

The 5 “P’s” of Screening

There are numerous screening questions to use with high risk pregnant women, and among them are five important questions known as “The 5 “P’s” of Screening.” They combine as a brief screening tool that takes only a moment to administer and may provide important information regarding a woman’s behaviors both before and during her pregnancy. The five “P” questions are listed below, as well as an important question about smoking behavior. According to Chasnoff, women who smoke cigarettes in the month before pregnancy are 11 times more likely to be currently using drugs and 9 times more likely to be currently using either drugs or alcohol or both while pregnant. “The 5 “P’s” of Screening are :

- ❖ **Peers** – Do any of your friends have a problem with alcohol or other drug use?
- ❖ **Partner** – Does your partner have a problem with alcohol or other drug use?
- ❖ **Parents** – did either of your parents ever have a problem with alcohol or other drug use?
- ❖ **Past Use** – Before you knew you were pregnant, how often did you drink beer, wine, wine coolers, or liquor?
 - Not at all
 - Rarely
 - Sometimes
 - Frequently
- ❖ **Present Use** – In the past month, how often did you drink beer, wine, wine coolers, or liquor?
 - Not at all
 - Rarely

- Sometimes
- Frequently

- ❖ Smoke – How many cigarettes did you smoke prior to your pregnancy?
 - Not at all
 - Rarely
 - Sometimes
 - Frequently

For further information regarding this or other issues related to maternal substance abuse, please contact Karen Kuehn Howell, Ph.D., at the Maternal Substance Abuse and Child Development Project, Emory University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, 1256 Briarcliff Road, M.E.,320W, Atlanta, Georgia, 30306. You can also phone us at 404-712-9800 or visit our website at <http://www.emory.edu/MSACD>.

The Maternal Substance Abuse and Child Development Project is funded in part by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD).