



Building Happy, Healthy, Safe Families Through Community Collaboration for Pregnant Women with SUD



System of Care

The SUN Project:

- Builds legal infrastructure for collaboration
- Operates SAMHSA model care coordination teams
- Trains providers
- Lifts the voices of mothers



3 SUN County
Networks

Patient Impact



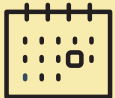
0

Infant & maternal
deaths



94%

Program
retention



38 Wks

Avg. gestational
age

Provider Impact



337

Medical provider
training encounters on
SUD



47

Providers trained
for SUN by UNC law
professors



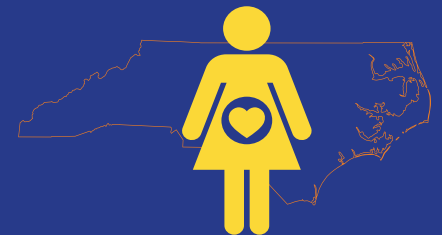
95%

Increase in best
practices

High Return on Investment and Human Benefit

Research shows projects like SUN:

- Home visiting = \$3.13 saved per \$1.00 spent¹
- Reduced NICU stay = \$19.00 saved per \$1.00 spent²
- Expanded family planning = \$7.09 saved per \$1.00 spent³
- Expedited MAT = \$11.13 saved over \$1.00 spent⁴
- Reducing number of infants in foster care = \$15,480 saved per child⁵
- Reduced maternal mortality⁶



93%

"Feel SUN helps in
my **recovery**"

*"My son would not be here if it weren't for
this clinic. I am beyond grateful for that."*

93%

"Trust SUN
partners"

SUN Project Collaboration

The Suda Institute
www.sudainstitute.org



**Patient Referrals
Cabarrus Health Alliance
704-920-1289**



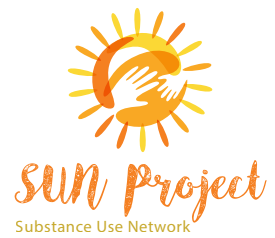
SUN Project Legal Resources

UNC School of Government
<https://sun.sog.unc.edu>





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SUN PROJECT GOAL

The Substance Use Network (SUN) aims to develop a compassionate cross-sector collaborative system of compassionate care that uses best practices to support the health, safety, well-being and recovery of pregnant patients with a substance use disorder, their infants, and families.

SUN PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Eligible participants receive coordination of compassionate, non-stigmatizing, state-of-the-art prenatal care, behavioral health, and social support services to aid the mother in achieving optimal health outcomes and overall wellbeing. Through the SUN Project, various agencies across the county coordinate services in order to decrease duplication and prioritize the mother's goals and needs while preventing the participant from becoming overwhelmed. Participation is voluntary and patients sign a 'release of information' and 'consent for treatment' form prior to enrollment. The SUN Project facilitates the collaboration between partners for care coordination at no cost to the patient. Separately, patients must consent to care, services, and financial responsibility at individual agencies regardless of participation in the SUN Project.

SUBSTANCE USE AND PREGNANCY

Use of alcohol, illicit drugs, and other psychoactive substances during pregnancy can lead to multiple health and social concerns for both mother and child. Pregnancy presents a critical opportunity and motivator for women to change their patterns of alcohol and other substance use. Professionals providing care for women with substance use disorders during pregnancy need to understand and have resources to address the complex social, mental, and physical challenges of substance use disorders in order to provide appropriate care and support throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period.

SUN PROJECT COLLABORATION

The SUN Project is operated by The Suda Institute and uses the SAMHSA Guide on How to Develop a Collaborative Approach to the Treatment of Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorders to implement best practices for its work. The SUN Project works primarily with the SUN Clinic at the Cabarrus Health Alliance, a perinatal SUD provider, and partners from local healthcare and behavioral health agencies, departments of social services, and community based organizations to provide wrap around services to mothers and their families.

SOURCES

¹ Case Family Foundation www.casey.org

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3789586/>

³ https://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/MQ-Frost_1468-0009.12080.pdf

⁴ <https://www.ajmc.com/journals/supplement/2019>

⁵ Nicholas Zill, "Better Prospects, Lower Cost: The Case for Increasing Foster Care Adoption," Adoption Advocate No. 35, May 2011. Retrieved from <https://adoptioncouncil.org//publications/2011/05/adoption-advocate-no-35>

⁶ <https://nashp.org/state-maternal-mortality-review-committees-address-substance-use-disorder-and-mental-health-to-improve-maternal-health/>