



**Drug Endangered Children
& Sexual Exploitation**

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**THE CASE OF THE
INTERSECTION OF DRUGS
AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Drugs and Human Trafficking

- drugs have an important role in the recruitment, retention and exploitation of human trafficking victims for all forms of sexual exploitation. They are used to compel individuals to perform sexual acts or engage in pornography



**Drug addiction
destroys lives,
tears apart families,
and harms society**



**Children are often the
silent victims of
substance abuse**



**Defining Drug Endangered
Children (DEC)**

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal 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.



Estimate of DEC in the USA

9.2 Million
Drug Endangered Children
(approx. 12%)
(Substances – 33%)

» Department of Justice

Drug Endangered Children: Risks



Drugs & Parenting

Abuse AND Drugs

85% of States report substance abuse as one of the major problems in homes with suspected maltreatment of children.

– Childwelfare.gov

Abuse Risks for Drug Endangered Children.....

- **Physical Abuse - Increased violent behavior**
 - Adult paranoid state
 - Physical assault due to caregiver aggression/irritability
 - Burns etc from home lab/use
- **Severe neglect**
 - No provisions in the house
 - Caregivers not present, high or 'crashed'
- **Increased sexual abuse**
 - Pornography in every home lab
 - Adult euphoria effect from drug
- **Emotional Abuse**
 - Caregiver frustration
 - Daily living chaos
- **Neglect - Lack of regard for safety**
 - Toxins in easy reach of child
 - Smoke detectors detached next to child's room, drug paraphernalia around the house

IMPACT ON CHILDREN Neurodevelopmental Consequences

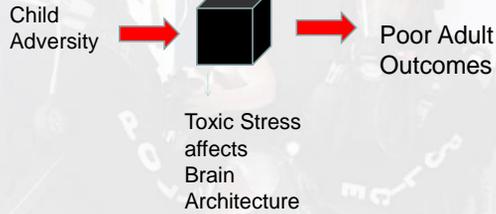
- Disruption of normal developmental experiences may result in negative impact on any or all areas of development

A central point in trauma literature by Perry, Osofsky, Pynoos, Zeanah and others

Drug Endangered Children: Consequences in All areas of Neurodevelopment

Physical
Behavioral
Emotional
Cognitive
Neuropsychological
Meaning Making/Values

Linking Childhood Experiences and Adult Outcomes



San Bernardino County Response to DEC

DEC & Prenatal Substance Exposure

- According to the CDC:
 - 15.5% of pregnant women used alcohol in first trimester
 - 13.4 % engaged in binge drinking
 - 11.2 % reported alcohol use throughout gestation.
 - 8.9% engaged in using illicit drugs
 - 11 % smoked during pregnancy

Information obtained from reports indicated 2007 California Women's Health survey CWHS and California Disease Control.

Drugs & Parenting

Nearly 80% of children in foster care have **prenatal** exposure to maternal substance abuse.

Zero To Three April/May 2002 Dicker, S & Gordon, E. Page 28

DEC & San Bernardino County

- A 2005 Study in San Bernardino County Reported:
 - 20% of newborns were born to mothers with alcohol or drugs in their blood.
- A 2004 screening of 5,000 pregnant women revealed:
 - 41% reported the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
 - 32% reported the use of alcohol in the month before they found out they were pregnant.
 - 11% reported the use of alcohol and drugs throughout the course of their pregnancy.
 - 14 % smoked during pregnancy.

DEC informed Care & San Bernardino County

- In response to these concerns and the desire to change trajectories for DEC and other high risk children San Bernardino County developed a strategy for early intervention to our youngest high risk population

Children's Network

- The core strategy was determined to be the development of a comprehensive Model of Care for high risk children anchored by an early childhood assessment and treatment center. The result was the SART model of care.
- (Promising Practices for Helping DEC)

First 5 San Bernardino

- The SART program, funded in partnership between First 5 San Bernardino and the Department of Behavioral Health received a National Association of Counties (NAACO) Achievement Award in 2010. This award is to recognize counties for improving the services they deliver to the public.

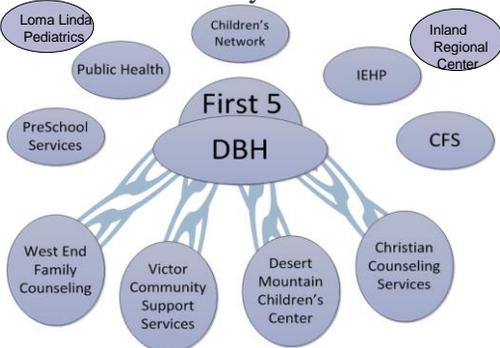
Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)

- DBH provides and or facilitates Medicaid mental health services for San Bernardino County
- Longstanding Role within SART:
 - Funding of Mental Health Services at SART Centers
- Current Role within SART:
 - Contracted Partner with First 5 to:
 - Facilitate Non-Mental Health Services at SART Centers
 - Evaluate SART Program

Children and Family Services (CFS)

- Children & Family Services (CFS) is dedicated to the protection of abused, neglected, and dependent children in San Bernardino County. When caring for children aged 0 to 5:
- CFS refers children brought into their care to SART for Screening and Assessment
 - CFS Workers actively participate in Child and Family Teams when needed for appropriate ongoing care

SART: SB County Collaborators



SART

SART is a transdisciplinary approach for the

- Screening
- Assessment
- Referral
- Treatment

Transdisciplinary Team



Adverse Childhood Experiences

The prevalence of adverse childhood experiences are clearly a major determinant of the health and social well being of the nations
- Felitti

Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

- Childhood abuse
 - Psychological
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
- Neglect
 - Emotional
 - Physical
- House dysfunction
 - Substance Abuse
 - Parent Separation/Divorce
 - Depression/mental illness
 - Domestic violence
 - Family member imprisoned

ACE Results

- With score of 4 or more (0 vs. 4 or more)
 - 460% increase in depression
 - 1,220% increase in attempted suicide
 - 740% increase in alcoholism
 - 470% increase in illicit drug use
 - 320% increase in >50 sexual partners
 - 250% increase in STD
 - Significant risk for
 - Intimate Partner violence
 - Teen pregnancy

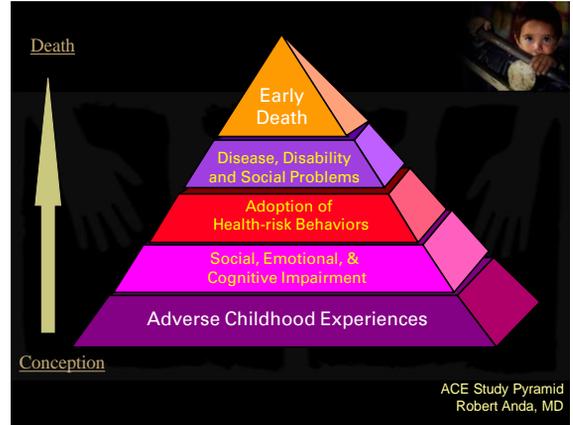
• JAMA 2001; 286

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- The greater number of childhood traumatic exposures, the greater risk of early adult disease and death, from any cause.
- Many chronic diseases of adults are determined in childhood, not by disease but by the events of childhood.

CDC ACE Study

- People who experienced considerable trauma during their childhood died 20 years prematurely, CDC researchers have found.
- And those suffering this substantial childhood trauma have double the risk for early death compared with adults who had not endured adverse childhood experiences.



Ecology & Mental Health: Templates

- Patterns of experience matter - memory.
- The more a system or 'connection' in the brain is activated, the more that system will build – or maintain – synaptic connections.
- Patterned repetitive activity creates a template – these templates can become so deeply engrained that our brain essentially habituates to them...
 - Example of Sally, men and sex

• Adapted from Perry & Szalavitz
– The Boy Who was raised as a Dog

Templates and Risk

- Procedural memories laid down in infancy and early childhood are significant through life
 - They direct and influence the behaviors, cognitions, and emotions of the adult
- This is most specifically seen in how these early experiences of procedural memory form the structure of **interpersonal attachments and relationships**.

– Burley & Freier (2004)
» Psychotherapy: Research, Theory & Practice Training

Templates & Cycle of Addiction

- Children in dysfunctional families are at high risk to continue this dysfunction in future relationships – family
- Children who have been abused are at high risk to become victims of abuse as an adult or become a perpetrator of violence

Youth, Exploitation & the Cycle of Addiction

- Alcohol and drug usage is common during the grooming process, in order to lure young people into sexual behaviour or deliberately intoxicate them against resistance.
 - Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation

Understanding Risk



- **All** drug endangered children are **at risk**
- How much risk and risk for what varies
- **Sexual Exploitation** is a significant risk

Sexual Exploitation Risk



- Exposure to Environment of Illegal Activities
 - Property Crimes
 - Drug dealing
 - Drug transporting
 - Kidnapping
 - Home invasions

Sexual Exploitation Risk



- Parents Substance Abuse
 - Introduced to pornography or sexual activity
 - Sexual Abuse – Meth – increased libido
 - Mother is prostituting for drugs
 - Children sold – need \$ for drugs
 - Young Children - turned over for sex or sex trade by parents – has been drug related – 4 & 5 year olds etc.

Sexual Exploitation Risk



- Neglect
 - Lack of supervision
 - Lack of necessities – look else where – on street
 - Lack of safe and nurturing environment – look elsewhere unsafe persons
 - Look for other 'caring' adults...

Sexual Exploitation Risk - Here

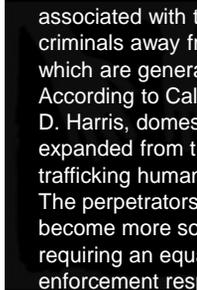


...The brother and sister, who spent a lot of time in the High Desert, endured a difficult childhood filled with neglect and emotional and sexual abuse.

"For me (brother), I turned my hurt into anger," he said, explaining he would hurt himself and lash out at others. "But her, all she wanted was love since we didn't really get it at home. She was always looking for that love and didn't care where it came from."

Investigators with San Bernardino police and the county's Human Trafficking Task Force are aware of Nastali's case and say the human trafficking ties are still under investigation... (SB Sun 5/2016)

Sexual Exploitation Risk - Here



"The low risks and potential for high profits associated with trafficking are now steering criminals away from smuggling drugs and guns, which are generally riskier pursuits. According to California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, domestic and transnational gangs have expanded from trafficking guns and drugs to trafficking human beings. The perpetrators of human trafficking have become more sophisticated and organized, requiring an equally sophisticated law enforcement response to disrupt and dismantle their networks."

Sexual Exploitation Risk - Here

With an area of 20,105 square miles, San Bernardino County is the largest county in the United States by area. Two known prostitution tracks have plagued the area for years: Baseline Ave. in San Bernardino and Holt Blvd. that runs through Ontario, Montclair, and Pomona which is situated in Los Angeles County.

DEC and Sexual Exploitation We can change trajectory

- Rescue Awareness of DEC and Risk
- Defend Advocate for Children – keep them central to all efforts
- Shelter Safety
Don't send them back to DEC or Human Trafficking environment
- Support Committed Community
Adult Healthy relationships
Need to educated about Substance Abuse
Mental Health Tx
Psychological/Ed Eval

Changing Trajectories

UNDERSTAND **RISK**

(at risk but not doomed)

BELIEVE IN **RESILIENCY**

Resiliency

Resilience is the capacity to maintain or develop competent functioning in the face of major life stressors

Resiliency

Resilience is not a trait but rather a capacity that develops over time

IN THE CONTEXT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT

Trajectory Impact

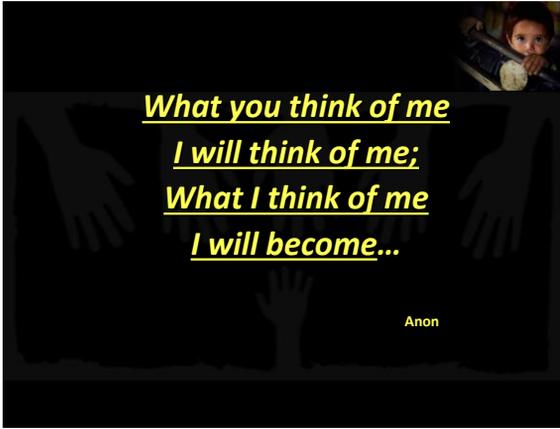
- Scientific evidence that even neuronal regeneration is possible given the right 'environment'. The 'Hard Wired to Connect' report, 2003
- Research demonstrates that an improved social environment can change a heritable vulnerability into a positive behavioral asset.
 - This emphasizes a reason for optimism!
- Our interventions, should they provide an **improved social environment can make a difference!**



CHANGING TRAJECTORIES

“ATTACHMENT MAY BE THE KEY TO BREAKING THE MULTI-GENERATIONAL CYCLE OF ADDICTION AND ABUSE”

Anda, R., & Felitti, V. 2002. From The Relationship of Adverse Childhood Experiences to Adult Health Status presentation, US Dept. of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Child Welfare Information Gateway Retrieved 2.14.11
www.childwelfare.gov/calendar/conference/fourteenth/presentations/ahdc/ahd046.cfm



What you think of me
I will think of me;
What I think of me
I will become...

Anon



National Alliance for Drug
Endangered Children
nationaldec.org