Identifying Drug Endangered Children (DEC) through Law Enforcement and Child Protective Services Perspectives

“A VITAL STRATEGY TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF DRUG ABUSE AND VIOLENCE”

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Drug Endangered Children

• Discussion points:
  • Nexus between drugs and crime
  • Drug homes-Breeding grounds for crime
  • Who are the victims of drug abuse
  • Predicting future deviant behavior
  • The cost of drug abuse on society
  • DEC strategy (address supply and demand)
  • Outcomes
  • Our challenges

Drug raids with children present are extremely dangerous
NEXUS BETWEEN CRIME & DRUGS
50% - 80% of Adult Male Arrestees Tested Positive for Illicit Drug Use

NEXUS - Drug offenders are involved in what types of other crimes
- More than 50% of violent crimes
- 60-80% of child abuse and neglect cases
- 50-70% of theft and property crimes
- 75% of drug dealing

NEXUS - Substance abuse/child abuse and neglect
- Substance abuse causes or exacerbates 1 out of 10 cases of child abuse and neglect
- Children whose parents use drugs and alcohol are:
  - 3x more likely to be abused
  - 4x more likely to be neglected
NEXUS - The link between child abuse and substance abuse

• Two thirds of the people in treatment for drug abuse reported being abused as a child.
  
  NIDA website, updated Jan 2008

NEXUS - IDENTITY THEFT & DRUGS

• Methamphetamine is the drug most commonly implicated in the drug-related identity theft complaints.

  National Drug Intelligence Center, May 2007, Intelligence Bulletin

What’s in a drug home?

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What's inside of a drug home?

- Drugs (accidental overdose of kids)
- Syringes
- Hazardous chemicals
- Danger of fire
- Danger of explosion
- Glass smoking pipes
- Accessible weapons
- Booby traps
- Toxic fumes
- Drug dealing

- Sex abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Domestic violence
- Lack of food, support, discipline, encouragement, guidance, grooming, and supervision

What else is inside of a drug house?

- Inappropriate sleeping conditions
- Lack of medical/dental treatment
- Pornographic material
- People under the influence
- Contaminated food, drinks, and house
- Children being provide drugs
- Children testing positive for drugs/chemicals

Caretakers that are substance abusers are a risk to themselves and their children

- Lack of supervision results in increased injury from falls, burns, lacerations, drowning
- DUIs increases serious risk for injury from MVA’s w/wo car seat/ seatbelt
- Fire
- Increases risk of injury in house
Caretaker substance abuse and neglect

- Poor hygiene and infectious skin conditions (scabies, impetigo)
- Lack and/or Immunization delay
- No insurance/ frequent Emergency Room use

Who are the victims in the war on drugs?

- Children?
- Families?
- Community?
Mom is arrested for drugs, child and elder abuse. 3 rescued

- DEC PARTNERSHIPS INCLUDE
- CPS
- APS
- PUBLIC HEALTH
- HOUSING AUTHORITY
- POLICE
- SCHOOLS
- PROBATION
- MEDICAL
- IN- HOME CARE
- DRUG COURT
- VICTIM/WITNESS

Who will rescue, defend, shelter and support him?
• PREDICTING FUTURE DEVIANT BEHAVIOR

The link between abuse as a child & future criminal behavior
• Children who experience child abuse and neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile
• 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult
• 30% more likely to commit violent crime


The future for a Drug endangered child without intervention could be
• VICTIM OF CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT
• HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT
• DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSER
• LIFE-LONG HEALTH PROBLEMS
• FINANCIAL DEPENDENCY
• UNEMPLOYABLE
• DRUG DEALER AND/OR GANG MEMBER
• FUTURE FELON (CRIMINAL)
• CHILD ABUSER/SEXUAL PREDATOR
Importance of High School Education

- A 10% increase in High School Graduation rates would reduce crime by 20% for murder, rape, and other violent crimes; by 11% for property crime; and by 12% for drug related offenses.
- Across this country 68% of inmates did not receive a High School Diploma.
- Dropouts are 3 ½ times more likely than graduates to be arrested, and 8 times more likely to be in jail or prison.

California Dropout Research Project, August 2007

The Costs to Society

- Every American family pays $1500 in taxes every year to cover the related costs to society.
- The total lifetime costs associated with caring for babies that were prematurely exposed to drugs or alcohol range from $750,000 to 1.4 million per baby.

DEA Demand Reduction website 2008

How Substance Abuse Ravages America and What to do About It

- Substance abuse has touched every family and circle of friends in America and causes and aggravates the nation’s most wrenching social problems-violent and property crimes, soaring health care costs, family breakup, domestic violence and child abuse, the spread of AIDS, teen pregnancy, poverty, low productivity.......
- Americans, comprising only 4% of the world’s population, consume 2/3s of the worlds illegal drugs...
Drugs and teenagers

- Teens who drink or use drugs are much more likely to have sex, initiate it at younger ages—as early as middle school—and have multiple partners, placing them at higher risk for sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs), AIDS and unplanned pregnancies,......

- "There is no safe haven for these abused and neglected children of drug- and alcohol-abusing parents. They are the most vulnerable and endangered individuals in America."

- Estimated Economic Cost to Society from Substance Abuse and Addiction:
  - Illegal drugs: $181 billion/year
  - Alcohol: $185 billion/year
  - Tobacco: $158 billion/year
  - Total: $524 billion/year

  Surgeon General’s Report, 2004; GAO/HR, 2004; Hanover, 2005
Drug Endangered Children (DEC)

“A community intervention strategy to break the cycle of drug abuse and violence”

What started as an effort to rescue, defend, shelter, and support the children has yielded additional benefits of strengthening parents, family, loved one’s, friends and community.

The DEC response: Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT)

In the beginning MDT were:

- Law Enforcement
- District Attorney
- Social Services/CPS
- Fire/Hazmat
- Code Enforcement
- Medical

DEC Team Concept

- Multi-disciplinary approach
- Spirit of cooperation
- Sharing of information
- Case coordination
**Multidisciplinary Team**

- Law Enforcement (narcotic/patrol officer)
- Child Protective Services
- Prosecution
- Fire Department
- Code Enforcement
- Medical
- Schools
- Substance Treatment
- Researchers
- Community Coalitions
- Probation
- Parole
- Daycare
- Mental Health
- Animal Control
- Indian Country

**Behavioral Health**

- Public Health
- Courts (drug, family & criminal)
- Meth Task Force
- Case Workers
- Children's Advocacy
- Law Makers
- Crime Prevention/Intervention
- Domestic Violence
- Child Abuse
- Elder Abuse
- Homeless Coalitions
- Job Training
- Employment Agencies
- Drug & Alcohol Programs
- Media

**What's more important drugs, guns, and money; or children, family & community?**

**DEC Outcomes**

- Physical and emotional protection of children and family
- Protection and rehab of the child’s health as well as the parents
- Establishment of a community strategy to break the cycle of drug abuse and violence (communications and a plan)
- Restoration of family (when possible)
- Holding parents accountable
- Building community
- Repair harm
- Reduction in crime (murder, assault, rape and property)
Drug Court Models Reduce Crime

- Crime was reduced by 30% over 5 years and effects on crime were still detectable an astounding 14 years from the time of arrest.
- Four independent meta-analyses have now concluded the drug courts significantly reduce crime rates.

National Drug Court Institute, May 2008

OUR CHALLENGE

- “Stopping child abuse & neglect before children are hurt is not only the right thing to do, it is also the fiscally sound thing to do.”
- Protect kids, reduce crime, save money

Fight Crime: Invest In Kids

DO YOUR PART FOR OUR DRUG ENDANGERED COMMUNITY

- QUESTIONS?