

The Drug Endangered Child (DEC) Training Network is an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funded project that seeks to increase community and professional awareness of the impact of adult drug involvement on children. Additional funding provided by Operation UNITE and the University of Kentucky.



“The problem of drug endangered children is one that requires a collaborative response ...”

What can you do to help?

- Create a Drug Endangered Child Team in your county or join an existing one
- Provide or host DEC awareness sessions in your community
- Provide feedback to us and participate in surveys
- Ask your local hospital what they see and what can be done to help
- Involve the local media to increase awareness of the problem



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Drug Endangered Child Training Network

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Providing Information and Restoring Families

www.drugendangeredchild.org

A Drug Endangered Child

A child is considered drug endangered when he or she suffers physical or psychological harm or neglect resulting from exposure to illegal drugs, to persons under the influence of alcohol and drugs, or to homes where are sold or manufactured.

Medical and Social Dangers of a Drug Endangered Child Include:

- Inhalation and exposure to toxic fumes and chemicals caused by meth manufacture.
- Ingestion of drug and chemical tainted food.
- Chaotic home life; poor supervision.
- Increased risk of future substance abuse due to access and acceptability of drug use.
- Increased risk of premature birth or low birth weight.
- Increased risk of developmental delays and disabilities.
- Emotional problems due to caregiver inability to provide consistency needed for healthy attachment.
- Increased risk of exposure to violence in the home, child abuse, sexual abuse, injury, and neglect.
- Increased risk of tooth decay resulting from neglect or environmental drug exposure.



Of child fatalities in which abuse or neglect was substantiated, 76% were related to adult drug use.

Kentucky Cabinet of Health and Family Services, June 2004



Goals of the DEC Training Network

- Each child in Kentucky will have a team of trained professionals who work together to meet their immediate and long-term needs.
- To recognize the special needs of the older drug endangered child and the role schools can play to address these problems.
- Local medical personnel will implement the National Medical Protocol and report the effects of parental substance abuse to child protection authorities.
- Through the work of community professionals, parents will have additional support as they seek and complete treatment.
- To identify research based programs, like [Celebrating Families!](#) to help substance affected families heal.
- Community professionals will have access to the most current information related to diagnosis, evaluation, treatment and care of children by adult drug activity.

www.drugendangeredchild.org

“...getting a shower, clean clothes and something to eat is better than Christmas to most of them. I know. I’ve been there. I’ve held those children in my arms, looked into this dirty face that was so glad I was there. It is probably the only time in their entire lives they felt safe.” -Ronald V. Mullins, Law Enforcement Officer and Former Training Coordinator, National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

Together, we can give kids back their smiles.



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