A GROWING CRISIS

- **28% MORE** opioid-related deaths nationwide since 2015.
- **76.3%** of people in New Jersey 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

**FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS ON THE RISE**

- **4,267 NEW JERSEY CHILDREN** were placed in foster care in 2016.
- **21%** WERE INFANTS.
- In 36% of these placements, parental substance use was a factor.

**MORE BABIES BORN EXPOSED TO OPIOIDS**

- Every **25 minutes** in America, a baby is born suffering from opioid withdrawal, which can mean:
  1. LOWER BIRTHWEIGHTS
  2. RESPIRATORY CONDITIONS
  3. FEEDING DIFFICULTIES
  4. SEIZURES
  5. LONGER HOSPITAL STAYS

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.