

Mission Statement

DEC-TAC is committed to providing the most current evidence-based training, technical assistance, and resources available for investigation of drug related child abuse cases. Our training is available to first responders who will identify and rescue children from dangerous drug environments by providing children with the services, resources and medical care they need to ensure their well-being.

DEC-TAC Services

The Drug Endangered Children Training and Advocacy Center was created to provide the necessary training and tools to meet the mandates of state law, Peace Officers Standard and Training (POST) and the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). DEC-TAC provides the following free services to first responders:

- ◆ POST Certified 8 hour Intro to DEC Investigation Training
- ◆ 15 DEC elective classes including Indian Country
- ◆ In-field training on case by case basis
- ◆ On-site team building
- ◆ Website with resources
- ◆ Expert DEC witness
- ◆ Telephone/technical consultation
- ◆ Established training center

All DEC-TAC instructors/specialists have years of DEC experience which includes line staff through executive management from law enforcement, children services, fire, prosecutors, medical and dental, animal control, code enforcement, education, drug treatment and Indian Country.

Drug Endangered Children Training and Advocacy Center

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Counseling
Solutions, Inc.

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In Pursuit of Law Enforcement Action
for Drug Endangered Children



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The Problem

Law enforcement has been unsuccessful in recognizing the risks to children living in dangerous drug environments as potential victims of child abuse and neglect. The lack of training and action on the part of law enforcement has led to missed opportunities for intervention thereby the cycle of child abuse, neglect, substance abuse, violence and other associated crime continues.

Substance abuse is the biggest predictor of criminal behavior today. 49-87% of arrestees tested positive for at least one illicit drug at time of booking. 1 in 10 children lives with at least one parent who has had a substance abuse problem within the past year. 7 out of 10 cases of child abuse and neglect are exacerbated by a substance abuser. Child welfare services report that most of their caseload is parental substance abuse related. The children of the substance abusers are 3 times more likely to be abused and 4 times more likely to be neglected.

The Solution

With law enforcement as the usual first responder, they shall play a greater role in intervention, prevention and treatment by identifying children as early as possible who are living in dangerous drug environments and providing them the services they so desperately need. This can be accomplished by establishing multi-disciplinary teams (DEC teams which are a community strategy to break the cycle of drug abuse, child abuse and violence) of professionals and community members who are cross trained in these disciplines.

Faces of a DEC Team



Law Enforcement

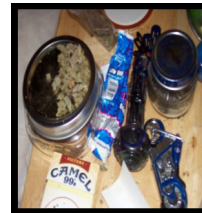
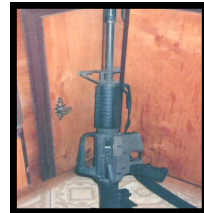


CPS/CWS



Prosecution

Endangerment Issues



Drug Identification



Prescription Drug Identification



Oxycodone



Vicodin

DEC Risk Factors:

- Children's access to contraband
- Evidence of abuse, neglect and maltreatment of children
- Child's appearance (e.g., poor overall hygiene, including dental; inappropriate or insufficient clothing; etc.)
- Drugs and/or drug paraphernalia
- Weapons (e.g., guns, knives, etc.)
- Pornography/sex paraphernalia
- Chemicals/strong odors
- Raw sewage
- Food availability or lack thereof in refrigerator and cupboards
- Code Enforcement violations
- Evidence of domestic violence or other violence
- Illegal diversion of utilities
- Sleeping conditions/arrangements
- Fire hazards
- Pest and animal hazards (e.g., rodent, roaches, human or animal feces)
- Poor home conditions:
 - Building code violations
 - Exposed wiring
 - Broken windows
 - Holes in flooring or wall
 - Functional utilities (water, gas, air)
 - Presence of mold
 - Inoperable smoke detectors
- Evidence, or lack thereof, of school attendance
- Evidence of gang lifestyle
- Dangerous animals/reptiles