



illuminate
Building Brighter Childhoods

Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee

July 19, 2023

Illuminate Colorado's mission is to strengthen families, organizations and communities to prevent child maltreatment

illuminatecolorado.org

We Work Upstream and Downstream to Strengthen Families



Primary Prevention

We work upstream to **strengthen all families** and stop child maltreatment **before it ever starts.**



Secondary Prevention

We bring focused energy and attention to **strengthen families with risk factors** associated with child maltreatment.



Tertiary Prevention

We collaborate to **strengthen families involved in the child protection system** to give children who have experienced maltreatment brighter futures.

Illuminating Protective Factors

Strengthening Families™ is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programs and communities in **building five key protective factors.**



Parental Resilience



Social Connections



Concrete Support in Times of
Need



Knowledge of Parenting &
Child Development



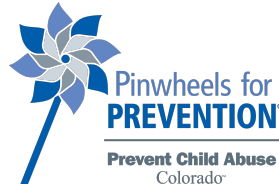
Social & Emotional
Competence of Children

Programs & Services

www.illuminatecolorado.org/programs-services

COLORADO PARTNERSHIP FOR
THRIVING FAMILIES

**COLORADO
CONNECTED**



SuPPoRT
Colorado

Supporting Perinatal substance use Prevention,
Recovery, and Treatment in Colorado



COLORADO
strengthening families[®]
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL POLICY
A PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK



Child Abuse & Neglect Expert Staffing (CANES)
Colorado Infant Safe Sleep Partnership
Colorado Toxicology Resource Guide
Youth Thrive & Youth Thrive for Youth
FASD Navigation
Policy Advocacy

Programs & Services

www.illuminatecolorado.org/programs-services



House Bill 2019-1193

- In 2017-2018, Illuminate facilitated a stakeholder process to explore the impacts of the opioid epidemic on children & families
- Through a 2017-2018 stakeholder process, Illuminate developed the “Impact on Children of Caregiver Substance Use” report was released in April 2018 outlining 14 practice recommendations and 6 policy recommendations
- Of these recommendations, increasing immediate and long term access to child care for parents seeking SUD treatment quickly gained momentum
- Advocated for legislation, House Bill 2019-1193, securing funding for the Child Care & SUD Treatment Pilot Program



Illuminating Child Care



Illuminating Child Care provides **free child care** to families while caregivers receive **treatment and support**. Parents can focus on themselves and their **recovery** because they know their children are **safe** and receiving **high quality** care.



Access to child care is critical for all parents and caregivers in order for children, families and communities to thrive.



Participation Satisfaction & Impact

Program Launch (September 2020) - December 2022:

- Serviced **15 behavioral health and family support service sites** in the Denver Metro Area (3), San Luis Valley (5), and Southeast Colorado (7)
- **66 caregivers** received child care for their children while participating in behavioral health and family support services.
- **78 children** received child care while their caregivers were participating in behavioral health and family support services.

My daughter is only eight months right now; sometimes she would have problems going to other people, but she didn't have any problems going to the teachers. She seemed happy.

"[My daughter] looked forward to coming and being involved with them. She was very excited and she's just two. She did not want to leave sometimes.

I just signed up with [redacted] for the child care. It was super easy to get him in. All I had to do was sign some forms.

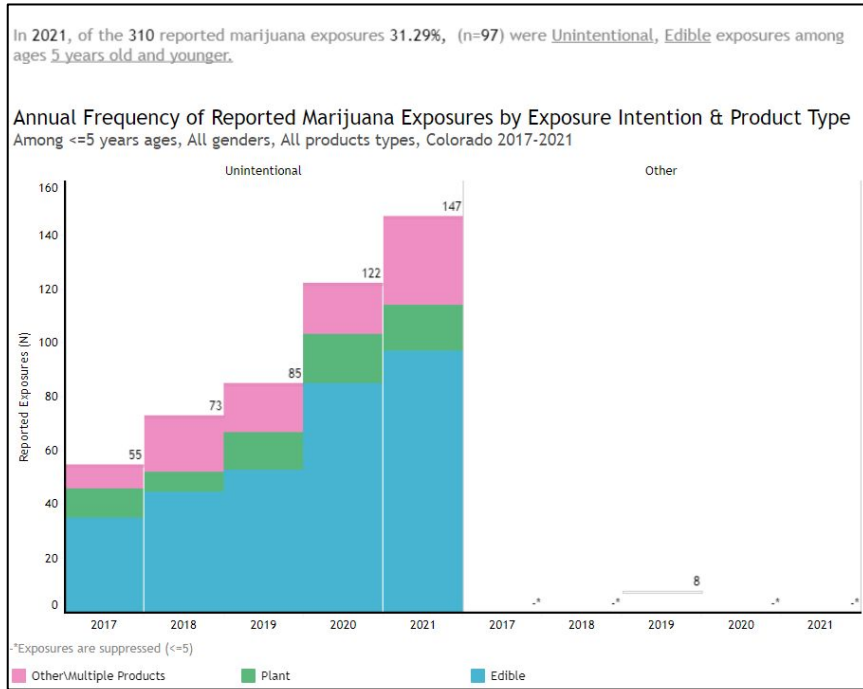
Whatever process you are using to hire the teachers must be awesome. They are very communicative and happy and just welcoming.

Recommendations

- Maintain current funding that supports child care for parents and guardians in behavioral health and substance use treatment
- As behavioral health reform proceeds, ensure that onsite child care services are funded to support caregiver participation in treatment and recovery services
- Explore addition of “enrollment in Treatment & Recovery Services” as an eligible activity for Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Unintentional Substance Exposures and Safe Storage

- The number accidental exposures to marijuana for children under age 6 continues to increase in Colorado.



Colorado has taken steps to address accidental exposures

Packaging requirements

Retail and medical marijuana businesses are required to sell all marijuana products in packaging that's resealable, child-resistant and not see-through.

1 CCR 212-3

Labeling requirements

All retail marijuana products use this symbol as a warning that the product contains marijuana.



1 CCR 212-3

Product Restrictions

Prohibits the selling of marijuana products shared to entice children, such as edibles in the shape of human, animals, or fruit.

HOUSE BILL 16-1436

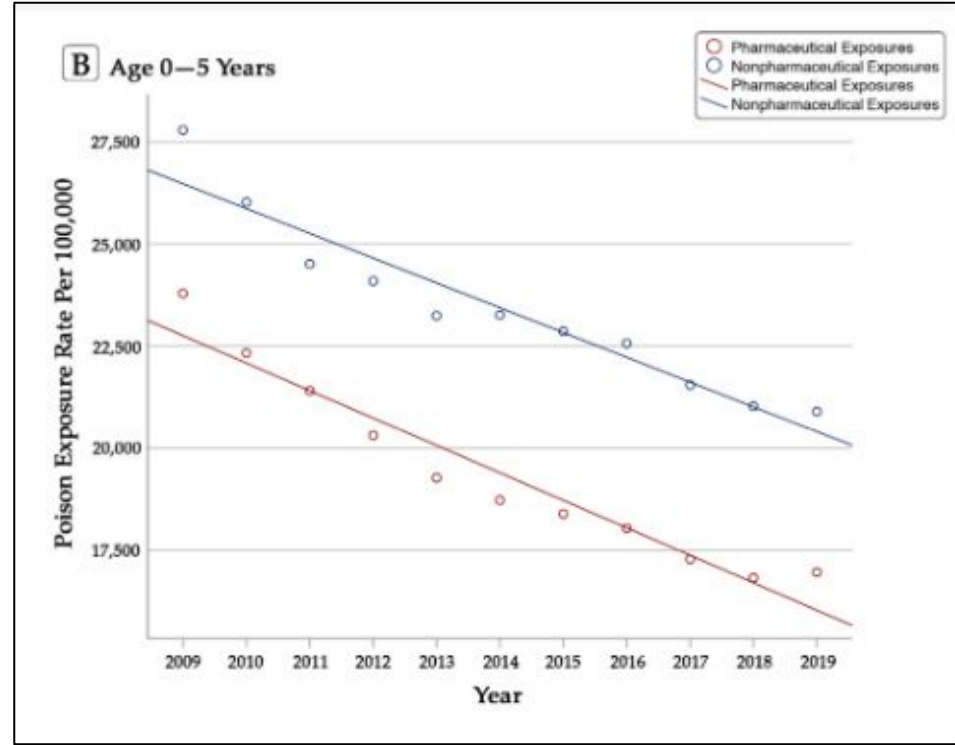
More is needed...

Learn From What's Worked

1. Modified environmental factors or product design ✓
2. Developed and enforced new safety standards ✓
3. Produced education campaigns aimed at persuading at-risk individuals to change their behavior



This is our greatest opportunity



Joint Recommendation from Child Fatality Prevention System (CDPHE) and Child Fatality Review Team (CDHS)

Provide information to parents and communities in their preferred language about the risks associated with substance misuse and overdose and evidence-informed strategies to reduce these risks, including:

1. How to access and use naloxone and fentanyl test strips;
2. How to respond to a suspected drug overdose, including information on Colorado's Good Samaritan Law;
3. How to safely store and dispose of both prescription and illegal drugs;
4. How to avoid accidental ingestion of drugs by young children; and
5. How to have conversations with children about overdose and poisoning prevention in age-appropriate ways.

Safe Storage Recommendations

Smart Choices Safe Kids is an existing resource through Illuminate Colorado focused on increasing child safety related to substances and caregiver substance use.

With additional funding, this resource could be enhanced to:

- Develop and disseminate a direct to consumer messaging campaign tailored for specific populations
- Leverage existing partnerships and campaigns to incorporate related messaging
- Expanding reach of professional training
- Increase access to safe storage products for families



**SMART CHOICES
SAFE KIDS**
Informed Families. Empowered Communities.

Recommendation

- Increase public awareness of safe storage practices through targeted direct to consumer messaging campaign and expanding reach and capacity of training for children, adult, and family-serving professionals

Circle of Parents



Colorado Chapter
CIRCLE of PARENTS®

Sharing Ideas. Sharing Support.

Circle of Parents is a support group that provides a friendly, supportive community led by parents and other caregivers to share successes and challenges they may face in today's parenting.



Circle of Parents allows for parents to come as themselves– the raw, real, and flawed caregivers that they are– to share and learn about resources and different parenting styles.



Circle of Parents helps families to realize their own strengths and to see that they are truly not alone.

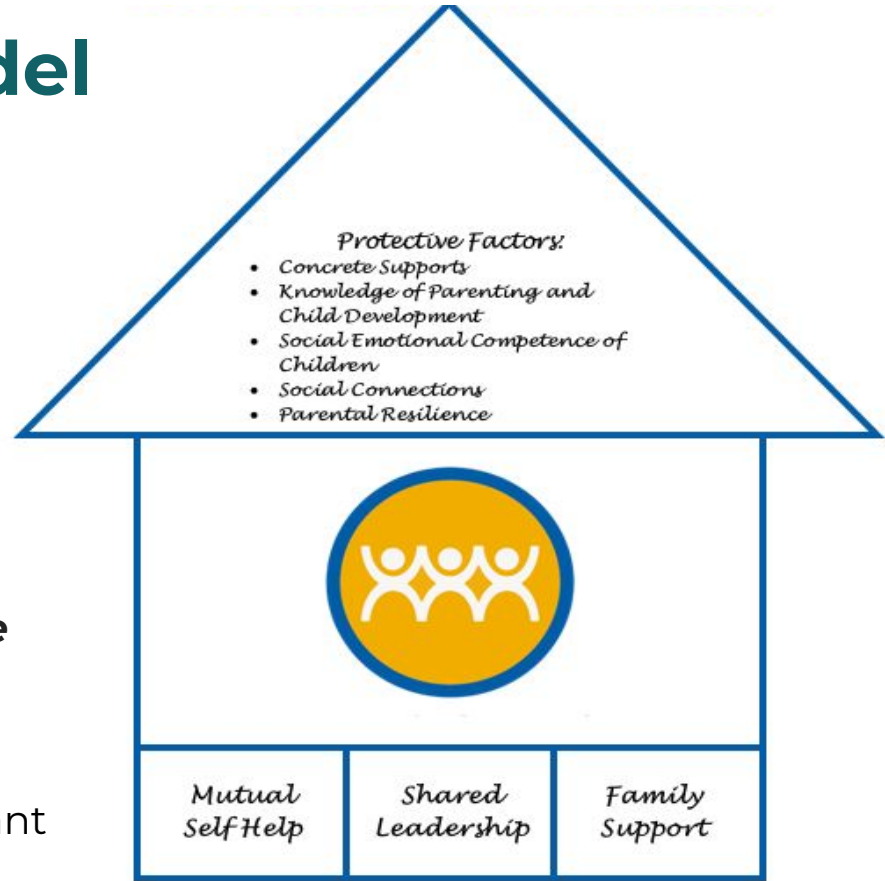


Foundations of the Model

- ✓ Mutual Self-Help
- ✓ Shared Leadership/Ownership
- ✓ Family Support
- ✓ Protective Factors

“Being able to actually discuss how you're feeling with people and just get support, you can get that here. In ways this group has honestly saved my life.”

- Participant



Circle of Parents Data Snapshot

2022 Reach: 40 Circle of Parents groups across Colorado served 1,068 parents and 106 children

Focus Areas: Parents in Recovery; Fathers & Male Caregivers; Veterans; Circulo de Padres (Spanish Speaking Only); New, Expectant & Expanding Families; Parents of Children with Special Needs

In 2022, on average, respondents demonstrated increases in all five Protective Factors, including:

Largest increases in:



Social emotional support



Concrete supports

High levels of:



Nurturing and attachment



Family functioning and resiliency



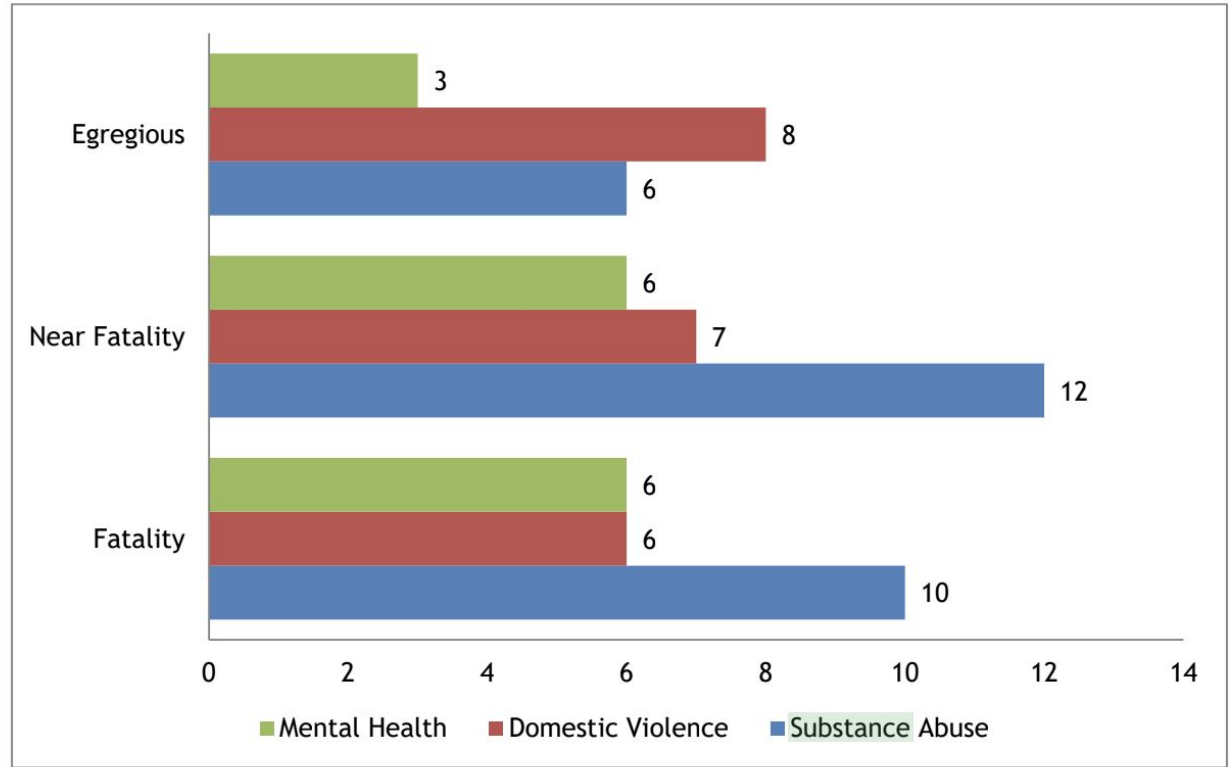
Child development and knowledge of parenting

Recommendations

- Explore pathways to sustainability for recovery support services that are housed in Community Based Organizations, that are supporting health and behavioral health needs of families but do not qualify as a RSSO or a clinical provider

CDHS Data: Child Fatality Review Team

Chart 10: Other Stressors in Families of the Child Maltreatment Fatalities, Near Fatalities, and Egregious Incidents Reviewed by the CFRT in 2022



Recommendations

1. **Illuminating Child Care:** Maintain current funding that supports child care for parents and guardians in behavioral health and substance use treatment; ensure that onsite child care services are funded to support caregiver participation in treatment and recovery services; and explore addition of “enrollment in Treatment & Recovery Services” as an eligible activity for Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
2. **Safe Storage:** Increase public awareness of safe storage practices through targeted direct to consumer messaging campaign and expanding reach and capacity of training for children, adult, and family-serving professionals
3. **Circle of Parents in Recovery:** Explore pathways to sustainability for recovery support services that are housed in Community Based Organizations, that are supporting health and behavioral health needs of families but do not qualify as a RSSO or a clinical provider.



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A Colorado Where All Children and Families Thrive

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