



Colorado seeing rise in babies born with marijuana in system

Doctors say marijuana can affect brain development

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Transcript of WGAL News 8 piece

Vicky Houston saw nothing wrong with using medical marijuana for her health while pregnant. "I believe it's beneficial. I don't think it's toxic in any shape or form."

When her son Kiana was born, she did not disclose to the hospital staff that she had used cannabis, but he tested positive for THC, the psycho-active ingredient in pot.

"Nurse upon nurse practitioner, and doctors and social workers came into my room to examine him, to see how he was deformed or how he was brain damaged." She said multiple tests proved he was just fine.

Are you convinced that it's safe for would-be mothers to use marijuana? "Absolutely."

Research is lacking. Scientists don't want expectant mothers to use cannabis, so it's difficult to conduct the study.

"Our warning is it's not worth the risk. It's not worth taking a chance." **Dr. Harry Walk is the head of the State Health Department and a pediatrician. He says marijuana can affect the developing brain of a child. "Any of the known impacts of marijuana are on learning and motivation and some of the things we don't see develop until a child is school-age."**

The State and other agencies are now engaged in a campaign to educate women about the possible dangers of using pot during pregnancy and breast feeding.

At this hospital in Pueblo, the head of the neo-natal unit is reporting what is being called **a dramatic increase with the number of newborns with marijuana in their system.**

St Mary Corwin Medical Center is now among the healthcare organizations supporting an **initiative to ban recreational pot sales in Pueblo.**

Annette Christensen was using marijuana when her children were born. "Were your children tested for THC presence?" "Upon birth, yes, they were, and they were positive."

She says Child Protective Services was called, but she was allowed to keep the children.

In the case of Vicky Houston, she was given an administrative citation. Her case later closed.

"I wondered with each car door that closed if this was the day someone was coming to take my baby."

What she feels is safe for her child is not the same opinion as the state. ■

Watch news report here: <http://goo.gl/GbLT34>



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