

Fast Facts-The Impact of Drugs on a Community

- Americans comprise only **4%** of the world's population but consume **2/3s** of the world's illegal drugs.¹
- **50-80 %** of all child abuse and neglect cases substantiated by CPS involved some degree of substance abuse by the child's parent.²
- Almost **1 in 8** children in the U.S. live with at least one parent who was dependent on or abused alcohol or an illicit drug during the past year.³
- Substance abuse causes or exacerbates **7 out of 10 cases** of child abuse and neglect.⁴
- Children whose parents use drugs and/or alcohol are 3 times more likely to be abused and 4 times more likely to be neglected.⁵
- Children who experience child abuse and/or neglect are **59%** more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, **28%** more likely to be arrested as an adult, and **30%** more likely to commit violent crime.⁶
- We found a strong graded relationship between the breadth of exposure to abuse or household dysfunction during childhood and multiple risk factors for several of the leading causes of death in adults.⁷
- Most crime is drug related, **62-87%** of male arrestees (for all crime categories) test positive for drugs at time of booking..... Marijuana remained the drug most often detected.⁸
- More children die as a result of child neglect each year (**34.1% due to neglect alone**) than any other maltreatment cause (physical, sexual, emotional).⁹
- Between the year 2005 and 2020, **22,500** children will die from abuse and neglect.¹⁰
- The total lifetime costs associated with caring for babies that were prematurely exposed to drugs/alcohol range from **\$750,000 to 1.4 million** per baby.¹¹
- Child maltreatment and domestic violence occur in up to **60%** of the families in which either is present.¹²
- Gangs are responsible for an average of **48%** of violent crime in most jurisdictions and 90% in California.....Local neighborhood based gangs and **drug crews** continue to pose the most significant criminal threat in most communities.¹³
- Precipitating factors leading to sexual exploitation of minors include: child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, incest, psychological and emotional trauma, peer influence (family), physical/learning disabled (premature drug babies), drugs and alcohol in the home.¹⁴
- Victims of child abuse and neglect are eligible for compensation under Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) for up to **\$70,000** in California.¹⁵
- The criminal justice system was the largest single source of referrals to substance abuse treatment, accounting for **37% of all admissions**.¹⁶
- Family members who have substance use disorders **undermine family stability and negatively affect child safety, well-being and psychological and emotional development**.¹⁷
- "Law enforcement can and should play a greater role in prevention and treatment""Likewise, an increased focus on identifying, at the initial point of law enforcement intervention, **drug endangered children** and providing them the services they require is another example of how law enforcement, as the usual first responder to drug problems, can play a critical role in breaking the cycle of addiction from one generation to the next."¹⁸

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