

What is a drug endangered child?

Any child born or unborn, under the age of 18 at risk of neglect or abuse due to: a caregiver's use, distribution or manufacturing of any controlled substance; or the caregiver's failure to prevent or protect the child from exposure to the use, distribution or manufacture of any controlled substance. Harm can include: physical abuse; sexual abuse; medical neglect; lack of basic care including failure to provide meals, sanitary and safe living conditions, schooling; and injury from explosion, fire or exposure to toxic chemicals found at clandestine lab sites.

How you can help

Children found in drug endangered environments are at greater risk for physical, emotional and developmental harm. These children may experience severe neglect, physical or sexual abuse, may suffer from respiratory conditions and may be malnourished and experience developmental delays. A drug endangered children (DEC) program will help rescue, defend, shelter and support at-risk children in your community from these devastating effects.

Warning signs of drug endangered children

There are common characteristics and situations regarding abuse and/or neglect of a drug endangered child. Know the signs.

Neglect

- Lack of supervision
- Appear dirty or smell unclean
- Wear inappropriate clothes with respect to size, season, weather, etc.
- Appear hungry or hoard food
- Desire to stay at school or friend's house to avoid going home
- Siblings acting as 'parents'

Exposure to Chemicals

- Watery eyes and complaints of a burning sensation, blurred vision or hallucinations
- Irritated or red skin
- Burns on the skin
- Cold-like symptoms that continue to persist
- Complaints of chest and/or stomach pain
- Nausea or vomiting, diarrhea and/or headaches

Physical Abuse

- Unexplained injuries, bruises, burns, open wounds, lacerations, welts, black eyes, bite marks, physical signs of being restrained or broken bones
- Unexplained fears

Sexual Abuse

- Unexplained bleeding, wounds, discharge, bruising or pain in genital area
- Pains during urination
- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Fear of being touched
- Demonstrates self-destructive or regressive behaviors
- Tests positive for a sexually transmitted disease or pregnancy
- Wets or soils him/herself

Mental/Emotional Damage

- Constantly afraid
- Withdraws from situations that once were enjoyable
- Demonstrates low self-esteem, timid/passive or pushy/hostile behavior
- Unusually upset, anxious, nervous around certain people
- Makes excuses as to why he or she cannot leave home or return home
- Demonstrates depression or talks about suicide
- Sudden changes in behavior or mood

Drug Endangered Environments

Drug Endangered Environments are those places where drugs are used, sold, or manufactured.

- Strong chemical smells or unusual odors
- Unusual activities at all times of the day/night

- Paranoid, unusual or secretive behaviors by residents
- Unusual trash, such as large amounts of containers of automotive fuel additives, camping fuel, starter fluid, drain cleaners or red-stained coffee filters
- Unreported fires
- Blackened-out or covered windows
- Placement of garbage in another neighbor's collection area
- Resident makes excuses as to why one cannot enter the home

What you should do if you suspect a child is in a drug endangered situation

- Do not approach the home
- Notify your local law enforcement or Crime Stoppers/tip line
- Report to the statewide tip line at 1-800-NAB-DRUG (1-800-622-3784)
- Call your local child protective services agency/tip line

If you suspect immediate danger, call

911



Supporting Agencies

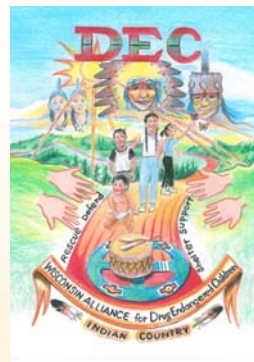
The Wisconsin Alliance for Drug Endangered Children is composed of federal, state and local agencies and organizations concerned about Wisconsin drug endangered children



Wisconsin Drug Endangered Children Program



Angels Among Us



DEC in Indian Country

Wisconsin Drug Endangered Children Program



Community awareness helps keep children safe and free from dangerous drug environments



WISCONSIN ALLIANCE FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

Remove. Defend. Shelter. Support.

www.WisconsinDEC.org

Helpful Links

Wisconsin Alliance for Drug Endangered Children:
www.wisconsindec.org

Wisconsin Department of Children & Families:
www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/, (608) 267-3905

Wisconsin Department of Justice:
www.doj.state.wi.us, (608) 266-1221

Wisconsin Office of Crime/Victim Services:
www.doj.state.wi.us/cvs/, (608) 266-1221

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children:
www.nationaldec.org, (303) 413-3064

Office of National Drug Control Policy:
www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/dr_endangered_child.html,
(800) 666-3332

211: Identifies local community resources.
www.211.org, Dial 2-1-1

Several Wisconsin counties have already initiated DEC programs and can serve as models to other counties and communities. For more information on starting a Drug Endangered Children program in your own community, please contact:

DEC Statewide Coordinator
Cindy Giese, Special Agent in Charge
gieseck@doj.state.wi.us
(715) 839-3834

DEC Federal Program Coordinator
Andrea LeStarge
andrea.lestarge@usdoj.gov
(608) 250-5449

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If you suspect or know of a drug endangered child, please contact your local law enforcement agency. If you suspect immediate danger call 911.