

## Health Implications of Drug Endangered Children

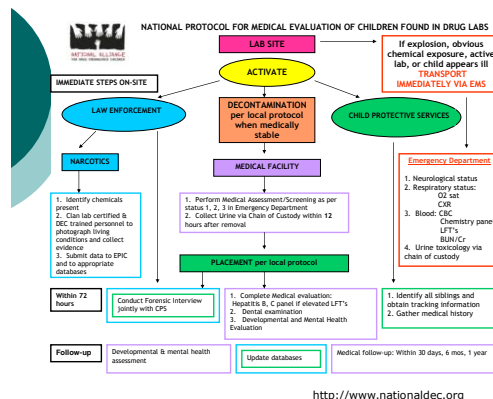
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## Objectives

- Identify the risks to children from drug exposure.
- Verbalize understanding of the Level 2 Protocol for drug endangerment.
- Understand the cause to mother/fetus and baby of various forms of drug abuse.

## WHAT CONSTITUTES BEING A DRUG ENDANGERED CHILD?

- Parents that are making, cooking or selling drugs from their homes.
- Parents that are using illegal drugs around their children.
- Parents that neglect their children and leave dangerous items within the reach of a child due to the drugs.
- Parents that neglect/abuse their children while abusing prescription medications.



## UTAH'S LEVEL 2 PROTOCOL For Children Found in Drug Exposed Settings

- Medical Triage and Assessment
- Medical Evaluation
- Medical Follow-up



## Medical Triage and Assessment

- If acutely ill or injured, recommend immediate medical evaluation. (EMS/Emergency Department)
- Comprehensive physical examination within 5 days.
- Lab testing based on scene exposure. (UA within 12 hours)
- Developmental screening with referral for a full evaluation as needed.

## Comprehensive Medical Examination

- Head to toe exam
- Based on scene information lab tests may include: CBC, lead screen, Chemistry, STD testing , Hepatitis, HIV
- Use of Chain of Evidence protocols is imperative for blood, cultures or hair.

## Medical Follow-up

- Repeat medical evaluation in 30 days, 6 months and 1 year. **Connect with a consistent medical provider.**
- Follow up developmental evaluations as needed based on the initial screening and/or evaluation.
- Follow up mental health interventions and assessments as needed.
- Any specialty referrals as indicated (sex abuse, ENT, cardiac, dermatology, etc.)

## Effects of Alcohol Abuse

"Alcohol causes more damage to the developing brain of a baby than any other illegal substance." ATODResource

### Mother:

Depression  
Poor Nutrition  
Low Self-esteem  
STD, HIV/AIDS  
Infections  
Poor Decision Making

### Fetus and Baby:

Heart Defects  
Facial Changes  
Low Birth Weight  
Learning and Behavior Problems  
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

## Effects of Tobacco Abuse

### Mother

Addiction/dependence  
Nicotine withdrawal (headache, nervousness, poor concentration, irritability)  
Miscarriage  
Blood Clots  
Cancer  
Asthma

### Baby

Low birth weight  
SIDS  
Aggravates Asthma and other lung conditions

## Effects of Marijuana Abuse:

### Mother:

Asthma/other lung conditions  
Cancer lung/throat  
Fertility issues

### Baby:

Aggravates Asthma/lung problems from second hand smoke

## Effects of Cocaine Abuse:

### Mother:

High Blood Pressure  
Heart Attack/Stroke  
Placental Abruption  
Premature Delivery  
Irregular Heart Beat  
Poor Decision Making

### Fetus or Baby:

Pre-maturity  
Heart Attack and Stroke  
Long term effect on learning  
Abuse  
Neglect

Amotivational Syndrome (apathy, poor short term memory, difficulty concentrating, disinterest in goals)

## Effects of Methamphetamine Abuse

### Mother:

Addiction/dependence  
 Depression  
 Poor nutrition  
 Dental Problems  
 Poor decision making  
 Sleep Problems

### Fetus and Baby:

Low Birth Weight  
 Abuse  
 Neglect

## Effects of Narcotics

### Mother:

Addiction/dependence  
 Depression  
 Low Self-esteem  
 Poor Decision Making  
 STD/HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis  
 Death

### Fetus and Baby:

Low Birth Weight  
 Withdrawal Syndrome  
 Abuse  
 Neglect

## Effects of Solvent Exposure

### Mother

Miscarriage  
  
 Damage to heart,  
 kidney, liver and bone  
 marrow.  
  
 Death

### Baby

Prematurity  
  
 Microcephaly (small  
 head)  
  
 Developmental delays  
  
 Learning problems

## Effects of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) on Breast Feeding

- Children exposed to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs of abuse may experience:
  - Jitteriness
  - Irritability
  - Reduced weight gain
  - Poor sleep patterns
  - Diarrhea, vomiting
  - Poor growth
  - Weak Reflexes

## KEY POINT TO REMEMBER

Mothers who stop using Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs of Abuse at any time during pregnancy increase the chance that their baby will be born healthy.

## Substance Abuse Treatment

- State and Federal laws require that all treatment programs receiving public dollars give priority admission to pregnant women.
- Required to begin treatment within 48 hours or refer out.
- Information may not be shared with others.



## Resources

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- Baby Your Baby 1-800-826-9662
- Pregnancy Risk Line 1-800-822-2229
- Tobacco Prevention 1-888-567-8788
- Utah Newborn Safe Haven 1-866-458-0058
- Utah Addiction Center 801-581-8216
- Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
801-538-3939
- Meth Initiative 801-538-6191
- End Meth Now [www.endmethnow.org](http://www.endmethnow.org)
- National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children [www.nadec.org](http://www.nadec.org)
- Utah Alliance for Drug Endangered Children [www.utahdecalliance.org](http://www.utahdecalliance.org)