



This info sheet is one of 12 two-pagers that highlights key findings and promising practices from the **Co-Creating Evidence** (CCE) study.

Co-Creating Evidence was an evaluation of eight different Canadian programs serving women at risk of having an infant with prenatal exposure to alcohol or other substances.

Outreach and Wraparound Programs

Outreach services fulfill an important function, working with women where they are no matter their circumstances or living situation.

Outreach adds flexibility and accessibility to programs by supporting clients in the community who are not yet ready to start services as well as those who are already connected to the program but who need or want support at home or in the community.

Outreach is considered best practice and part of the wraparound model.¹



5 programs in the Co-Creating Evidence study have outreach workers who meet with women in order to provide support, advocacy, information, connection, transportation and accompaniment to appointments.

In some of the programs, Outreach Workers have had similar lived experiences as clients; they help to build trusting relationships, promote peer mentoring, instill hope, and demonstrate that recovery is possible.



¹Marcellus, L., Nathoo, T., & Poole, N. (2016), *Harm Reduction and Pregnancy: Best and Promising practices for Supporting Pregnant Women and New Mothers Who Use Substances*.
http://www.perinatalservicesbc.ca/Documents/Education/Conference/2016/Presentations2/D4iii_Marcellus.pdf.



Outreach in practice



Outreach connects women to the program and to their appointments in the community, so that they access the health and social care services they need.

"The Pregnancy Outreach Worker helps women with a variety of issues – medical, intimate partner violence, mental health, substance use, child welfare, income-related, housing – throughout their pregnancy."

Outreach helps women who aren't yet ready to attend the program to not fall through the cracks.



"The Outreach Workers' focus is to keep in touch with clients, drive them to appointments, meet informally over coffee to build relationships and to ensure that they are getting the help they need."

Outreach Workers provide ongoing support on issues that are important to women.

Outreach Workers provide advocacy, ensure that clients are treated with respect, and help them to find their voice.



"The Outreach Worker always advocates for women to have five days and nights at the hospital post-partum, and for the women to be treated respectfully."

Outreach Workers can be the face of the program.



"The partnership has been driven by our Pregnancy Outreach program; the hospital is starting a clinic for pregnant women with problematic substance use."



Outreach Workers can facilitate new connections between the program and other programs or specialized services that ultimately result in more service options for clients.

