# America’s Opioid Crisis: The Unseen Impact on Montana Children

As Montana families struggle with addiction, children are caught in the fray.

## A Growing Crisis

- **28% More** opioid-related deaths nationwide since 2015.
- **93.1%** of people in Montana suffering from drug dependence or abuse go untreated.
- **8.7 Million Children** nationwide have a parent who suffers from a substance use disorder.

## A Devastating Toll on Children

- **2,149 Montana Children** were placed in foster care in 2016.
- **18%** were infants.
- In **39%** of these placements, parental substance use was a factor.

## A Lifelong Impact

Children dealing with traumatic experiences can face social, emotional, physical, and mental health challenges that last into adulthood.

Left unaddressed, early childhood adversity can lead to **school failure**, risky behaviors like **alcohol and drug use**, and increased chance of health conditions like **obesity and heart disease**.

## What You Can Do

**Rethink Our Approach: Support Children and Families in Healing Together**

- **Create policies that prioritize prevention** and allow children to remain safely with their families during treatment.
- **Give providers tools** to recognize, treat, and support children and their parents affected by trauma to lessen the lifelong impact and promote healthy families.
- **Ensure families have real and timely access to services** through Medicaid and other prevention and treatment programs.

## Sources for this document are available at [www.aap.org/OpioidFactsheets](http://www.aap.org/OpioidFactsheets).