



PR aMS

Positive Recovery and Midwife Support

A service for women with complex needs.

Making recovery possible in pregnancy.

Supporting women, babies and families for a brighter future.

COCAINE & CRACK COCAINE USE IN PREGNANCY

Cocaine and Crack cocaine produce similar highs that vary in speed of onset and overall intensity but produce similar mechanisms of intoxication in the body. The effects that cocaine and crack have on the body are especially dangerous for pregnant women and their babies.

See overleaf for information and advice on how to minimise the risk.

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Effects of crack or cocaine use during pregnancy on the baby

Crack cocaine and powder cocaine use during pregnancy can result in a variety of issues for both the mother and the baby. Effects of cocaine use and crack use during pregnancy for the baby include:

- Low birth weight
- New-born -withdrawal symptoms upon birth

Cocaine use during pregnancy is associated with maternal migraines and seizures and poor mental health. Risks to the unborn baby include premature membrane rupture (waters breaking), and a separation of the placenta from the uterus before baby is ready to be born. This is called a placental abruption and can have catastrophic consequences for mother and baby and is an emergency situation.

Pregnancy brings around changes in a women's blood pressure, cocaine use exacerbates these sometimes leading to serious problems with high blood pressure (hypertensive crises), spontaneous miscarriage and preterm labour. Pregnant women using cocaine must receive appropriate medical and psychological care - including addiction treatment to reduce these risks.

Effects of Crack and Cocaine Use During Pregnancy on the Mother

These effects of cocaine use during pregnancy can vary depending on the mother's overall health, duration of drug use, and frequency of drug use.

It is important to talk to your health care provider about your options for treatment. Please contact us if you feel you need support