



Our Mission

Increase training and ongoing educational opportunities regarding issues faced by drug endangered children and their families



Supporting Agencies

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



DEC Approach:

No single entity can effectively or efficiently address the Drug Endangered children dilemma.

Our goal is to collaboratively combine the expertise and resources of multiple professionals, agencies and communities to improve interventions for children and their families.

- By collaborating, we increase the likelihood of success for the good of children and families.
- By collaborating, it will make you or your organization a part of the larger solution.
- By collaborating, you will be connected to other professionals working on the same challenges.
- By collaborating, it will help you advocate more effectively on behalf of children and families in the state of Tennessee

This project was supported by Grant #2018-YB-FX-K006 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.



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The Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

Still Think
Drugs
Don't **Hurt**
Anyone
but Yourself?



TADEC

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; 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.

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

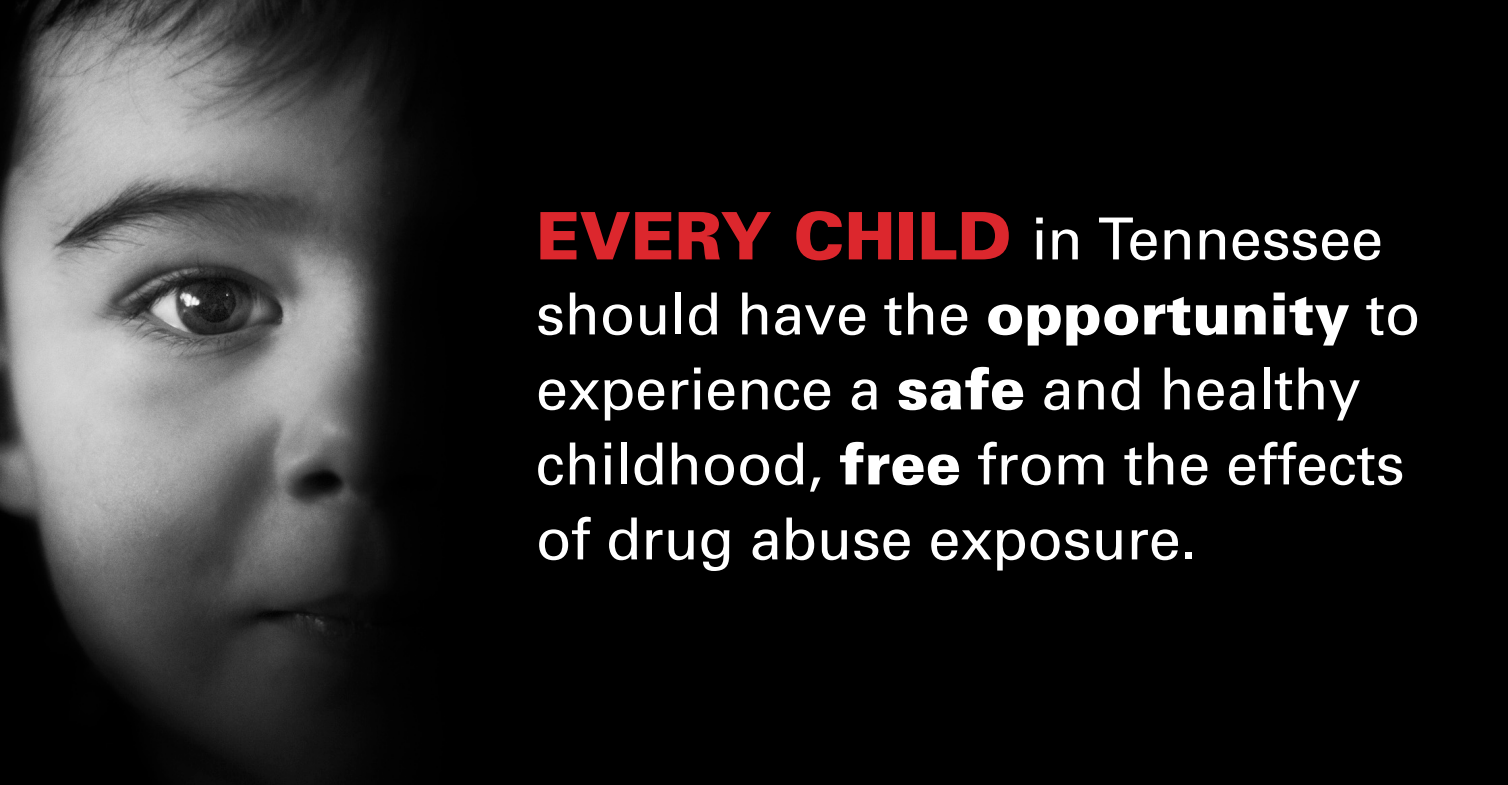
These are common characteristics and situations regarding abuse and/or neglect of a drug endangered child. Know the signs.

Exposure to chemicals.

- Watery eyes and complains of a burning sensation, blurred vision or hallucinations.
- Irritated or red skin.
- Burns on 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, lacerations, welts, blackouts, bite marks, physical signs of being restrained or broken bones.
- Unexplained fears.

Neglect

- Lack of supervision
- Appear dirty or smell unclean
- Wear inappropriate clothes with respect to size, season, weather, etc
- Appear hungry or hoarding food



EVERY CHILD in Tennessee should have the **opportunity** to experience a **safe** and healthy childhood, **free** from the effects of drug abuse exposure.

- Desire to stay at school or friends house to avoid going home
- Siblings acting as parents

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 aggressive behaviors.
- Test positive for sexually-transmitted disease or pregnancy.
- Wets or soils him/herself

Mental/emotional damage.

- Constantly afraid.
- Withdraws from situations that were once 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 at residence.
- 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.
- Blacked out or covered windows.
- Placement of garbage in neighbors collection area
- Makes excuses why one cannot enter home.

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

- Do not approach the home.
- Notify your local law-enforcement or crimestoppers/tip line.
- Report to the CPS Hotline at 877-237-0004
- Report to the TADEC Hotline at 877-866-6384

If you suspect immediate danger call 911