



Identifying Drug Endangered Children

2014 National DEC Conference

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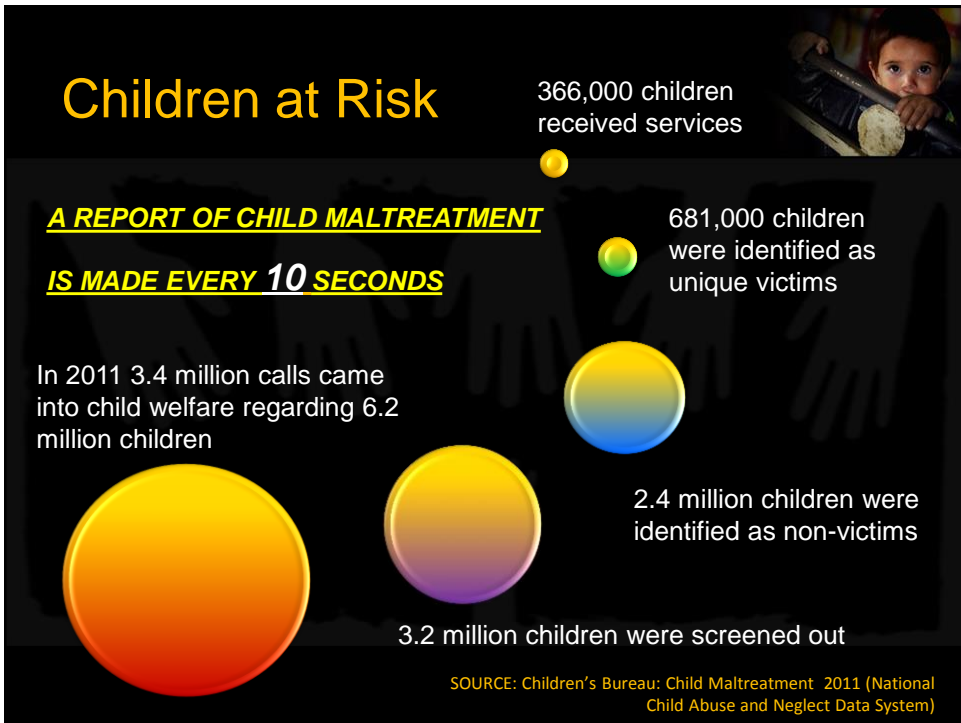
October 7th, 2014

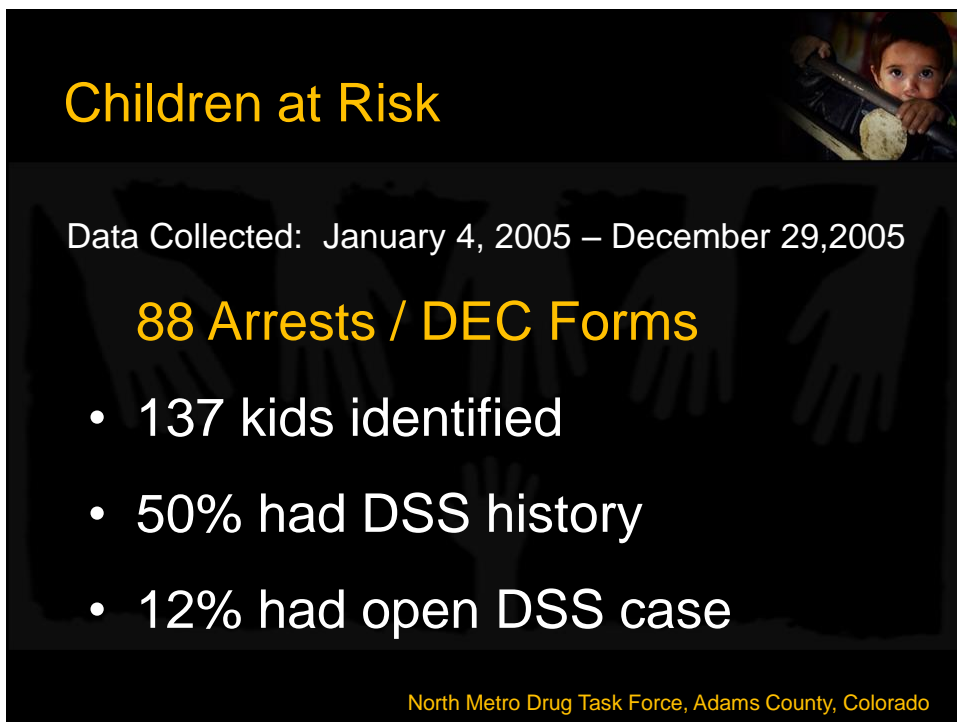


our Goal:

Healthy, Happy & Safe Children

100%





Defining Drug Endangered Children (DEC)



The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution.

They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.

Defining Drug Endangered Children (DEC)



Children + Drugs = Risk

Children at Risk



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

-Encarta Dictionary of North America

Children at Risk



- **All** drug endangered children are **at risk**
- **How much risk** and **risk for what** varies

Children at Risk



Children of parents with substance use disorders have a higher likelihood of developing substance use problems themselves.

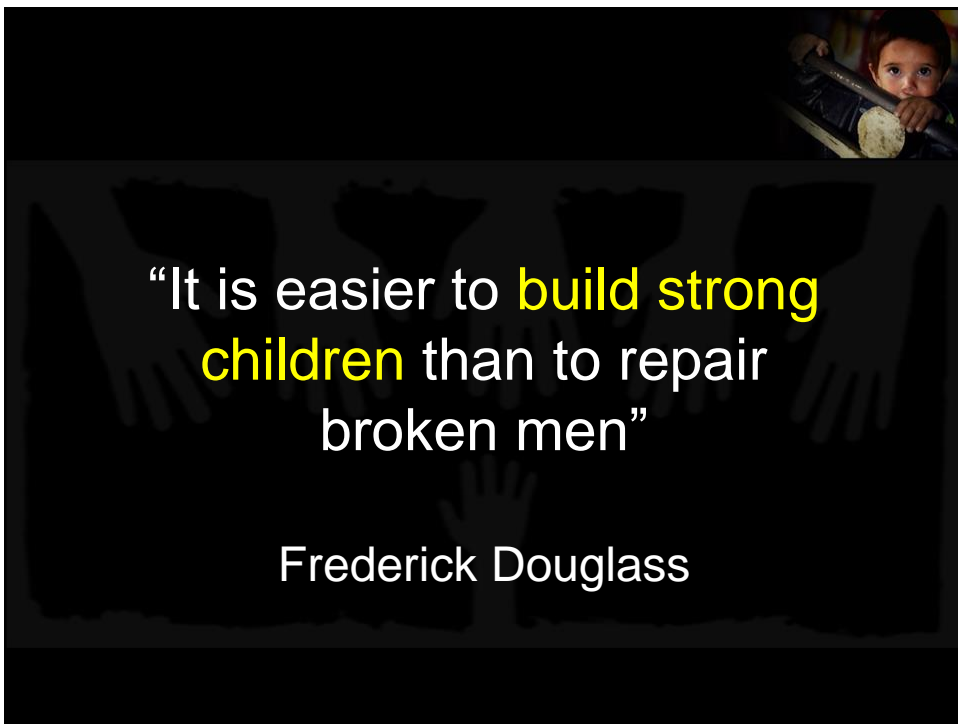
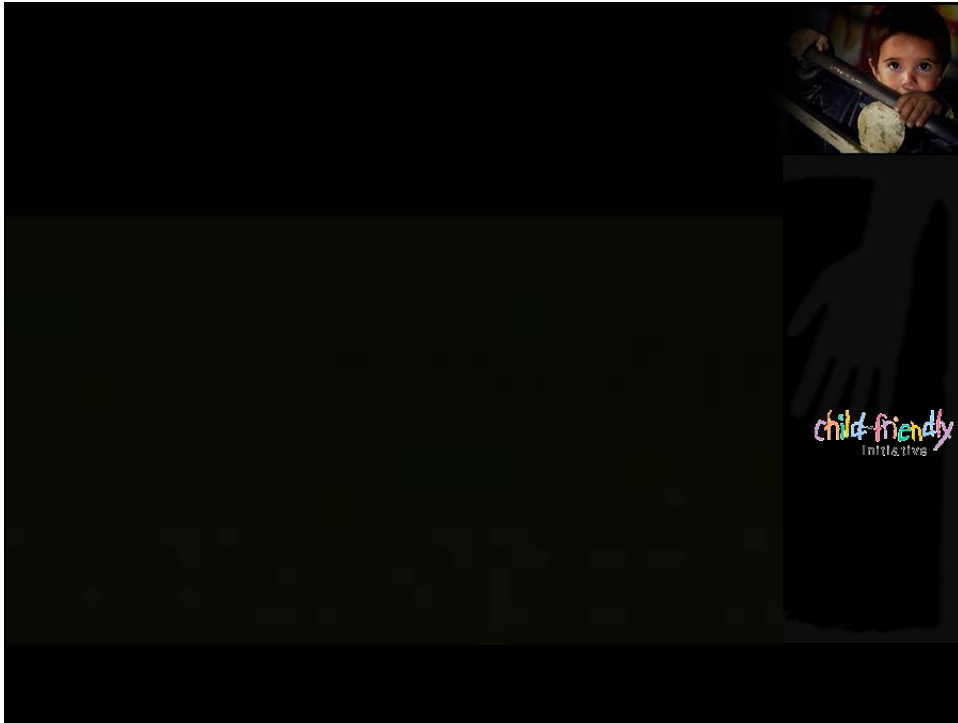
SOURCE: (CSAT 2005, Price & Simmel, 2002, Young, Gardner & Dennis, CSAT, 2004)

Children at Risk



- Children whose parents abuse alcohol or drugs are:
 - 3 times more likely to be verbally, physically or sexually abused
 - 4 times more likely than other children to be neglected

SOURCE: A Guide for Caring Adults Working with Young People Experiencing Addiction in the Family, CSAT, SAMHSA



Introduction to D.E.C.



DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN



**April 4, 2002:
Meet Brandon**

THORNTON LAB RAID
APRIL 4, 2002

**North Metro
Task Force Raid
Video**
**Adams County,
CO April 2002**

A young child with dark hair is looking over a metal railing, similar to the image in the top slide.

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 Use



Drug Recognition Experts:

7 Drug Categories

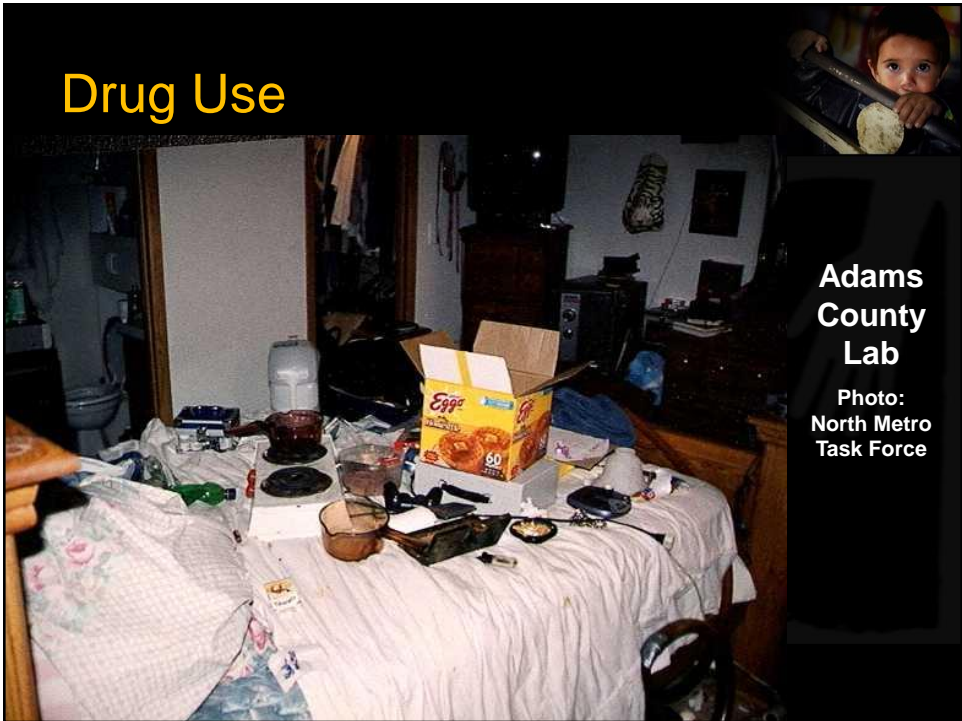
Drug Use

Seven Drug Categories

- (1) Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants
- (2) Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulants
- (3) Hallucinogens
- (4) Dissociative Anesthetics
- (5) Narcotic Analgesics
- (6) Inhalants
- (7) Cannabis



Drug Use



**Adams
County
Lab**

**Photo:
North Metro
Task Force**



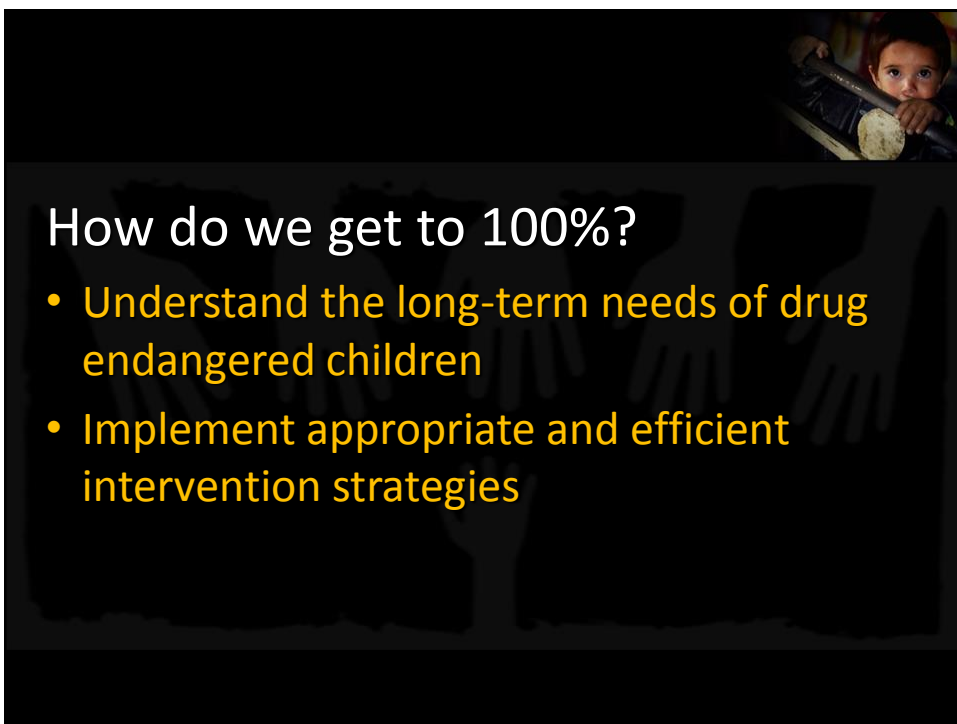
Evidence of Harm

- When do we take action to protect children?
- Do we consider illicit drug activity alone justification to intervene?
- Do we wait until additional maltreatment circumstances arise?
- What if we wait too long?

Neglect caused more child
fatalities than **Physical Abuse**



our Goal:
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children
100%



How do we get to 100%?

- Understand the long-term needs of drug endangered children
- Implement appropriate and efficient intervention strategies

Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC



- **Children growing up in drug environments:**
 - Emotional problems
 - Behavioral problems
 - Cognitive problems

Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC



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

Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC



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

Children at Risk



Children who experience child abuse & neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit violent crime.

SOURCE: childhelp.org

Children at Risk



- On daughter's 10th birthday, daughter told teacher and school resource officer about drugs in her house.
- SRO advised taskforce of the information
- Task force executed search warrant and discovered meth lab
- Father's first phone call from jail



Courtesy of Eric Nation, Jasper Sheriff's Office, IA.



Children at Risk



Dad: Are you there? Daughter: Ya

Dad: How does it feel to know you just sent your dad to prison for a long time? Daughter: Sorry

Dad: No you're not f@%-# sorry! You had no business saying this s*#@ to anybody! All you had to do is say something to me or grandma! What f@%-#** business did you have going running your f@%-#** mouth at school?**

Daughter: Sorry

Dad: No! No sorry my a! This is no sorry to it! Answer my question! Why did you go run your f@%-#** mouth at school?**

Daughter: I had no business

Dad: No! You didn't have no business! But, thanks to you, I will be spending a lot of time in prison! I'm done talking to you! Bye!

Children at Risk



- Daughter arrested years later for felony theft
- Daughter has been in and out of the criminal justice system on numerous occasions



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



By collaborating, we increase
the likelihood of success for
the good of children & families

Collaborative Mindset



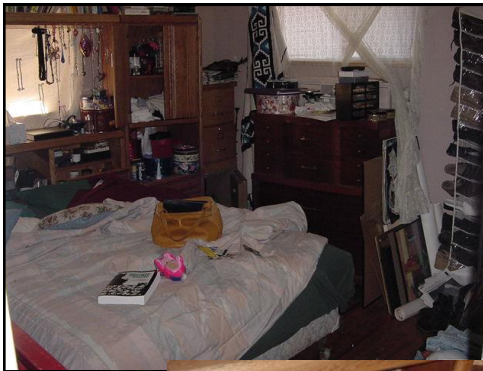
Break the cycle of abuse &
neglect for the next
generation



October 11, 2002: Meet Kayla, 4 year old girl who greets SWAT officers at the door of her home as it is raided.



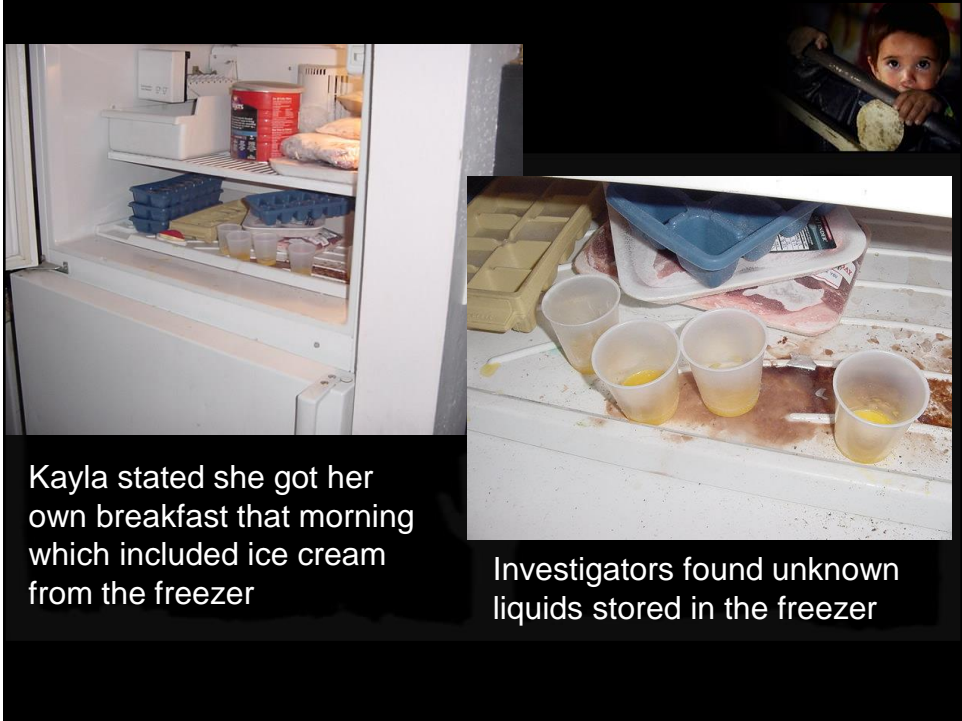
- The girl is completely calm as the SWAT team secures the house.



Kayla stated she slept with her grandmother.

Investigators found methamphetamine in the headboard of the bed.



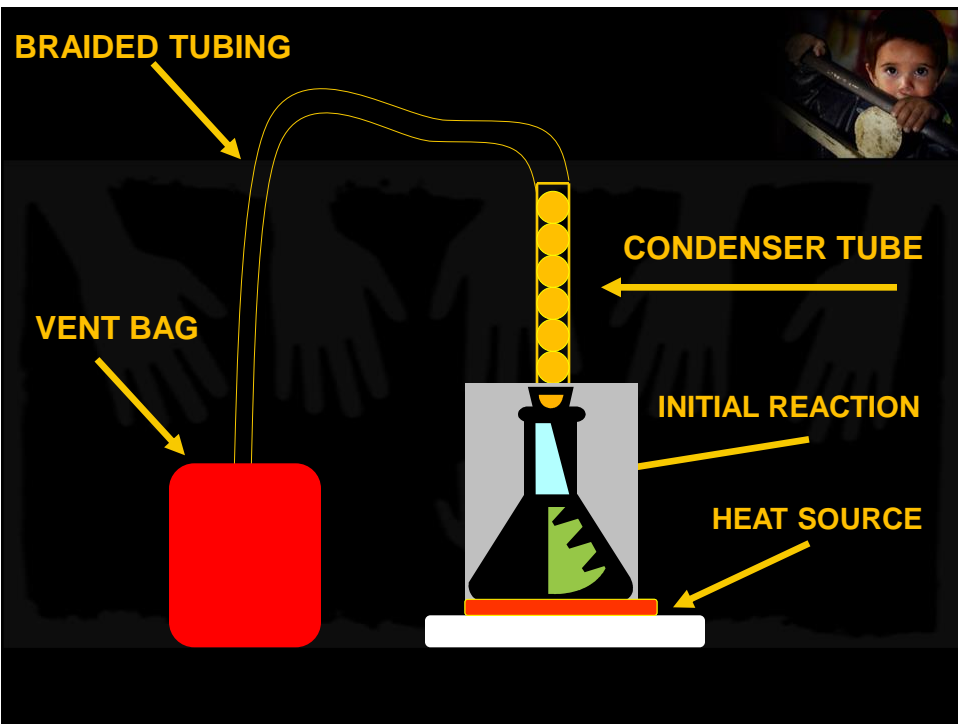
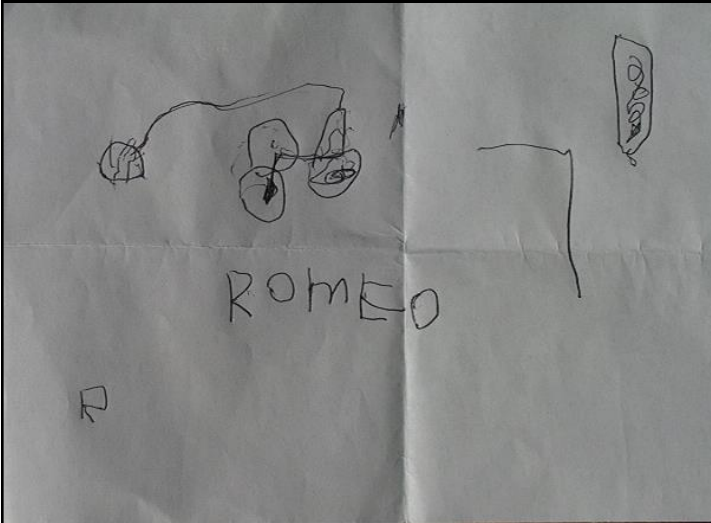


Kayla stated she got her own breakfast that morning which included ice cream from the freezer

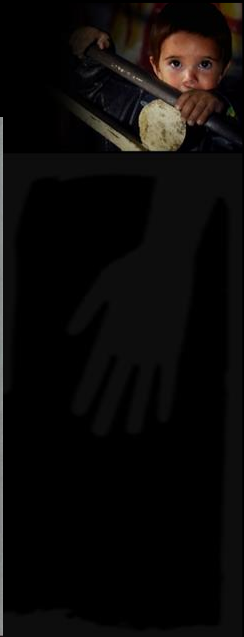
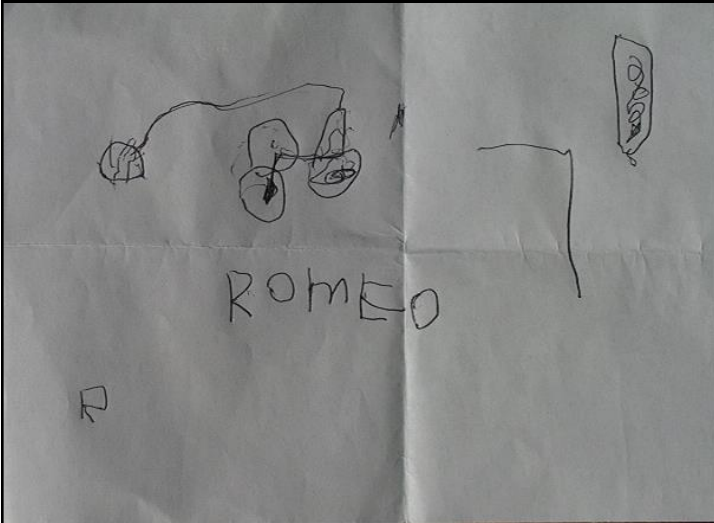
Investigators found unknown liquids stored in the freezer



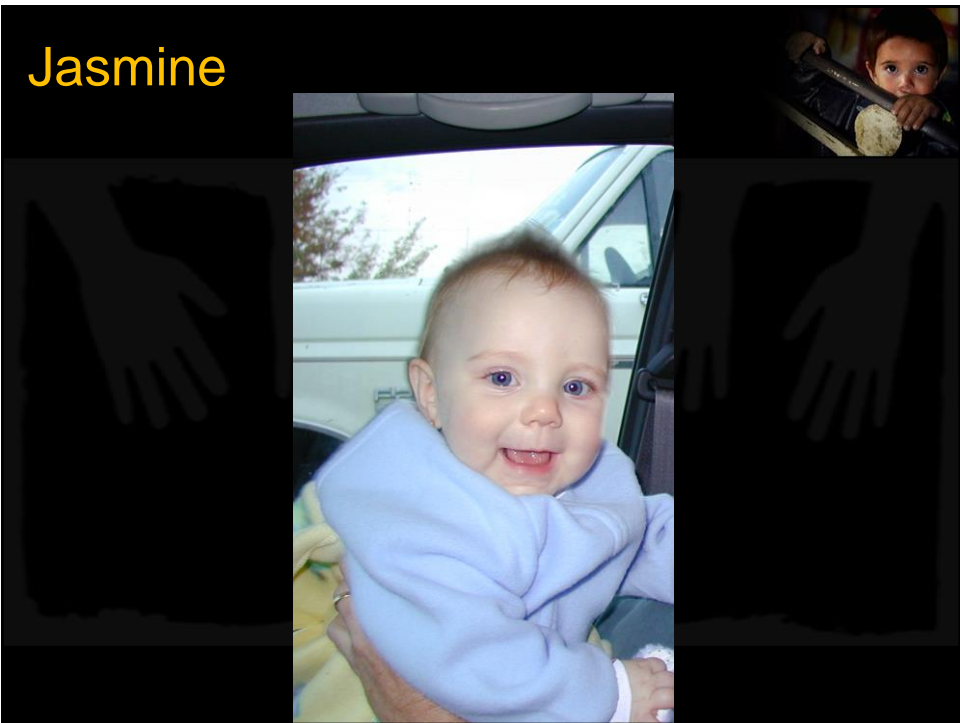
The Meth Lab Picture



The Meth Lab Picture



Jasmine



The Importance of Intervention



The Importance of Intervention

Moving children from

RISK to RESILIENCY



The Importance of Intervention

The earlier the intervention, the more efficient and effective the outcome

BUT ... research and clinical trends *also* support the potential for change throughout life

The Importance of Intervention

In other words...

It is never too early to intervene...

AND

It is never too late to intervene!

The Importance of Intervention



We ALL have an intervention and prevention role to play

Changing the Status Quo



Changing our attitudes and beliefs

Changing the Status Quo



- Candice Lightner, MADD Founder



- Sept 1980: MADD **incorporates**
- End of 1980: MADD **grows to 11** chapters
- 1982: MADD **grows to 100** chapters; **participates in drunk driving commission** at President Reagan's request
- 1983: **129 new anti-drunk driving laws** passed
- 1984: Uniform **drinking age raised to 21**; MADD **grows to 330** chapters in **47** states
- 2000: Congress makes **.08 BAC the national illegal limit** for impaired driving
- TODAY: **More than 300,000** lives saved and **more than 50,000** victims served

Changing the Status Quo



- John Walsh, Missing Children Advocate

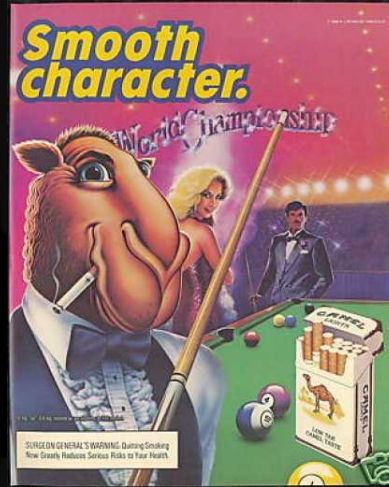
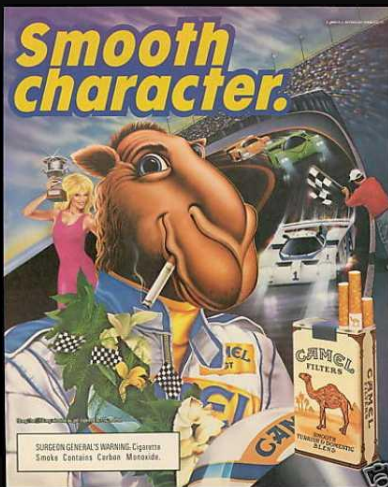
- 1981: **Adam Walsh Child Resource Center** founded
- 1982: **Missing Children Act** passed
- 1984: **Missing Children's Assistance Act** passed
- 1984: **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children** founded
- 2006: **Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act** passed
- TODAY: The **recovery rate** for missing children has gone from **62% to 96%**



Changing the Status Quo



Changing the Status Quo



Changing the Status Quo



Changing the Status Quo

- Common elements for change:
 - Recognition of an unacceptable situation
 - Shared vision for a desired outcome
 - Strong leadership
 - Guided activities of many
 - Never give up!





Arlo



Brothers



Brothers



Brothers

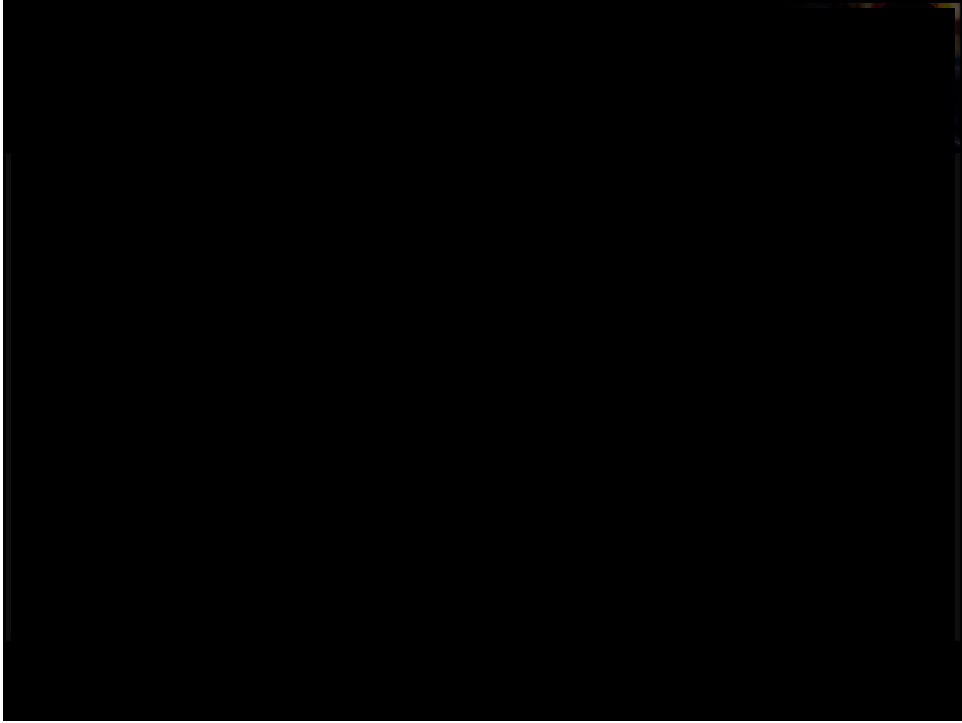


Brothers



Our Family





Our Family





Thank You



www.nationaldec.org