AHCCCS Pregnant and Postpartum Women (PPW) with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Needs Assessment

Data Collection
- Five weeks in July-August 2021
- 16 PPW and 87 Key Stakeholder Survey Respondents
- 13 interviews
- 4 focus groups (with 24 participants)
- Literature review and AHCCCS encounter data analysis
- LIMITATIONS: Small sample (particularly PPW); short timeline

"I did not get to hold my son when he was born. He was taken to the NICU. I knew he would probably be born with substances in his system... I wanted to do everything right, so I divulged to the doctor the truth." ~PPW

- **56%** of PPW were afraid their substance use would be found out.
- **38%** of PPW shared information about their substance use with their doctor.
- **22%** of key stakeholders expressed strong agreement that they have the information they need to serve PPW with SUD

A multi-systemic collaborative approach is needed to serve this population (SAMHSA)

**Recommendations**

**SHIFT THE CULTURE**
- Inform PPW on resources/services available
- Train providers on serving this population
- Stigma reduction

**EXPAND EARLIER ACCESS**
- Expand screening
- Multiple entry points to services

**ENHANCE THE SYSTEM OF CARE**
- More specialized comprehensive providers for PPW families
- Improve referral pathways
- DCS collaboration
- Local/culturally responsive programming
- Extend supports well beyond birth

**SUPPORT THE MOTHER-BABY DYAD**
- Consider emerging best practices such as *Eat, Sleep Console*, that promote families remaining together (where safe and with DCS support)

**NAVIGATE BILLING MECHANISMS**
- Determine if any modifications would make billing easier to navigate for mom-baby dyads

**CONSIDER FURTHER RESEARCH**
- Use evidence-based treatment
- Research best practices

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