



What Does DEC do for Law Enforcement and the Community?

- Saves children's lives and reduces their risk of becoming substance abusers, child and domestic violence abusers, dropouts, future felons and financial dependency on the welfare system.
- Provides early intervention/prevention to break the cycle of substance abuse and violence.
- Under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), children have access to funding to help them recover (CA \$70,000, NV \$35,000, WA \$150,000).
- Gives CSD the tools/leverage they need to hold the family accountable, and care for the health and well-being of a child.
- Children in DEC cases when properly interviewed make great witnesses.
- Holds parents (caregivers) more accountable to the criminal justice system by adding an additional charge of child endangerment.
- Any drug case that contains a child endangerment charge is generally not eligible for a diversion program.
- Increases plea bargains (less time in court).
- Increases conviction rate and/or opportunities for appropriate referral of services.
- Connects law enforcement to a host of other agencies and disciplines (CSD, DA, medical, Probation, schools, crime prevention, courts and even treatment providers) to help reduce crime.
- Makes law enforcement agencies more balanced in dealing with the supply and demand side of drug enforcement. DEC is about reducing demand (future behavior) while dealing with today's supply issue (drug dealing).
- DEC expands funding sources available for drug enforcement.