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.

http://www.nationaldec.org
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.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother:</th>
<th>Fetus and Baby:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>Heart Defects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor Nutrition</td>
<td>Facial Changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Self-esteem</td>
<td>Low Birth Weight</td>
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<tr>
<td>STD, HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Learning and Behavior Problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infections</td>
<td>Fetal Alcohol Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor Decision Making</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Effects of Tobacco Abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother:</th>
<th>Baby:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addiction/dependence</td>
<td>Low birth weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicotine withdrawal</td>
<td>SIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(headache, nervousness,</td>
<td>Aggravates Asthma and other lung conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>poor concentration,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>irritability)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscarriage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood Clots</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
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Effects of Marijuana Abuse:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother:</th>
<th>Baby:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asthma/other lung</td>
<td>Aggravates Asthma/Lung problems from second hand smoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer lung/throat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertility issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amotivational Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>(apathy, poor short term memory, difficulty concentrating, disinterest in goals)</td>
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Effects of Cocaine Abuse:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother:</th>
<th>Fetus or Baby:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Blood Pressure</td>
<td>Pre-maturity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Attack/Stroke</td>
<td>Heart Attack and Stroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placental Abruption</td>
<td>Long term effect on learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premature Delivery</td>
<td>Abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular Heart Beat</td>
<td>Neglect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor Decision Making</td>
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</table>
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

- 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
- National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children www.nadec.org
- Utah Alliance for Drug Endangered Children www.utahdecalliance.org