



KANSAS ALLIANCE
FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.



DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN (DEC) TOOLKIT

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (DEC) exists to help make a difference in the lives of children who are being impacted by their caregiver's substance misuse or addiction by bringing professionals and communities together to address the issue in unprecedented ways.

Since 2003, National DEC has provided training and technical assistance to thousands of professionals to better recognize the risks faced by drug endangered children and develop effective responses. This toolkit will provide an overview of DEC National, Kansas DEC and outline steps on creating a chapter in your community.

National DEC defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation or distribution. They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment. The primary challenge with drug endangered children is in identifying children at risk and coordinating the various systems and disciplines charged with intervening and providing services to these children and families.

To address the challenges of these cases and the needs of drug endangered children, National DEC has developed the DEC Approach:

1 in 8

children live in households with at least one parent who has an alcohol use disorder.

1 in 10

children live in households with at least one parent who has a substance use disorder.

1 in 35

children live in households with at least one parent who has an illicit drug use disorder.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STRATEGY TO CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY OF A DRUG ENDANGERED CHILD'S LIFE

recognition
of a common
vision

ongoing
change
in practices
and policies

ongoing
collaboration
between
disciplines

This multidisciplinary strategy increases the likelihood of better outcomes for drug endangered children. This approach trains practitioners to form community-based partnerships across multiple disciplines and to effectively collaborate with their mutual interests, resources and responsibilities.

State, Tribal, Local DEC Alliances and National DEC provides program assistance to communities across the nation. Our DEC alliances around the country are the cornerstone of the national drug endangered children efforts and we are committed to building and sustaining national network. National DEC provides leadership, strategic planning, training and technical assistance to alliances.

PHASE 1

Awareness About Drug Endangered Children

The first key component of helping drug endangered children is establishing a clear understanding of the risks children face when their caregivers are engaged in drug activity or substance use. This knowledge highlights the need for collaborative efforts to help these children and their families and motivates practitioners to look at how they can do their jobs more effectively to provide better outcomes for drug endangered children, families, and communities.

PHASE 2

Implementation Of A Collaborative Approach To Helping Drug Endangered Children

The second stage is taking action. This will be done by sharing a common vision, ongoing collaboration, and ongoing change. Having a common vision will help practitioners and community members be on the same page sharing common goals. Ongoing collaboration allows practitioners to continue asking themselves who is missing from the DEC Alliance, allows for sharing information and making each discipline stronger; and ongoing change will assist in making responsive changes to how practitioners do their jobs. National DEC has developed training curricula and other resources to help implement changes and put true collaboration into practice.

PHASE 3

Institutionalization

The third stage in creating a DEC alliance is institutionalizing efforts and the alliance. Institutionalizing efforts for as well as a platform for when new issues or concerns arise. To help practitioners institutionalize collaborative relationships, the third section of this publication focuses on the steps practitioners can take to formalize local DEC alliances.

A core belief of DEC is that all professionals who have the opportunity to identify children suffering from neglect and abuse should be trained to work collaboratively.

WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

FAMILIES

JUDICIAL STAFF

SERVICE PROVIDERS

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

TREATMENT PROVIDERS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF

MEDICAL PERSONNEL

LAW ENFORCEMENT

CASA/GAL'S

CHILD WELFARE

FIRST RESPONDERS

PREVENTION WORKERS

FAITH-BASED AGENCIES

PROBATION/PAROLE OFFICERS

DEC IN KANSAS

The Kansas Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Alliance aims to make a difference in the lives of children who are living in dangerous drug environments by developing multidisciplinary teams to address the issues for these children. These teams formalize efforts on how to identify drug endangered children earlier, respond to the needs of the children, and provide services for them to heal.

DEC Alliances strives to:



Children whose parents use alcohol or drugs are

3 times

more likely to be physically, sexually, and emotionally abused; and they are also

4 times

more likely to be neglected.

27.48%

of Kansas youth reported that a member of their family has ever had a severe alcohol or drug problem.

There were **73,407** Child Protective Services Intake reports to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in Kansas from July 2018 - July 2019. 45,801 of which were assigned for investigation. The rates of presenting situations for these assigned cases are as follows:

8382

reports assigned due to caregiver substance use

1832

reports assigned due to child substance use

1237

reports assigned due to infant positive for substances

For more information about Kansas DEC Alliance please contact:
KSAll4DEKids@gmail.com

For more information about starting a DEC chapter in your community, about Kansas DEC, or information on how to become part of this initiative, please contact Mike Parsons at: **mparsons@dcca.org**



To find the toolkits and other prevention resources visit:
<http://www.kansaspreventioncollaborative.org>
<http://www.dcca.org/prevention-resources>