

According to the 2000 U.S. Census report children in 2.4 million American households are now raised by a grandparent. In many of these households, this is because of parental substance abuse.

If your grandchild has been impacted by substance abuse here are some things to consider:

Children from drug homes are likely to have experienced:

- Environmental danger
- Chaos
- Neglect
- Abuse
- Loss
- Isolation

Children may also believe:

- Somebody's always coming after you
- Somebody's coming to take you away
- Adults may die or simply never return
- People aren't trustworthy
- People who think they can make a difference do not understand
- Life is hopeless
- There is nothing better out there for them

Consider also the impact that your child's substance abuse may have on your physical and emotional wellbeing. Feeling love for someone who has neglected or harmed your grandchild can be difficult and frustrating. Take care of yourself and seek support from support groups, the internet, social services, relatives, government programs, and churches.

CHILDREN ARE RESILIENT!

Sources:

Hopper, H. Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren Conference, Lexington, Kentucky (2006).

Nolan, J.E. (1999). Grandparents as parents again. *Senior Series*, Ohio State University Extension.

U.S. Census Bureau (2000). Grandparents living with grandchildren. Retrieved on March 13, 2006 from: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-31.pdf>.

For more information about drug affected families, please visit us on the web at: www.ca.uky.edu/heel/dec.htm