

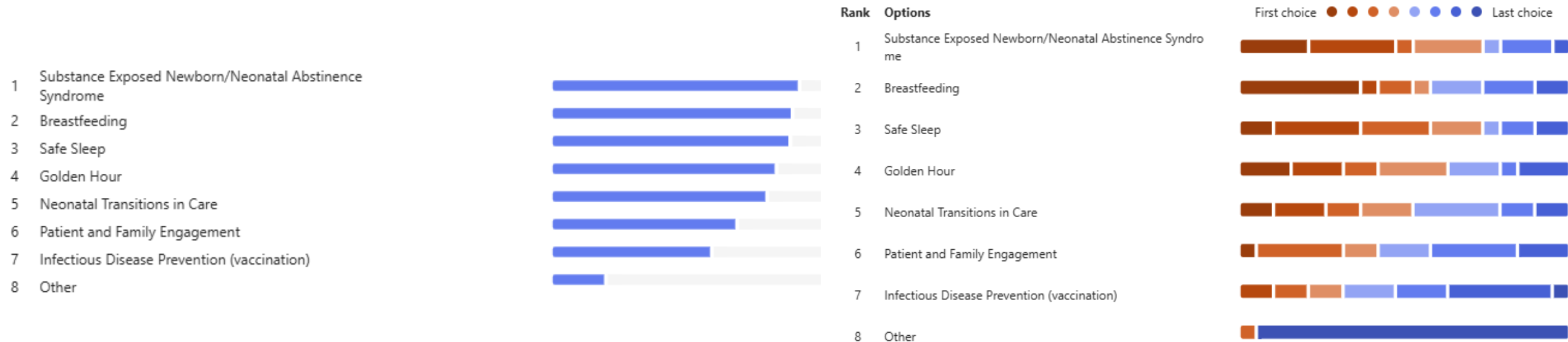
# MDPQC Office Hours



**Substance Exposed Newborn Initiative  
Planning & Data Discussion  
May 12, 2026**

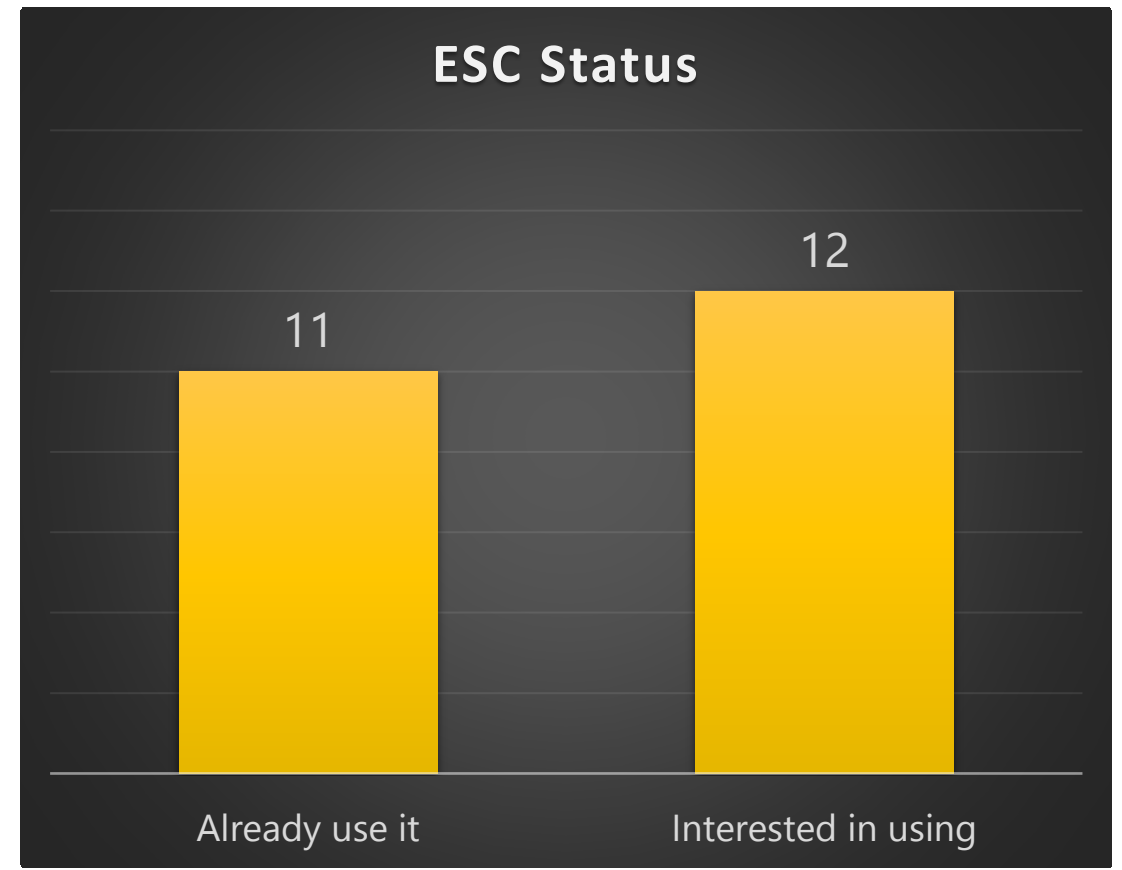
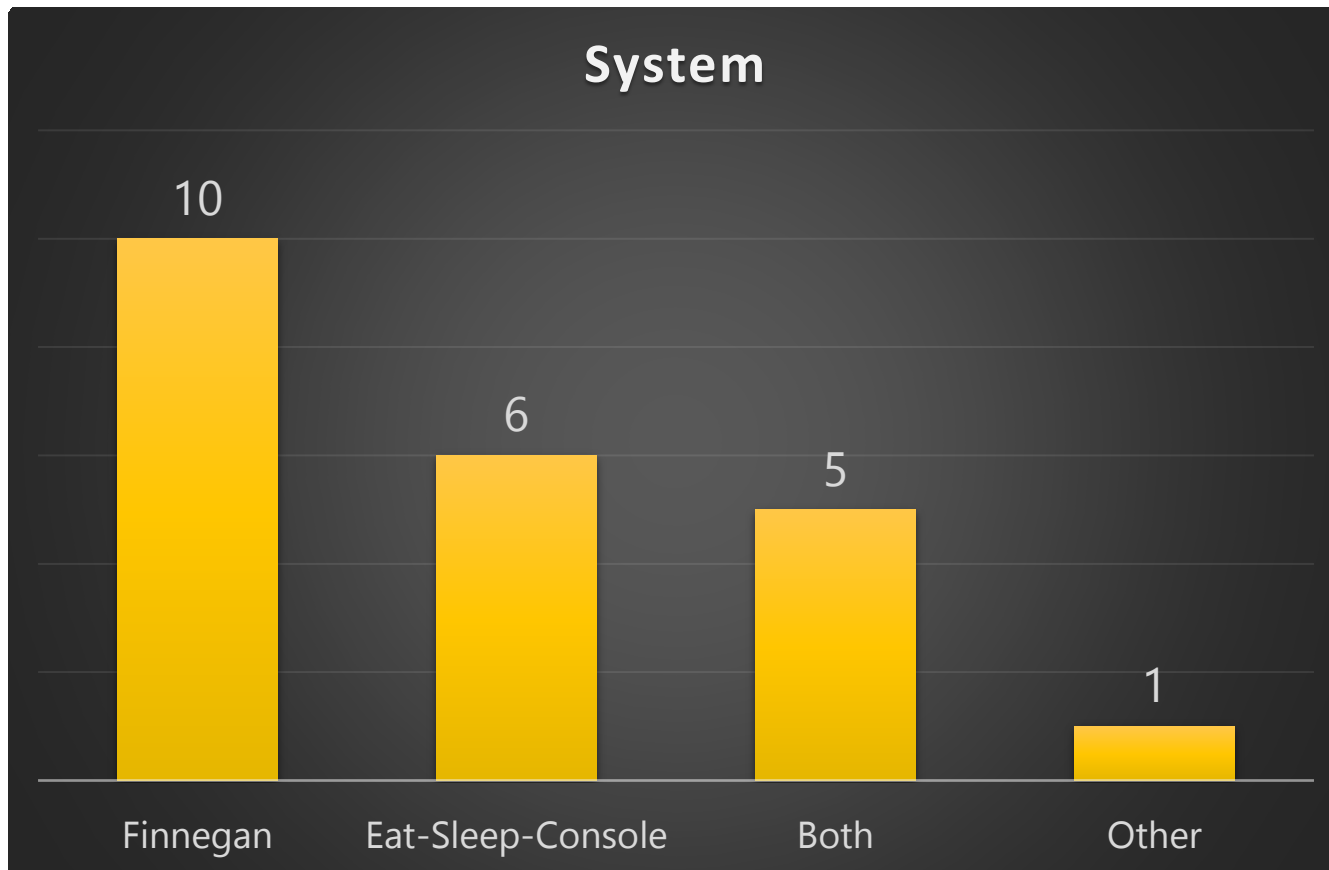
# Next Steps Hospital Assessment

Please rank which neonatal topic areas you would be most interested in working on:



# SEN Office Hours Polls

23 responses from 21 hospitals



# Introducing



## The Maryland Perinatal-Neonatal Quality Collaborative

### Collaborative Activities

- Quarterly data submission
- Data benchmarking feedback reports
- Tools, resources and interventions tailored based on hospital baseline assessment results
- Monthly learning events with subject matter experts
- 1:1 Coaching calls with MDPQC team members

### 2026-2028 Focus Area

**Neonatal Health:**  
Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN)

### Commitment

- ✓ Implement evidence-based interventions to improve birthing outcomes.
- ✓ Collaborate with healthcare and community organizations as well as patients and families to improve patient care.
- ✓ Participate in Learning and Action Networks (LAN) that bring together healthcare professionals, patients, and other stakeholders around evidence-based action-oriented agendas to achieve rapid, wide-scale health improvements.
- ✓ Support quality improvement efforts by reporting data related to selected topic areas.

### SEN Initiative Goals



# SEN Initiative Goals

1. Standardize substance use screening for mothers at L&D intake.
2. Improve identification of and care for Substance Exposed Newborns and their families.
3. Decrease the length of stay for substance exposed newborns.
4. Connect families impacted by substance use to appropriate follow-up services and community-based supports prior to discharge.
5. Empower parents and caregivers to care for infants with in-utero substance exposure.
6. Support hospitals to implement Eat-Sleep-Console methodology.



# SEN Measures

Measure	Notes
# births	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity
# births to the well-baby nursery	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity
# mothers verbally screened for SUD	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity
# mothers screened for SUD using laboratory testing	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity
# infants with any in-utero substance exposure	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity; Excludes infants that go straight to NICU after birth
# infants with in-utero opioid exposure	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity; Excludes infants that go straight to NICU after birth
# infants transferred out of the well-baby nursery for treatment/management of withdrawal symptoms	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity; Excludes infants that go straight to NICU after birth
# infants transferred out of the well-baby nursery for treatment/management of Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity; Excludes infants that go straight to NICU after birth
# infants with substance exposure who were discharged during the reporting month	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity

# SEN Measures

Measure	Notes
Average (mean) total length of stay for infants transferred out of the well-baby nursery for treatment/management of withdrawal symptoms during the reporting month	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity; Excludes infants that go straight to NICU after birth
Median total length of stay for infants transferred out of the well-baby nursery for treatment/management of withdrawal symptoms during the reporting month	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity; Excludes infants that go straight to NICU after birth
# mothers screened for SSDOH using a standardized, validated tool	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity
# infants in well-baby nursery with a parent/caregiver referral for social work consult for in-utero substance exposure	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity
# infants with substance exposure and documentation that family/caregiver received a Plan of Safe Care prior to discharge (Specific verbal and written education around substance exposure and proper care for infant)	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity; Plan would include: pediatrician appointment, follow-up with social worker, follow-up with CPS/DSS, referral to treatment
If your hospital or unit is transitioning to Eat-Sleep-Console (ESC), how many education opportunities on ESC methodology (sessions/events/meetings/huddles/modules) were provided during the reporting period?	Reported as whole number or N/A

# SEN Measures

Measure	Notes
<p>% Physicians/NPs/PAs receiving education within the last two years on hospital protocols and best practices for providing care to infants with substance exposure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Symptoms/symptom scoring</li><li>• Pharmacological &amp; Non-pharmacological treatment</li><li>• Strategies for soothing babies</li><li>• Caregiver education elements</li></ul>	<p>Reported in 10% increments; Reported for SCN/NICU, Well-baby nursery, and L&amp;D</p>
<p>% Nurses receiving education within the last two years on hospital protocols and best practices for providing care to infants with substance exposure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Symptoms/symptom scoring</li><li>• Pharmacological &amp; Non-pharmacological treatment</li><li>• Strategies for soothing babies</li><li>• Caregiver education elements</li></ul>	<p>Reported in 10% increments; Reported for SCN/NICU, Well-baby nursery, and L&amp;D</p>
<p># infants admitted to the NICU for hypoglycemia (Sustainability measure)</p>	<p>Disaggregated by race/ethnicity</p>

# SEN Structure Measures

**Reported as: Yes/No/In Development**

## Measure

Hospital provides standardized staff education on compassionate, non-judgmental screening, patient education, and support

Hospital uses standardized definitions of SEN/NAS

Hospital uses a standardized screening protocol for maternal substance use at L&D intake, reviewed and updated based on legal requirements and best practices.

Hospital uses a standardized protocol for referral to Child Protective Services related to in-utero substance use, reviewed and updated based on legal requirements and best practices.

Hospital has established non-pharmacologic treatment protocols

Hospital uses Eat-Sleep-Console in the Nursery / Hospital uses Eat-Sleep-Console in the SCN/NICU

Hospital has created or procured a comprehensive list of community resources, customized to include resources relevant for pregnant and postpartum people, that will be shared with all postpartum inpatient nursing units, the SCN/NICU, and outpatient pediatricians.

Hospital has created a standardized Plan of Safe Care template and protocol for families being discharged

Hospital has established a mechanism of obtaining feedback from parents and caregivers about their care experience and regularly reviews this feedback.

Hospital provides additional safe sleep education specifically tailored to substance exposed newborn populations, above and beyond standard practice for a typical discharge.

# Timeline

- Recruitment Begins: TODAY
- Kick-off: July 14<sup>th</sup>
- Structure Measure Reporting Begins: July
- Process Measure Reporting Begins: October



# Next Steps

- ✓ Complete a Participation Agreement for the new Substance Exposed Newborns initiative, [available here!](#)
- ✓ Register for June Neonatal Health Office Hours:
  - Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 12pm-1pm  
[Register here](#)



# Open Discussion



**Please complete the evaluation poll before you go!**



HEALTH QUALITY INNOVATORS



# Contact Us



## For more information

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