



NATIONAL ALLIANCE
FOR DRUG ENDEANGERED CHILDREN
Rescue. Define. Strengthen. Support.

Identifying Drug-Endangered Children
Evidence Collection
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our Goal:
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children
100%



Children at Risk

9.2 million children
in the United States live in homes
where a parent or other adult uses
illicit drugs


SOURCE: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA), 2005

Defining Drug Endangered Children (DEC)



Children + Drugs = Risk

Understanding Risk



Risk (n.): The chance of something going wrong; the danger that injury, damage or loss will occur.

-Encarta Dictionary of North America

Understanding Risk

58.7% of child maltreatment victims
And
80% of child maltreatment fatalities
=
Children ages 0 to 3

SOURCE: Every Child Matters

Understanding Risk



child-friendly
mill.com

Understanding Risk

As many as two-thirds of the people in treatment for drug abuse reported being abused or neglected as children.

SOURCE: childhelp.org

Understanding Risk



- Risk of Physical Abuse
 - Erratic discipline
 - Severe, inconsistent & inappropriate discipline
 - Increased irritability
 - Irrational rage

Understanding Risk



- Risk of Neglect
 - Lack of supervision
 - Lack of necessities
 - Lack of safe and nurturing environment
 - Neglect of basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, supervision

Understanding Risk



- Risk of Exposure to Illegal Activities
 - Property Crimes
 - Drug dealing
 - Drug transporting
 - Kidnapping
 - Home invasions

Understanding Risk



- Other Risks
 - Exposure to violence
 - Domestic
 - Crime-related
 - Overlay deaths
 - Exposure and ingestion
 - Sexual abuse
 - Emotional Abuse
 - Disruption of parent/child relationship, child's sense of trust, belonging

Understanding Risk



- Other Risks
 - Loss
 - Parents
 - Death
 - School
 - Sibling Separation
 - Pets (loss or death)
 - Home

Drug Distribution



Drug Distribution

- Children become victims of the illicit drug trade in many ways

Drug Distribution

- Bringing children to a drug deal is very common

Manufacturing & Cultivation



Manufacturing & Cultivation

- Growing or manufacturing drugs presents environmental and structural hazards to children

Manufacturing & Cultivation

- Marijuana Grow Operations
 - Poisonous fumes
 - Fires
 - Electrocuting
 - Booby traps
 - Structural damage
 - Environmental damage
 - Higher utility costs in neighborhood
 - Increased violence and crime



Manufacturing & Cultivation

- Marijuana Grow Operations
 - These grows use toxic fertilizers and pesticides
 - Leave behind deadly mold
 - Aspergillus Mold
 - Stachybotrys Mold



Manufacturing & Cultivation



Manufacturing & Cultivation

- Methamphetamine is the drug most often produced in a clandestine laboratory
- Methamphetamine is not the only drug produced in clandestine laboratories

Manufacturing & Cultivation

- Clandestine Labs
 - LSD
 - MDMA (Ecstasy)
 - PCP
 - Marijuana THC Extraction (Hash Oil, Hashish, Budder Bombs)
 - GHB
 - Crack cocaine

Manufacturing & Cultivation

- Clandestine Labs Hazards
 - Risk of physical injury from explosions, fires, chemical burns
 - Exposure to toxic fumes
 - Environmental hazards

Illicit Drug Activities




Neglect

caused more child fatalities than Physical Abuse

Collaborative Mindset



Collaborative Mindset




COLLABORATION:

[E]xchange of information, altering of activities, sharing of resources, and **enhancement of the capacity of another for the mutual benefit of all** and to achieve a common purpose.

Chris Huxham, *Creating Collaborative Advantage*

Collaborative Mindset

Break the cycle of abuse & neglect for the next generation







LE/CW Collaborative

Investigation

- Build a case (children + drugs = risk)
 - Surveillance
 - Buys
 - Knock & Talks
 - Trash pulls
 - If signs of children, immediately notify CW (if kids are present or not)
 - If CW follow up is immediate, make LE silent partners
 - Negotiate case steps and timeline (2 buys for search warrant)

LE/CW Collaborative

Gathering Information

- Silent Partners
 - Talk with LE to discuss plan & gather/share information
 - Interview children
 - Interview alleged perpetrators/parents/caretakers
 - Talk with professionals (probation, parole, educators, medical, etc.) to gather information
 - Determine placement

LE/CW Collaborative

Evidence Collection

- Check children for signs of abuse/neglect with child welfare
- Photograph and document risks to children in partnership with child welfare
 - Evidence of risk of neglect
 - Evidence of risk of abuse
 - Evidence of risk of exposure to illegal activity
- Maintain rapport with child
- Share documentation and photos with child welfare

Evidence of Risk

Questions To Ask:

- What evidence can you look for that shows the **risk** of physical abuse?
- What evidence can you look for that shows the **risk** of neglect?
- What evidence can you look for that shows the **risk** of exposure to illegal activity?
- What other evidence can you look for that shows **risks**?

Postnatal Risk

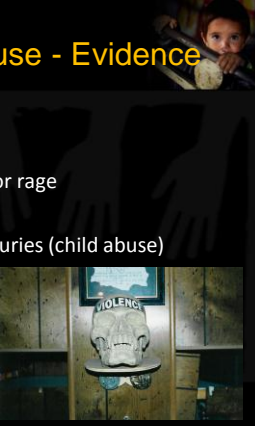
- Risk of Physical Abuse
 - Erratic discipline
 - Increased irritability
 - Environment stressors
 - Irrational rage

Risk of Physical Abuse - Evidence

- Drug use and withdrawal = Increased irritability
- Discipline is inconsistent
- Discipline is unpredictable
- Chaotic environment
- Irrational thinking
- Impulsive aggressive behaviors

Risk of Physical Abuse - Evidence

- Signs of violence
- Threats of violence
- Out of proportionate anger or rage
- Untreated medical issues
- Child already has physical injuries (child abuse)
- Previously reported abuse




Postnatal Risk

- Risk of Neglect
 - Lack of supervision
 - Lack of necessities
 - Lack of safe and nurturing environment
 - Lack of medical care



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Impaired Caretakers
- Unsafe living environment
- Controlled substance in the residence
- Controlled substance accessible to the child
- Drug Paraphernalia accessible to the child
- Parents allowing drug users, dealers, cooks, parolees, probationers present, sex offenders, unknown people in the home
- Drug buys happening with children present



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Impaired Caretakers



The slide features a dark background with a small image of a child's face in the top right corner. The main content includes a yellow title, a list item with a checkbox, and two square images. The first image shows a young child lying on their side on a light-colored floor. The second image shows a close-up of a man's face with a beard, his hand covering his mouth in a gesture of distress or concern.

Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Controlled substance in the residence
- Controlled substance accessible to the child

Methamphetamine




The slide features a dark background with a small image of a child's face in the top right corner. The main content includes a yellow title, two list items with checkboxes, the text 'Methamphetamine', and two square images. The first image shows a white, crystalline powder on a metal scale. The second image shows a colorful, textured mixture in a bowl, possibly a drug preparation.

Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Controlled substance in the residence
- Controlled substance accessible to the child

Cocaine





The slide features a dark background with a small image of a child's face in the top right corner. The main content includes a yellow title, two list items with checkboxes, the text 'Cocaine', and two square images. The first image shows orange, crystalline chunks of cocaine. The second image shows a white, powdery substance next to a US penny for scale.

Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Controlled substance in the residence
- Controlled substance accessible to the child

Ecstasy



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Controlled substance in the residence
- Controlled substance accessible to the child

Prescription Drugs



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Controlled substance in the residence
- Controlled substance accessible to the child

Marijuana



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Controlled substance in the residence
- Controlled substance accessible to the child

Mushrooms



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Controlled substance in the residence
- Controlled substance accessible to the child

Heroin



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

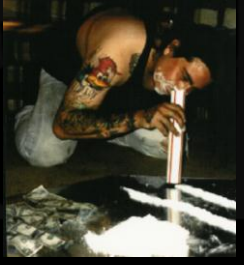
- Controlled substance in the residence
- Controlled substance accessible to the child

K2-Spice Bath Salts



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Parents allowing drug users, dealers, cooks, parolees, probationers present, sex offenders, unknown people in the home



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Drug Paraphernalia accessible to the child



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Children left alone or to fend for self; no supervision
- Chaotic environment
- Weapons
- Booby traps
- Chemicals or cooking elements in the house
- Air quality issues
- Dirty house which poses risk to children
- Exposed or uncovered electrical wiring
- Plumbing not working

Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Children left alone or to fend for self; no supervision



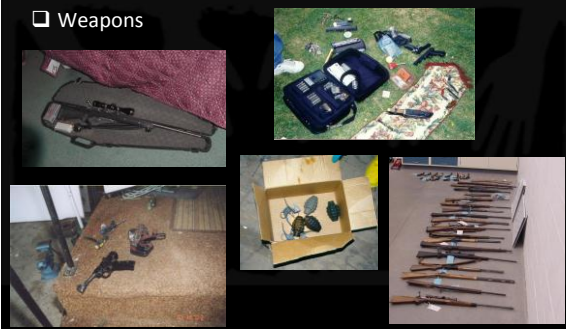
Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Chaotic environment



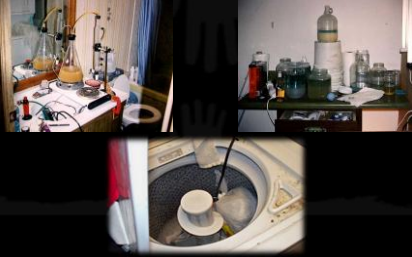
Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Weapons



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Chemicals or cooking elements in the house
- Air quality issues



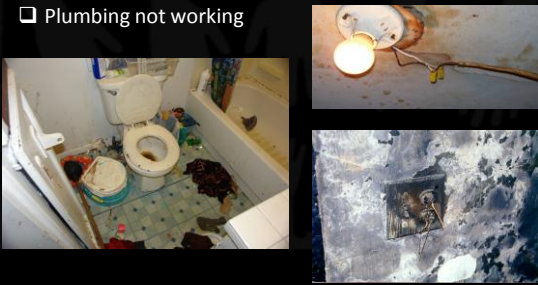
Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Dirty house which poses risk to children




Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Exposed or uncovered electrical wiring
- Plumbing not working




Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Money for necessities goes towards drugs
- Lack of necessities
- Spoiled or moldy food
- No food
- Feces and/or urine in the home
- Residence is cluttered and injurious (garbage overflowing, dirty dishes scattered)
- Heating / Cooling not working (utilities)
- Children are dirty
- Children's bedding soiled or dirty (no sheets)




Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Money for necessities goes towards drugs
- Lack of necessities
- Spoiled or moldy food



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Feces and/or urine in the home




Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Residence is cluttered and injurious (garbage overflowing, dirty dishes scattered)



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Children are dirty
- Children's bedding soiled or dirty (no sheets)




Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Children acquire skills that put them in danger
 - grasping (put objects in mouth)
 - mobility (walking, crawling)
 - increased curiosity with age (will pick up gun and look and play)
 - climbing on chairs, cabinets, footstools, on top of refrigerator or stove
 - have the ability to open items

Risk of Neglect - Evidence

Children acquire skills that put them in danger



Risk of Neglect - Evidence

- Children are sick or have untreated illnesses or injuries
- Educational delays
- Children imitate adult behaviors
- Children parentified due to lack of parenting (ex: 4-year-old feeding and changing 6-month-old)

Postnatal Risk




- Risk of Exposure to Illegal Activities
 - Property Crimes
 - Drug dealing
 - Drug transporting
 - Kidnapping
 - Home invasions

Risk of Exposure to Illegal Activity - Evidence

- Parents allowing drug users in the home
- Drug buys happening with children present
- Children used as decoys during drug deals
- Children traded for drugs or victims of kidnapping because of the drug activity
- Child committing crimes to support the drug use of their parent

Risk of Exposure to Illegal Activity - Evidence

- Parents allowing drug users in the home
- Drug buys happening with children present
- Child committing crimes to support the drug use of their parent



Risk of Exposure to Illegal Activity - Evidence

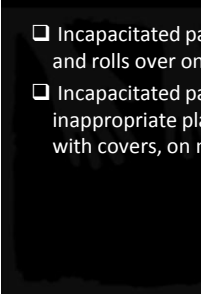

- Children witnessing other illegal activity – car theft, burglary, forgery, robbery
- Children witnessing violence (domestic or other)
- Children witnessing sexual abuse
- Children exposed to pornography
- Children committing crimes in order to survive (eat, pay bills)

Postnatal Risk



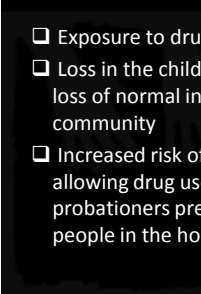

- Other Risks
 - Overlay deaths
 - Exposure and ingestion
 - Loss
 - Sexual abuse

Risk of Other - Evidence



- Incapacitated parent or caregiver who passes out and rolls over on and suffocates their child
- Incapacitated parent or caregiver places child in inappropriate place where child suffocates (in a bed with covers, on mattress with plastic)


Risk of Other - Evidence



- Exposure to drugs - ingestion
- Loss in the child's life – loss of security and trust, loss of normal interactions with family and community
- Increased risk of sexual abuse as result of parents allowing drug users, dealers, cooks, parolees, probationers present, sex offenders, unknown people in the home

Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC


- **Consequently, children growing up in drug environments experience:**
 - Emotional problems
 - Behavioral problems
 - Cognitive problems



Long Term Needs


Questions To Ask:

- **What evidence** can you look for that **shows the emotional problems?**
- **What evidence** can you look for that **shows the behavioral problems?**
- **What evidence** can you look for that **shows the cognitive problems?**



Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC

- **Some Examples of Emotional Problems**
 - Attachment Disorders
 - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Complex Emotions



Emotional Problems - Evidence

- Attaching to strangers too easily
- Difficulty trusting caregivers
- Mistrust or fear (especially with adults)
- Sleep disorders (nightmares, restlessness, insomnia)
- Withdrawal
- Acting out
- Suicidal Ideation

Emotional Problems - Evidence

- Parents or caregivers swear at the child, insult the child or put them down
- Parents or caregivers acted in a way that made the child feel afraid or unsafe (fear physical injuries)
- Child has a hard time with understanding or sharing their emotions (love, anger, guilt, self-blame, feel shame)



Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC

- Some Examples of Behavioral Problems
 - Interpersonal Problems
 - Inappropriate Sexual Behaviors
 - Low Threshold for Stimulation
 - Eating Disorders

Behavioral Problems - Evidence

- Poor communication skills
- Aggression
- Repetitive acting-out behavior
- Child seriously misbehaves (belligerent, destructive, threatening, physically cruel, deceitful, disobedient, dishonest)
- Inappropriate sexual behaviors
- Impulsive
- Attention issues
- Eating disorders

Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC

- Some Examples of **Cognitive Problems**
 - Difficulty talking and listening
 - Difficulty paying attention
 - Difficulty remembering
 - Trouble reading, especially learning to move from left to right
 - Often do not learn from mistakes or experiences
 - Trouble picking up on social cues

Cognitive Problems - Evidence

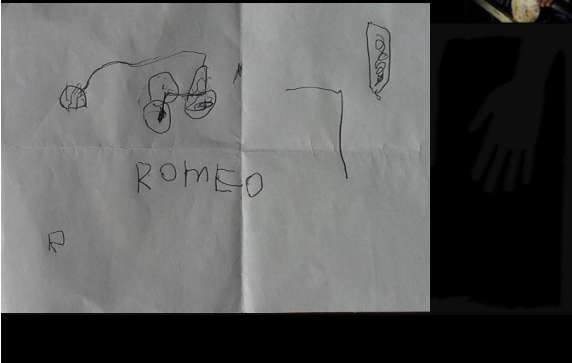
- Educational delays
- Repeated grades
- Preoccupation and/or tired
- Poor School Attendance
- Frequent change of schools

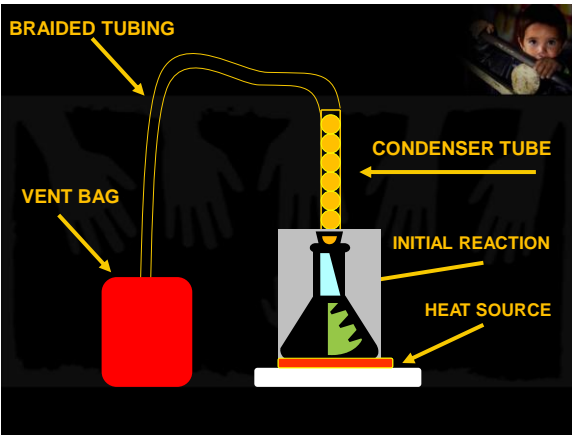
Collaborative Mindset

Collaborative Mindset

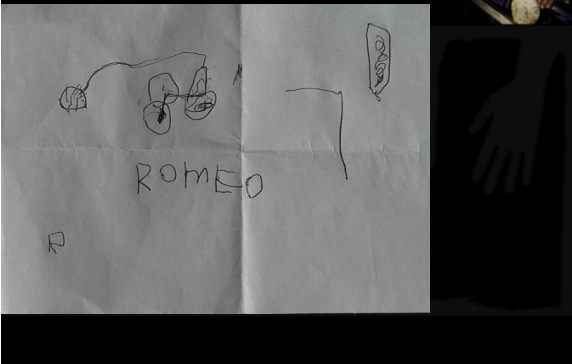
October 23, 2002: Meet Romeo...

The Meth Lab Picture





The Meth Lab Picture



Our Goal:
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children
100%

Thank You

www.nationaldec.org
