

Parent-Child Assistance Program (PCAP)

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON ADDICTIONS, DRUG & ALCOHOL INSTITUTE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON (206) 543-7155
<http://pcap.psychiatry.uw.edu>

Eligibility Criteria for PCAP Enrollment

The PCAP supervisor determines whether or not a woman who has been referred is eligible for the program. Women are eligible to enroll in PCAP who meet three criteria.

1. *Pregnant or up to twelve months postpartum, and up to twenty four months postpartum if space is available.*

Note: If a woman enrolls in PCAP then terminates the pregnancy, has a miscarriage, or the target child dies, she is still a client and remains in PCAP unless she decides to withdraw.

and

2. *Self-report of alcohol and/or drug abuse during the pregnancy.*

The woman must self-report heavy or problematic alcohol or drug use during the index pregnancy. Underreporting is common at the initial referral stage, and should be expected.

Includes Opioid medication for opioid use disorder

If the following information is available, it may be helpful in determining whether or not a client meets this criterion:

- Any positive maternal/infant toxicology screens during pregnancy or at delivery?
- Any previous alcohol or drug exposed pregnancies?
- Any previous children removed from custody due to alcohol/drug abuse?
- Any history of alcohol/drug treatment?

and

3. *Ineffectively engaged with community service providers.*

A woman referred to PCAP may already have several providers or case managers, such as a Child Protective Services (CPS) social worker, a public health nurse, or a probation officer. The fact that she has providers does not mean that the client is effectively engaged with them, and the fact that she is pregnant and abusing substances is an indicator that she may need additional or a different kind of help.

A woman referred to PCAP may currently be in substance abuse inpatient or outpatient treatment. This does not make her ineligible—the questions to consider are these: when she leaves treatment what is her long-term support system? Who will support her in relapse prevention? Who will coach her in taking the next steps toward recovery and an improved quality of life? Enrolling women in PCAP who are also in treatment is not a duplication of services.

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Women are also eligible for PCAP who meet the following criteria, although fewer than 5% of our clients are enrolled this way:

- 1. Women who have delivered a child with a diagnosis of FASD
and*
- 2. Who are still drinking
and*
- 3. Who are capable of bearing children*

Research indicates that when mothers who have delivered a child with FASD continue to drink heavily and bear more children, each subsequent child born suffers increasingly severe alcohol effects. It is therefore important to intervene with any mother who has delivered a child with FASD in order to prevent future heavily exposed and damaged children.