

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.



Drug Endangered Child Training Network

“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



Drug Endangered Child Training Network

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Protecting Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens

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 illegal drugs, or to dangerous environments where drugs are being manufactured or chemicals used to make drugs are accessible.

Medical and Social Dangers of a Drug Endangered Child Include:

- Inhalation and exposure to toxic fumes and chemicals.
- Presence of colorless, odorless gas.
- Ingestion of chemicals or contaminated food.
- Chaotic home life; poor supervision.
- Increased risk of future substance abuse.
- Increased risk of premature birth or low birth weight.
- Increased risk of developmental delays and disabilities.
- Increased risk of child abuse, sexual abuse and injury.



“...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.”

-A Law Enforcement Officer

Recognizing that a child’s needs are going unmet may save their life.



Request training or participate in DEC efforts near you.

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Goals of the DEC Training Network

- DEC teams will be formed and operating in each of the designated counties.
- Local medical personnel will identify, rescue, shelter and defend drug endangered children.
- 100% of children who are identified as meth-exposed receive evaluation and care according to the updated National Protocol.
- A database will contribute to your community’s ability to identify these children and provide state of the art evaluation and care.
- Community professionals will have access to the most current information related to diagnosis, evaluation, treatment and care of drug endangered children.



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