

Just received this from national DEC. Kind of where we are coming from...

Scott Nicholson

September 2016

To All Who Care About our Children, our Future:

In light of another very disturbing story that shows the devastating impact of drugs on children - this time in Liverpool, OH - where both parents overdosed in the car while their 4-year-old watched helplessly in the back seat - the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC) is calling on elected officials, policy makers, professionals, organizations, and communities to take action.

Let's come together and help these children, families, and communities. National DEC is a part of the solution...and you can be too!!! See: www.nationaldec.org

How big is this problem? According to the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute on Drug Abuse:

- Every day, over 1,000 people are treated in emergency departments for misusing prescription opioids.
 - In 2014, 10,500 individuals died from heroin overdoses - a 26% increase over 2013. And it continues to rise.
 - Over 9 million children in the U.S. - 1 in 8 - live with a parent or other adult who uses illegal drugs
 - Every 25 minutes, a baby is born suffering from opiate withdrawal or Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.
- Too many children have watched their parent(s) get high, overdose, or even die. Too many children have to take care of their parents or their siblings due to their parent's substance misuse. Too many children are at risk! These are #DrugEndangeredChildren and they need our help! These children suffer trauma every day from exposure to adverse experiences and often lack even the basic emotional, behavioral, and physical support they need and deserve.

If we don't act now - the cycle will continue and children will continue to suffer needlessly.

What's the Solution? National DEC believes that a common vision, effective collaboration by professionals and communities, and a commitment to ongoing changes to practice are needed to break multi-generational cycles of substance abuse and maltreatment these children experience. National DEC has worked with communities to provide training and tools that help put these in action. Each of us has opportunities to change the trajectory of these children's lives and National DEC can help your community be an agent of change.

What Action is Necessary? Here are a few action steps that you can take to help these children and families:

- Provide funding for multi-disciplinary training to give law enforcement, child welfare, medical personnel, educators and other professionals within all communities the knowledge and tools that are needed.
- Modify laws and policies that restrict information sharing and effective collaboration between the disciplines and agencies charged with helping drug endangered children and their families.

- Participate in courses and trainings about substance abuse, addiction, child maltreatment, trauma, treatment/services, and recovery to gain insight about the causes of these issues and the solutions to help families recover.
- Join & support National DEC in establishing an effective collaborative approach to the challenges presented by drug use, drug overdoses, child maltreatment, and devastation of families and communities. Contact us today: info@nationaldec.org

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"We feel it necessary to show the other side of this horrible drug. We feel we need to be a voice for the children caught up in this horrible mess. This child can't speak for himself but we are hopeful his story can convince another user to think twice about injecting this poison while having a child in their custody."

Liverpool PD, Ohio

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/east-liverpool-ohio-heroin-photo-police-department-releases-disturbing-photos-of-suspects-in-car-with-child/>

Police release disturbing photos of heroin suspects passed out in car with child

By **CRIMESIDER STAFF CBS/AP** September 9, 2016, 6:11 PM



Graphic images released by the East Liverpool Police Department in Ohio show two suspected heroin users

EAST LIVERPOOL, Ohio -- A police department in eastern Ohio is sharing graphic photos on Facebook showing a couple allegedly under the influence of [heroin](#) unconscious in a car with a 4-year-old boy in the backseat.

The East Liverpool Police Department shared the images, which were widely shared and drew outrage across social media, saying they hoped to raise awareness about the [heroin epidemic](#) in their community.

“We feel we need to be a voice for the children caught up in this horrible mess,” the department wrote in an accompanying Facebook post. “This child can’t speak for himself but we are hopeful his story can convince another user to think twice about injecting this poison while having a child in their custody.”

According to a police report the department posted along with the images, officers noticed a car driving erratically Sept. 7 in East Liverpool, about 45 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. Officers say they saw the car making a hard stop in front of a school bus discharging children and then drifting to the side of the road.

An officer approached the driver, James Acord, who police said was bobbing his head and speaking unintelligibly. He told the officer he was taking the front seat female passenger, Rhonda Pasek, to a hospital.

He began to try to manipulate the gear shift, the officer said, and so the officer reached into the car to turn it off and remove the keys from the ignition. The officer saw Pasek’s young son, 4, sitting in the backseat.

The report says Acord eventually slipped into unconsciousness, and said Pasek was unconscious and turning blue. EMS responded and administered [Narcan, used to counteract opiate overdoses](#). Both regained consciousness and were transported to a hospital.

Police found a pink powdery substance in the car near Pasek they sent to be analyzed at a crime lab.

Both Pasek and Acord were charged with endangering a child and taken into custody. Pasek was also charged with public intoxication and Acord was charged with a traffic violation. The boy was taken into custody by child welfare services.

The department said on Facebook they realized the pictures may be disturbing to some.

“We are well aware that some may be offended by these images and for that we are truly sorry, but it is time that the non drug using public sees what we are now dealing with on a daily basis,” the department wrote. “The poison known as heroin has taken a strong grip on many communities not just ours, the difference is we are willing to fight this problem until it’s gone and if that means we offend a few people along the way we are prepared to deal with that.”

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