Maternal opioid abuse is associated with an adjusted odds ratio of 4.6 for in-hospital death. Drug overdose death rates in women are concerning across the U.S. Death rates have increased 5x between 1999 and 2010. Between 1998 and 2011, maternal opioid abuse has risen 127%.

Opioid sales are increasing, as are deaths and treatment admissions. More work is needed on preventive strategies and therapeutic interventions.

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