Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Surveillance System

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State Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dmch/Pages/default.aspx
National Website: https://www.marchofdimes.org/complications/neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-(nas).aspx

Why is it used?
- Provides population level information about Kentucky's NAS cases reported to KDPH, Division of MCH.
- Provides data to create and evaluate prevention efforts and service initiatives for NAS cases.
- Used to identify target populations that are disproportionately affected by NAS.
- Used to generate annual reports, fact sheets, data briefs and presentations.

What data is collected?
- Demographic information for mother and infant.
- Clinical symptoms displayed by infant.
- Maternal history of substance abuse, maternal toxicology and infant toxicology.
    - All are substance specific.
- Maternal prescriptions.
- Treatment and medication.
- Factors at discharge including disposition, breastfeeding and involvement with DCBS.

How is data collected?
- Mandated reporting (KRS 211.676) from hospitals of all Kentucky resident children with signs and symptoms of NAS and a supporting history.
    - Hospitals may report at birth, transfer, or readmission.
- Clinical staff complete a REDCap reporting form.

Data Strengths:
- Provides a population-based dataset of NAS cases in Kentucky based on clinical reports.
- Data are collected on a standardized form.
- Collection of mother and baby identifiers facilitate data linkage to birth certificates and other data sources.
- Reporting is ongoing, with timeliness encouraged.

Data Limitations:
- Due to the sensitive nature of the data collected and to ensure the confidentiality and security of the information, data will only be reported in aggregate fashion.
- Passive surveillance system relies on accurate, timely and complete reporting by hospitals.

How is the system evaluated?
- Surveillance performance standards and data quality are monitored at least monthly.
- Technical assistance to reporting facilities is conducted on an as-needed basis.

Data Set Availability:
- Due to security and confidentiality restrictions, raw NAS datasets are not available for public use.
- Interested researchers may contact the program to go through the data request process.

Data Release Policy:
- Data may be disseminated in aggregate fashion at the discretion of the MCH division director upon completion of the approval process.
  - o IRB review and approval, in addition to MOU, are often required for these requests.
  - o Aggregate data can be filled at the public's request with restrictions at no cost.

Data Publications:
- Mandatory publication ([KRS 211.678](#)) of an annual report containing de-identified statistical data on the number of reports made under [KRS 211.676](#) related to a diagnosis of NAS is available on the website.
- Hospitals receive annual fact sheets on their reporting data, which are not distributed beyond those reporting contacts.

Suggested Citation:
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