

EFFECTS ON CHILDREN LIVING IN A HOME WHERE SUBSTANCES ARE ABUSED

Risks to children may include:

- Accidental ingestion of drugs
- Exposure to paraphernalia (including needles)
- Presence of loaded weapons in the home and other dangerous items
- Physical and sexual abuse
- Exposure to high risk populations (sexual abusers, violent drug users)
- Neglect including poor nutrition and poor living conditions
- Exposure to second-hand smoke (meth, crack, marijuana, tobacco)
- Lack of medical care, dental care, immunizations



If a pregnant woman uses substances, the baby may experience:

- Low birth weight
- Premature birth
- Inconsolability
- Central nervous system effects
- Poor growth and lack of weight gain
- Mental retardation
- Developmental delays
- Hyperactivity
- Speech/language dysfunction
- Behavior problems
- Need for special medical care

In cases where an intervention is done and the child receives appropriate services, the child may not experience any significant long-term effects.

Sources: Dr. Rizwan Shah, Iowa Child Protection Council; Dr. Ira Chasnoff, Children's Research Triangle

Children whose parents abuse substances may experience:

- Depression, anxiety
- Poor organization
- Inability to concentrate and complete tasks
- Delayed speech/ language skills
- Attention problems
- Aggressive behavior
- Impulsive behavior
- Social problems
- Sensitivity to stimuli
- Hyperactivity
- Lack of boundaries

Children whose parents abuse substances are:

- 2.7 times more likely to be physically abused
- 4.2 times more likely to be neglected
- Significantly more likely to be abused by others
- 66% of trauma-related deaths of children under 5 occurs at the hands of parents under the influence of alcohol and other drugs

Source: Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 2007

Did you know?

- It is estimated that **4,599** Kansas children are born exposed to substances every year (Ira Chasnoff, M.D., Children's Research Triangle) at a cost of \$6.5 billion to society.
- It is estimated that **62,680** Kansas children live in environments where alcohol and other drugs are abused (Office of Applied Studies, 2003; 2007 Census)



For more information, to schedule a presentation or to become involved in Drug Endangered Children efforts, contact Loretta Severin at (785) 296-4437 or lseverin@sai-dc.com.

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