Working With Children When A Parent Overdoses
Introductions

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Disclosures

- I do not have any relationships with commercial interests to disclose.
Objectives

- Discuss physical/medical considerations of children potentially exposed to drugs
- Discuss the emotional considerations for children who’s parents overdose
Infants/Children Less than 1 year

- You must assume they also ingested the substance
  - Breastfed infants/formula fed infants
- Completely dependent
HOW CAN YOU REALLY KNOW SOMETHING

IF YOU HAVEN'T PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH?
my plan is to start crying at 3AM for no reason
Toddlers

- Essentially like mini drunk adults
Getting a toddler to bed who “isn’t tired” is like putting your drunk friend to bed. There’s singing to themselves. Requesting water. Incoherent blabber. Crying. weird yoga posses. then they pass out
edibles factory
CANNAFECTIONERY
Emotional Considerations for Toddlers

- Stranger Danger
- Emotional Cues from environment.
- Simple Questions/Simple Answers
- Don’t give choices if it isn’t a choice
3-4 Year Olds

- Start to have concept of shame
- Likely have been told not to tell anyone about drug use
- Have fear of being in trouble/getting parents in trouble.
3-4 Years old

- Ask Hard Questions
  - Give simple answers

- Concrete thinkers
  - Black and White

- Separation from parents can be traumatic.
Here’s a list of things to never say to me:

“Calm down”
“Relax“
“Take it easy”
School Age Children

- If they catch you lying you will never regain their trust
- Be honest or say nothing
- Resist the urge to fill awkward silence
School Aged Children

- Have an understanding of consequences
  - Fear for getting parent in trouble by calling for help
  - Fear of being separated from parents because of drug use
  - Understand concept of death
Wisconsin Definitions

*Neglect* is defined in the statutes as, “failure, refusal or inability on the part of a caregiver, for reasons other than poverty, to provide necessary care, food, clothing, medical or dental care or shelter so as to seriously endanger the physical health of the child.” [Ref. s. 48.02(12g), Wis. Stats.]
Unborn child abuse is defined as, “serious physical harm inflicted on the unborn child, and the risk of serious physical harm to the child when born, caused by the habitual lack of self-control of the expectant mother of the unborn child in the use of alcohol beverages, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs, exhibited to a severe degree.” [Ref. s. 48.02(1)(am), Wis. Stats.]

Due to the unique nature of this maltreatment type, unborn child abuse data is excluded from the body of this report and presented separately in Appendix B.
Wisconsin Definitions

Manufacturing Methamphetamine
The manufacturing of methamphetamine is also recognized as a form of child abuse or neglect in cases where:

- A child is physically present during the manufacture.
- It occurs in a child’s home, on the premises of a child’s home, or in a motor vehicle located on the premises of a child’s home.
- Under any circumstances a reasonable person should have known that the manufacture would be seen, smelled, or heard by a child.
Male Victims in Wisconsin

Figure 17

Substantiated Maltreatment Allegations, by Age, for Male Victims\(^1,2\)
2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Neglect</th>
<th>Physical Abuse</th>
<th>Sexual Abuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1 - 3 Yrs.</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - 7 Yrs.</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 11 Yrs.</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - 15 Yrs.</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 + Yrs.</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) There were 11 instances of substantiated emotional abuse allegations, made up of one instance in <1-3 year olds, one instance in 4-7 year olds, five instances in 8-11 year olds, four instances in 12-15 year olds, and two instances in 16+ year olds.

\(^2\) Figure 17 does not include the 7 maltreatment substantiations with undocumented age values.