

# DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

## DANGERS & MEDICAL EFFECTS



H

### HEALTH HAZARDS

- ▶ The home environment is often filthy with rotten food, garbage, animal feces, soiled laundry and diapers, sewage, insect and rodent infestations. Many homes are condemned.

E

### EXPLOSION

- ▶ 30% of clandestine meth labs are identified because of an explosion/house fire. 50% of meth cookers are parents. Adults disconnect the smoke detectors because of false alarms when cooking meth.

L

### LOCATION

- ▶ Link the location of toxic chemicals, concentrated meth, and contaminated syringes/paraphernalia to the location where children live and play (bedroom, bathroom, play area, cooking surfaces, backyard).

P

### POISONS

- ▶ Flammable solvents, caustic acids and lye, iodine, phosphorus, often in very large quantities.

Me

### METHAMPHETAMINE

#### ▶ SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

Agitation, tremor, paranoia, seizure, stroke, high heart rate and blood pressure, abnormal heart rhythm, heart attack, extremely high fever.

#### ▶ LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Profound depression, paranoia, insomnia, weight loss, uncontrolled movement disorders, similar to Parkinson's disease.

#### ▶ AFTER SOBER > 6 MONTHS

Profound depression, paranoia, insomnia, uncontrolled movement disorder. Brain damage seen on PET scan, extreme reduction in dopamine metabolism, similar to Parkinson's disease.

- 30-80% of DEC victims are urine tox positive for meth when taken into foster care.
- New OSHA research on meth labs shows adult toxic levels of meth on all horizontal surfaces in the entire house and lethal adult levels of phosphine gas around the cook area during the cooking phase.
- Because of their differences in physiology and child-specific behaviors, children become poisoned at lower toxin exposure levels than adults.

Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.



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