MN Project SCOPE (Supporting Children of the Opioid Epidemic, z.umn.edu/MNProjectScope) is an immersion training series focused on supporting children born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) or Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS). The series features didactic sessions from an interdisciplinary team of specialists. The series reaches broader audiences across Minnesota using the ECHO Model® (Extension for Community Health Outcomes, z.umn.edu/ECHOmodel), using a hub-and-spoke model to connect rural and remote practitioners with specialists. MN Project SCOPE is part of the broader national training initiative, Project SCOPE (z.umn.edu/ProjectScopeNational), and is facilitated by University of Minnesota’s Institute on Community Integration (ICI).

What is the goal of Minnesota Project SCOPE?
MN Project SCOPE’s goal is to build a community of practice among providers to build knowledge and skills that better support children and families affected by the opioid epidemic. Providers include early childhood providers and specialists in NOWS, however all disciplines, backgrounds, geographies — including family members — are welcome.

What topics and themes does Project SCOPE discuss?
Understanding opioid effects on child development: Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NAS and NOWS), Developmental Monitoring, Child Development & Early Intervention, Addiction and Treatment – Mothers

Caring for diverse families and communities: Weaving the Understanding of ACEs, Trauma and Resilience for Healing in Indigenous Communities; Rural Approaches to Family Centered Care; Indigenous Approaches to Family Centered Care; African American Approaches to Family Centered Care

Providing a wide variety of services and supports for families: The Opioid Crisis in MN and Social Determinants of Health, Child Welfare System Impact in MN, Recovery Planning and Building Recovery Capital, Supporting Children of the Opioid Epidemic with Continuity of Care, and Positive support for children experiencing behavioral challenges.
Who attends Project SCOPE sessions?
212 Minnesotans attended Project SCOPE across all series. The vast majority worked in education, including K-12 school staff (143), K-12 school administration (10) and higher education (5). Additional attendees were from Minnesota Department of Education and MN state and county health departments.

- Health Clinics, 5%
- State and County Health Departments, 10%
- MN Department of Education, 1%
- Higher Education, 3%
- K-12 Education, 81%

Where are attendees from?
Minnesota Project SCOPE is proud to report that its immersive program reached professionals from all edges of the state. The majority of attendees (102) were from outside the 7-county Metro area including 25 from Central MN, 12 from Northeast MN, 33 from Northwest MN, and 32 from Southwest MN. Eighty-four attended from the 7-County Metro area of Minnesota. Additionally, one registrant attended from Douglas County in Wisconsin.

What do participants think of the series?
90% of Fall 2022 attendees planned to share session information with their colleagues, cases, patients, or family members. “It just brought to the forefront that I need to consider trauma/experiences of parents/children prior to my meeting them.”

95% of Fall 2022 attendees felt satisfied with the sessions and planned to use the knowledge they gained from the training. “It helped me understand complex topics (and) learn about the landscape.”