

FASD Outreach

Education for Prevention, Screening and Lifelong Support

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs)—the medical conditions associated with alcohol use during pregnancy—are leading, preventable causes of birth defects and developmental disabilities.

A nationally respected outreach program at the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (DFMCH) educates clinicians, individuals and families to prevent and diagnose FASDs, and to support those affected by them.

The Need for Increased FASD Education

1. Despite increasing awareness of FASDs, 7.6% of pregnant women drink alcohol; among them, 14.3% are aged 35-44.¹
2. Experts estimate that FASDs may affect 2-5% of the population.²
3. Individuals affected by alcohol use during pregnancy often need lifelong educational, vocational, residential and social support services.
4. Average lifetime costs for an individual diagnosed with fetal alcohol syndrome are estimated at \$2 million.²
5. Many clinicians lack the training to diagnose, refer or provide effective services for individuals affected by FASDs.



Learn more about how you can support our program, and help reduce the devastating impact of FASDs on individuals and families.

¹ www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6128a4.htm?s_cid=mm6128a4_w

² www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/data.html

About Our Program

Our program focuses on four key areas:

- **Professional Education.** We educate clinicians, human services providers, and legal and criminal justice professionals on FASD prevention, diagnosis and intervention strategies—and provide them with the tools to train others.
- **Screening and Diagnosis.** We educate drug and alcohol treatment programs and state agencies on ways to improve FASD screening. We also conduct diagnostic consultations for children with FASD symptoms.
- **Individual and Family Support.** We provide follow-up support for individuals diagnosed with FASD, including functional assessments, service referrals, educational advocacy and Social Security assistance.
- **Culturally Competent Prevention.** We are adapting FASD screening and referral protocols to be more culturally inclusive for all populations.

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

Since our program was created in 1992, we have:

- Educated over 25,000 medical and human services professionals nationwide on FASD prevention, diagnosis and intervention;
- Directly supported hundreds of families affected by FASD; and
- Influenced several health care systems to offer FASD training as part of their medical school and residency curriculum.

How Can You Help?

Your donation will make it possible for us to continue our important work. Donor funding will enable us to offer additional FASD educational opportunities, enhance support for individuals and families, and expand our outreach efforts.

To discuss a contribution, please contact Linda Haskins at (608) 263-3402.



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