



“AS THE OPIOID CRISIS CONTINUES, TOO MANY CHILDREN ARE EXPERIENCING TRAUMA. WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO IDENTIFY ALL DRUG-ENDANGERED CHILDREN AND THEN TAKE ACTION. PROVIDING THE PROPER TRAINING, COMMUNICATING BETWEEN AGENCIES AND PROVIDING DIRECT SERVICES WILL HELP THESE VULNERABLE CHILDREN OVERCOME THEIR ADVERSITY AND OVER TIME, DEVELOP RESILIENCE.”

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The Plymouth County
Drug Abuse Task Force



The Family Center
&

Community Connections of Brockton



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DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN INITIATIVE

ENHANCING SERVICE PROVISION
FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
WWW.OTF.PLYMOUTHDA.COM

ABOUT THE DEC INITIATIVE

The DEC Initiative is a collaboration of Plymouth County District Attorney Tim Cruz's office, Plymouth County Outreach, and United Way of Greater Plymouth County's Family Center.

The goal of DEC is to increase awareness and help agencies to identify and respond to drug-endangered children, provide families with information, resources, and referrals, and assist children and caregivers in navigating complex service systems.

The DEC Initiative is funded by the Office for Victims of Crime.



ACES

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is the term used to describe all types of abuse, neglect, and other potentially traumatic experiences that occur to people under the age of 18. ACEs have been linked to risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, low life potential, and early death. As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for these outcomes.

THE OPIOID CRISIS

Parent or caregiver opioid addiction is the fastest growing ACE in Plymouth County. Of all overdoses in Plymouth County in 2018, 68% were individuals ages 20-39, ages often associated with raising children, and in 2015, 65% of fatal overdoses occurred in a home. Too many children are being exposed to overdose.

TRAINING

The following professional trainings are available:

- Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Children Exposed to Violence and Childhood Trauma (*Police*)
- Helping Traumatized Children Learn (*School Personnel*)
- Handle with Care Communication Model (*School and Police*)
- Mental Health First Aid (*Police and Community Providers*)

DIRECT SERVICES

The DEC Clinical Advocate can assist families with finding resources and referrals for services for the child or children, creating a family support plan, coordinating care and services among agencies, and providing support in navigating complex service systems.

