for communities across New York.
2. Most of the focus on the epidemic has been on individual and pharmacological aspects of addiction (i.e. who is misusing, what treatment options are there for individuals, and how can we prevent misuses?)
3. A two-generation (2Gen) framework emphasizes the importance of considering the whole family when discussing prevention and treatment of opioid addiction.

Findings

1 in 12 New Yorkers is affected by opioids either directly or indirectly through their immediate family.

Number of New Yorkers (in 1,000s)

- Reporting opioid abuse in the past year: 718
- Family members affected:
  - Children: 143
  - Parents: 53
  - Grandparents: 78
  - Total: 274

Estimates derived from: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2015-2016; SAMHSA National Survey on Drug Use and Health statistics; 2015 NY state child maltreatment statistics and national statistics of share of cases involving drug-related maltreatment; National Survey on Drug Use and Health and American Community Survey

Implications for Policy

Health
- Family-friendly residential and outpatient programs; comprehensive prenatal care for opioid-dependent women

Education
- Evidence-based guidelines and professional development for educators in high-need areas; evidence-based 2Gen prevention programming in schools

Child Welfare
- Standardized and integrated clinical assessment of parental substance use in cases; coordination of treatment via research-based, whole family approaches

For more information about Cornell Project 2Gen visit www.2gen.bctr.cornell.edu or contact us at project2gen@cornell.edu.
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