

# Conference highlights drug abuse epidemic's effects on kids

November 1 2016

---

A Cincinnati Children's Hospital doctor who works with newborns addicted to heroin says the opiate epidemic is harming children born addicted and creating chaos for older kids who can't have normal childhoods because of their parents' drug problems.

Dr. Kathy Wedig (WEH'-dig) says the epidemic affects society overall because of the cost of treating and helping such children.

Wedig spoke Tuesday at a Cincinnati conference addressing the epidemic's effects on children. The event drew hundreds of doctors, nurses, [social workers](#) and addiction specialists.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio says the number of children taken into custody has risen 19 percent over the past seven years, largely due to [parents'](#) painkiller and heroin addictions. The group says placing addicts' children in protective custody is costing taxpayers \$45 million annually.

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Conference highlights drug abuse epidemic's effects on kids (2016, November 1) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-11-conference-highlights-drug-abuse-epidemic.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is

provided for information purposes only.