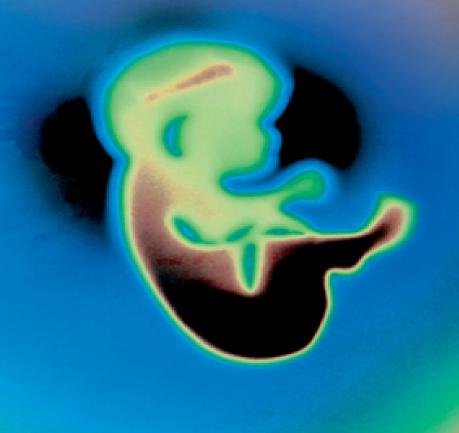


Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Management and Policy Perspectives of FASD

Edited by Edward P. Riley, Sterling Clarren, Joanne Weinberg, and Egon Jonsson









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Contents

<u>Cover</u>
Half Title page
<u>Title page</u>
<u>Copyright page</u>
<u>Preface</u>
<u>List of Contributors</u>
Chapter 1: Prenatal Alcohol Exposure FAS, and FASD: An Introduction 1.1 Introduction 1.2 History
1.3 Diagnosing the Effects of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure
1.4 Risk factors influencing FAS and FASD Conditions 1.5 Prevalence and Impact of FAS and FASI
1.5 Prevalence and Impact of FAS and FASE 1.6 Prevention 1.7 Interventions
Acknowledgments References

<u>Part One: Incidence,</u> <u>Prevalence, and Economic</u> <u>Aspects of FASD</u>

<u>Chapter 2: Researching the</u> <u>Prevalence and Characteristics of</u> <u>FASD in International Settings</u>

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Maternal Risk Factors and FASD
- 2.3 Determining the Prevalence of FASD: How the Methods Have Influenced the Rates
- 2.4 The Prevalence of FASD from In-School Studies
- 2.5 Summary Rates of FASD and Their Meaning
 References

<u>Chapter 3: Frequency of FASD in</u> <u>Canada, and What This Means for</u> Prevention Efforts

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Challenges to Obtaining Accurate Incidence and Prevalence Rates
- 3.3 Incidence of FASD
- 3.4 Prevalence of FASD
- 3.5 Rate of Exposure to Risk
- 3.6 Gaps in the Data

3.7 Policy Considerations

3.8 Conclusions

<u>Acknowledgments</u>

References

Chapter 4: Costs of FASD

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Methods
- 4.3 Results
- 4.4 Discussion
- 4.5 Conclusion
- 4.6 Appendices to Chapter 4
- 4.6.2 Appendix 2: Summary of Included

Studies

References

Part Two: Causes and Diagnosing of FASD

<u>Chapter 5: Direct and Indirect</u>
<u>Mechanisms of Alcohol Teratogenesis:</u>
<u>Implications for Understanding</u>
<u>Alterations in Brain and Behavior in</u>
<u>FASD</u>

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Fetal Programming: Programming of the HPA Axis by PAE

5.3 Altered Epigenetic Regulation of Gene Expression: A Possible Mechanism
Underlying Fetal Programming of the HPA Axis and Altered Neuroendocrine-Immune Interactions
5.4 Prenatal Alcohol Exposure: Early
Experience, Stress Responsiveness, and Vulnerability to Depression
5.5 FASD and Substance Abuse
5.6 Summary and Policy Considerations
Acknowledgments
Glossary
Abbreviations
References

<u>Chapter 6: Genetic Factors</u> <u>Contributing to FASD</u>

6.1 Introduction

6.2 The Evidence

6.3 Genetic Factors in Alcohol Metabolism

6.4 Some Genetic Factors

<u>6.5 Epigenetics, the Environment and</u> Nutrition

<u>6.6 Conclusions, and Some Policy</u>

Recommendations

6.7 Glossary

References

<u>Chapter 7: Diagnosis of FASD: An</u> Overview

- 7.1 History of Diagnosing FASD
 7.2 How Does Prenatal Alcohol Exposure
 Cause Damage?
 7.3 Screening for FASD
 7.4 The Diagnostic Process
- 7.5 FASD Across the Lifespan
- 7.6 Implications of a Diagnosis of FASD
- 7.7 Conclusion and Future Directions
- 7.8 Policy Considerations
 References

Part Three: Prevention Policies and Programs

<u>Chapter 8: FASD: A Preconception</u> <u>Prevention Initiative</u>

- 8.1 Introduction
- **8.2 Prevention Strategies**
- 8.3 Research Relationships
- 8.4 The CIHR Guidelines for Research

Involving Aboriginal People

8.5 Summary

Acknowledgments

References

<u>Chapter 9: Bringing a Women's</u> <u>Health Perspective to FASD</u> Prevention

9.1 Introduction	
9.2 Applying Gender-Based And	alysis to
FASD Prevention	
9.3 Developing a Framework for	r Women
Centered Prevention Practice	
9.4 Evidencing the Framework	
9.5 Conclusions	
References	

<u>Chapter 10: Next Steps in FASD</u> <u>Primary Prevention</u>

10.1 Introduction
10.2 Current State of FASD Primary
Prevention in North-Western Canada
10.3 Campaign Evaluation: What Is It and
Why It Is Important
10.4 Incorporating Social Marketing
Strategies
10.5 Creating Behavioral Change:
Protection Motivation Theory
10.6 Future Considerations for Health
Promoters and Policy Makers
References

<u>Chapter 11: Preventing FASD: The</u>
<u>Parent-Child Assistance Program</u>
<u>(PCAP) Intervention with High-Risk</u>
<u>Mothers</u>

11.1 Introduction

11.2 FASD Prevention
11.3 Background
11.4 The PCAP Intervention
11.5 PCAP: A Two-Pronged Intervention
11.6 Preventing Alcohol- and/or Drug-
Exposed Births
11.7 PCAP Outcomes
11.8 PCAP Cost Effectiveness
11.9 PCAP Intervention with Women who
Themselves Have FASD
11.10 Policy Recommendations:
Collaborative Approaches for Preventing
Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancies
References

<u>Chapter 12: FASD in the Perspective</u> <u>of Primary Healthcare</u>

12.1 Primary Care Approaches to FASD
12.2 Barriers to Screening
12.3 Impact of Healthcare Reform
Reference

Part Four: FASD and the Legal System

<u>Chapter 13: The Manitoba FASD Youth</u>
<u>Justice Program: Addressing Criminal</u>
<u>Justice Issues</u>

13.1 Introduction	
13.2 The Legislative Context	
13.3 The Information Gap	
13.4 The Manitoba FASD Youth Justice	
<u>Program</u>	
13.5 Screening	
13.6 The Preassessment Period	
13.7 Medical Assessment	
13.8 The Doctor's Report and Its Use	
13.9 Sentencing Conferences	
13.10 The Sentencing Process	
13.11 The Statistical Outcomes	
13.12 One-Day Snap-Shot of Age of Majorit	y
Youth (28 February 2010)	
13.13 Other Initiatives	
13.14 Strengths and Challenges	
<u>References</u>	
hapter 14: Understanding FASD:	

<u>Chapter 14: Understanding FASD:</u> <u>Disability and Social Supports for</u> <u>Adult Offenders</u>

14.1 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
(FASD) is a Disability
14.2 Correctional Environment in Canada
for Adults with FASD
14.3 Interventions and Social Supports for
Adults with FASD after Release
14.4 Policy Considerations for Adults with
FASD

References

<u>Chapter 15: Policy Development in</u> <u>FASD for Individuals and Families</u> <u>Across the Lifespan</u>

a = a			-
15.1	Introd	UCT	ion

15.2 Birth

15.3 Childhood

15.4 Adolescence/Teenage Years

15.5 Adulthood

15.6 A Disability Paradigm for FASD

15.7 Cultural Fairness

15.8 Life Trajectory Policy Model

15.9 Conclusions

References

<u>Chapter 16: The Impact of FASD:</u> <u>Children with FASD Involved with the</u> <u>Manitoba Child Welfare System</u>

16.1 Introduction

16.2 Study One: Children in Care with Disabilities

16.3 Study Two: The Trajectory of Care for Children with FASD

16.4 Study Three: Youth with FASD Leaving Care

16.5 Study Four: The Cost of Child Welfare
Care for Children with FASD

16.6 Study Five: Economic Impact of FASD for Children in Care 16.7 Conclusions References

<u>Chapter 17: British Columbia's Key</u> <u>Worker and Parent Support Program:</u> <u>Evaluation Highlights and</u> <u>Implications for Practice and Policy</u>

- 17.1 Introduction
- 17.2 Background
- 17.3 Program Model and Components
- 17.4 Literature
- 17.5 Evaluation Methods
- 17.6 Formative Evaluation Findings
- 17.7 Summative Evaluation Findings
- 17.8 Discussion
- 17.9 Policy Considerations
- 17.10 Conclusions
- References

<u>Chapter 18: FASD and Education</u> <u>Policy: Issues and Directions</u>

- 18.1 Introduction
- 18.2 Where Do Students with FASD Fit Into the Education System?
- 18.3 Students with FASD within Special Education Systems
- 18.4 Education Professionals and FASD

18.5 Inter-Agency and Community Supports
for Students with FASD

18.6 Policy Indications
18.7 Conclusions
References

<u>Chapter 19: Shifting Responsibility</u> <u>from the Individual to the Community</u>

19.1 Introduction

19.2 Why Do We Need to Make a Shift?

19.3 Examples of Individual's Situations

19.4 One Model of Community of Care

19.5 History

19.6 Future

19.7 Policy Considerations

19.8 Conclusions

Acknowledgments

References

<u>Chapter 20: A Social Work</u>
<u>Perspective on Policies to Prevent</u>
<u>Alcohol Consumption during</u>
<u>Pregnancy</u>

<u>Appendix to Chapter 20</u> <u>References</u>

Chapter 21: A Cross-Ministry
Approach to FASD Across the

<u>Lifespan in Alberta</u>

21.1 Introduction

21.2 The Impact of FASD

21.3 Overview of Strategies

21.4 FASD Service Network Program

21.5 Ministry Initiatives Based on the

Strategic Plan

References

<u>Chapter 22: Critical Considerations</u> <u>for Intervention Planning for Children</u> <u>with FASD</u>

22.1 Introduction

22.2 The Development of a Rational Service System for At-Risk Children

22.3 Factors Supporting the Development of Separate Specialized Services for Subgroups of At-Risk Children

<u>22.4 Should Separate Specialized Services</u>
<u>Be Developed for Children with FASD?</u>

22.5 Policy Considerations: Strengthening the Service System for a Broader Range of Children At-Risk

Acknowledgments

References

Part Five: Research Needed on FASD

Chapter 23: FASD Research in Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Prevention: Building the Next Generation of Health and Social Policy Responses

23.1 Introduction

23.2 Mapping Prevention: What Research is Needed Now, and Why?

23.3 Conclusions: Drawing a Road-Map for Integrated, Supportive, and Effective Care References

<u>Chapter 24: Focusing Research</u> <u>Efforts: What Further Research into</u> <u>FASD is Needed?</u>

24.1 Introduction

24.2 FASD and Heterogeneity: An

Encouraging Outcome

24.3 Models: Moving Beyond Description

24.4 Applying Neuroscience: Beyond the

Mother?

<u> 24.5 Summary</u>

References

<u>Part Six: Personal Views from</u> <u>People Living with FASD</u>

Chapter 25: Living with FASD

Chapter 26: Charlene's Journey

<u>Appendix: FASD Consensus</u> <u>Statement of the Jury</u>

Acknowledgments

Process

Conference Questions

Introduction

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Question 5

Question 6

Conclusion

Jury Members

Conference Speakers and Topics

Planning Committee

Scientific Committee

Communications Committee

Disclosure Statement

Institute of Health Economics

IHE Board of Directors

FASD Research and Resources

<u>Index</u>

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Joanne Weinberg,
and Egon Jonsson

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Management and Policy Perspectives of FASD

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Preface

In October 2009, the Institute of Health Economics (IHE) staged a consensus development conference to address key questions about the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Experts in the field presented scientific evidence to a "jury" about prevention and the social determinants that may induce drinking during pregnancy, the importance of diagnosis, the impact of FASD across a person's lifespan, and the community supports needed for those living with FASD, as well as their families. After two days of hearings, the jury developed a statement which answered eight relevant and common questions about FASD, including suggested policy changes for enhanced prevention, and for improving the lives of people with FASD and their families. That statement is available in the Appendix of this book.

During the planning of that conference, IHE invited the experts – who included researchers, clinicians, economists, epidemiologists, social workers, and judicial workers – to expand on their speeches and write chapters for a book that would aim at a worldwide health policy-making audience. An overwhelming majority of the speakers were interested, and this book is the result of their hard work.

In addition to policy makers, this book is for anyone interested in FASD, including those with the condition, family members and other caregivers, researchers, clinicians and others in healthcare and social services, and the justice sector. The chapters describe the impact of FASD on the individual, their families and society, and the many complex issues involved in the condition's prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The book ends with personal accounts of life with FASD, written by Myles Himmelreich and Charlene Organ, that not only powerfully illustrate the

challenges created by having FASD, but also serve as a reminder that FASD does not – and should never – define a person.

We would like to acknowledge the Government of Alberta FASD Cross-Ministry Committee, Canada Northwest FASD Partnership, Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada for their financial support of the consensus development conference and the production of material to this book. We would also like to thank Minister Janis Tarchuk, who was Minister of Children and Youth Services at the time of the conference and Deputy Minister, Fay Orr, for their strong support. Special recognition should be given to Ms represented Denise Milne. who the Cross-Ministry Committee and assisted greatly in all aspects of the conference preparations. We are very grateful to the Honorable Anne McLellan for serving as Chair of the Jury for the conference, to Dr Gail Andrew, who acted as the Scientific Chair, and Ms Nancy Reynolds who acted as moderator. Special mention should be made to the Honorable Minister of Iris Evans. International Intergovernmental Relations for Alberta, who has been a tireless supporter of initiatives to improve the lives of those affected by FASD. We would also like to give special thanks to Gail Littlejohn for her support in the editing process of this publication.

On behalf of the Institute of Health Economics (IHE) (www.ihe.ca)

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