



PRENATAL SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Community Placement Site Infant Manikin Report *January – June 2025*

The Prenatal Substance Use Prevention Program prioritizes the prevention and/or reduction of the incidence of substance use during the preconception and prenatal periods. The primary focus of the program is educational outreach by providing infant manikins to community placement sites for educational sessions and presentations. A total of 33 infant manikin sets are loaned to various sites (one set is kept with the program manager for in-house presentations). Manikins representing White and African American infants with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, prenatal drug exposure, and healthy characteristics are available to agencies at no cost.

The community placement sites are required to submit usage reports on a semi-annual basis. The following is a summary report for the period January through June 2025, which includes total educational sessions, total participants, participant types, some comments by the participants, and a listing of the current community placement sites.

“...I didn't know that what I did would do this.”

**Total Educational
Sessions:**

169

Total Participants: 2,184

Participant Types:

Childcare providers
Clients (Medicaid and
WIC)
Community members
Educators
Expectant parents

Families
Health fair
New parents
Parents with young
children
Pregnant women

Public health staff
Students (high school and
college)
Substance use disorder
clients
Teens

Participants Comments:

- "I didn't realize I could hurt a baby this much by using substances."
- "It is sad that babies have to go through this."
- "These babies are so realistic."
- "Hearing the crying is a lot."
- "That is so sad (the cry of the drug-affected baby). Why would people do this?"
- It's unbelievable the impact that it can have on the newborns.
- "The babies look like they are sick. I didn't know that what I did would do this."
- "How do I know what 'stuff' can hurt my baby?"
- "What happens if I find out I am pregnant and stop? Will the baby still have problems?"

Facilitator Observations:

- Many audience members stated that viewing the manikins made them sad due to viewing the facial features of the fetal alcohol syndrome manikin and the shaking and crying of the drug-affected manikin. Some audience members discussed the weight differences of the healthy manikins versus the weight of the fetal alcohol syndrome and the drug-affected manikins.
- Many young audience members experienced emotions such as shock, sadness, and anger. The youth and some adults questioned why someone would take drugs and alcohol while they are pregnant.
- Many students shared how they were not aware of the damage to an infant when they are subjected to drugs during pregnancy.
- They found it helpful to learn skills on the healthy baby (holding, changing, cleaning). The drug-exposed baby evoked discussions on and education about the effects drugs have on a fetus.
- Many clients are referred due to losing custody of their children due to substance use, history of use, unsafe environment/putting children at risk. We utilize our manikins to show the risk factors of what potential harm using substances can have, not only to the mother but the child during pregnancy. Many women do not feel that using while pregnant that these side effects can ever happen to them. But once they attend a group session and see the manikins, many feel very remorseful and get emotional that they continue to choose substances over their child. The program has had 3 live and healthy births during this reporting period, and all were born substance-free and healthy. Moms have regained custody of their children. All 3 mother states attending our program helped them realize what's truly important, and that's being a good mother.
- Students noted the size and appearance of the manikins and learned about the risks associated with drug and alcohol use during pregnancy.
- The students didn't like the loud babies, complained that they hurt their ears. Many felt sad when seeing the fetal alcohol infants.
- Staff were asked to speak on a panel about how our program continues to support women in need during recovery. Our staff took the manikins to the presentation to show one of the many tools we use to help women overcome their challenges with

substance use. Most individuals were very emotional during this part of the presentation and felt this real-life example truly was so valuable to someone who has used substances while pregnant and how it helps improve there over general recovery.

Facilitator Comments:

- Staff found the infant manikins highly beneficial and plan to use them in clinics.
- The manikins offer participants a realistic experience in both look and feel. The infant manikins significantly enhanced the program's effectiveness. They allowed students to easily distinguish between healthy babies and those exposed to drugs and alcohol during pregnancy.
- The science and health education teachers utilized the manikins in their classes for a full two months and used them to educate students on substance use during pregnancy, infant care, and incorporated the manikins into biology lessons. The students appreciated the interactive nature of the lessons achieved by having access to the manikins.
- Staff provided education on each manikin and reported that they feel grateful to be able to utilize the manikins and provide education to youth, pregnant women, partners, and community members. Staff stated that utilizing the manikins has been helpful and beneficial.
- Classroom instructors feel the manikins help make the education about maternal substance use more realistic and impactful. The college instructor was thankful to have this additional teaching aid for their class.
- Appreciate being able to use the manikins for modeling infant care. Very helpful in high school child development classes when discussing infant anatomy, care, and development.
- I feel the manikins are very educational and beneficial to the school's prenatal programs.
- The manikins offer participants a realistic experience in both look and feel. The infant manikins significantly enhanced the program's effectiveness. They allowed students to easily distinguish between healthy babies and those exposed to drugs and alcohol during pregnancy.
- They are so realistic. Some comments were made that they wondered if women who used substances during pregnancy would have made different choices if they had seen these in the first month of pregnancy.

Manikin Placement Site**City**

Atchison County Health Department	Tarkio
Barton County Health Department	Lamar
Bootheel Babies and Families	Sikeston
Butler County Health Department	Poplar Bluff
Cameron Schools Parents as Teachers-Parkview Elementary School	Cameron
Cape Girardeau County Health Department	Cape Girardeau
Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services	Columbia
Correction Services	Springfield
Department of Health and Senior Services	Jefferson City
Dunklin County Health Department	Kennett
Family Counseling Center - Project WIN	Kennett
FCC Behavioral Health, Adolescent CSTAR	West Plains
Hannibal Parents As Teachers	Hannibal
Henry County Health Center	Clinton
Lafayette County Health Department	Lexington
Lafayette House	Joplin
Lutheran Family and Children's Services	Columbia
Mississippi County Health Dept	Charleston
Options for Women, Help for Families	Cape Girardeau
Oregon County Health Department	Alton
Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC) Head Start	Aurora
Parents as Teachers (Festus)	Festus
Pettis County Health Center	Sedalia
Preferred Family Healthcare	Kirksville
Pregnancy Help Center of Central Missouri	Jefferson City
Prevention Consultants of Missouri	Rolla
Riverways Pregnancy Resource Center	Salem
Scott County Health Department	Sikeston
Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health-Poplar Bluff Site	Poplar Bluff
Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health-Salem Site and Potosi/Farmington Site	Farmington
Taney County Health Department	Branson
Tri-County Health Department	Stanberry

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