A GROWING CRISIS

- **28% MORE** opioid-related deaths nationwide since 2015.
- **89%** of people in North Carolina suffering from drug dependence or abuse go untreated.
- **8.7 MILLION CHILDREN** nationwide have a parent who suffers from a substance use disorder.

A NEED FOR FAMILY-CENTERED POLICIES

- Keeping families together improves outcomes and lowers costs.
- **MORE THAN HALF** of children placed in foster care go home to their families. Keeping families together from the start helps prevent further trauma and improves outcomes.
- **MEDICAID PAID 81% OF THE $1.5 BILLION** that hospitals billed for treating babies suffering from opioid withdrawal in 2012.

A DEVASTATING TOLL ON CHILDREN

- **5,679 NORTH CAROLINA CHILDREN** were placed in foster care in 2016.
- **19% WERE INFANTS.** In 38% 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](http://www.aap.org/OpioidFactsheets).