

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications. No amount of alcohol is deemed to be safe to drink while pregnant. The latest research provides the first definitive evidence that fathers' drinking habits prior to conception can also contribute to significant fetal abnormalities.

In 2019, our Vocational Training Team of experts traveled to Western Australia to share ideas about how to reach rural areas as well as urban centers to educate, diagnose, treat and provide support and advocacy to address the needs of individuals who live with FASD and their families.

Diagnosing FAS can be hard because there is no medical test, like a blood test, for it. And other disorders, such as ADHD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder) and Williams syndrome, have some symptoms like FAS.

Our future goal is to bring together many partners to help address the needs of those individuals with this fully preventable disease. As with all medical learning, current diagnoses may change over time. The experts suspect many children with an FASD are currently misdiagnosed under another term.

In 2020-21, we hope to bring over the Western Australia Vocational Training Team to visit our District and once again, share ideas on how to prevent and treat this disease.

If you are interested in being part of this project contact:

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For more general information please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/facts.html>

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/osmap/Pages/fasd.aspx>