
PREFACE

This report, a collaborative effort of the RAND Drug Policy Research Center and the New York Academy of Sciences, presents an overview of the current state of knowledge regarding the effects of cocaine on the developing brain and offers policy considerations for addressing the issues that arise from cocaine use by pregnant women. Most of the scientific research discussed in the report is derived from a 1997 New York Academy of Sciences conference on “Cocaine: Effects on the Developing Brain,” the proceedings of which have been published as Volume 846 of the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. The conference was co-sponsored by the Allegheny University of the Health Sciences (now called MCP Hahnemann University) and the National Institutes of Health. The policy implications discussed here are based on material presented at this conference and on investigations conducted by researchers at RAND under the leadership of Dr. Gail Zellman.

THE RAND DRUG POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

The Drug Policy Research Center, a joint endeavor of RAND Criminal Justice and RAND Health, was established in 1989 to conduct the empirical research, policy analysis, and outreach needed to help community leaders and public officials develop more effective strategies for dealing with drug problems. The Center builds on a long tradition of RAND research characterized by an interdisciplinary, empirical approach to public policy issues and rigorous standards of quality, objectivity, and independence. The Ford Foundation and other foundations, as well as government agencies, cor-

porations, and individuals, support the Center. Dr. Audrey Burnam and Dr. Martin Iguchi codirect the Drug Policy Research Center.

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Founded in 1817, the New York Academy of Sciences is the third oldest scientific organization in America and one of New York City's oldest and most enduring cultural institutions. The Academy is an independent, nonprofit organization with more than 30,000 members in more than 160 counties united by a commitment to promoting science and technology and their essential roles in fostering social and economic development. In service to science, the Academy facilitates communication among scientists, physicians, policymakers, government officers, educators, and journalists from around the world through its interdisciplinary conferences and section meetings and diverse publications. In service to society, Academy programs draw upon the foremost experts and the most current information about advances in science and technology to inform analysis and discussion of public policy issues, to promote precollege education, and to foster the human rights of scientists. The Academy also recognizes the unique relationship between science and art, and its gallery regularly features public exhibitions and musical evenings.