

NCFASD Informed

Our Mission

to create

FASD informed

communities in North Carolina

to empower individuals impacted by

prenatal exposure to alcohol

Our Vision

a world where

individuals with FASD

can thrive

www.ncfasdinformed.org

NCFASDInformed
11312 US 15-501 North
Suite 107/171
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

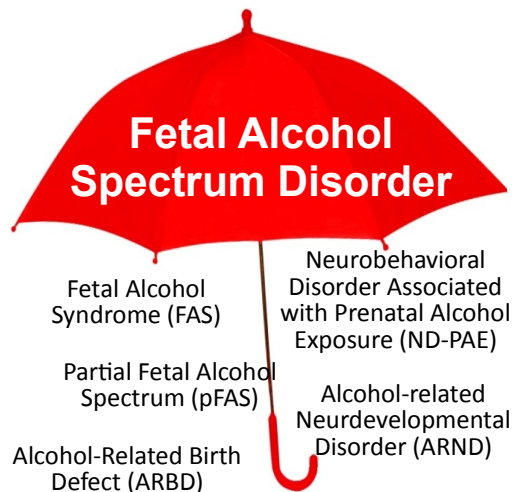


**Creating
FASD informed
Communities**

What is FASD?

Exposure to alcohol is the leading cause of intellectual and developmental disabilities in the U.S.

The disabilities caused by such exposure fall under the umbrella of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)



FASD is a brain-based disorder with behavioral symptoms. It can result in a broad range of cognitive, behavioral, health, adaptive functioning, and learning difficulties. There also may be a significant number of comorbid physical and mental health conditions with an FASD.

Neurodevelopmental disabilities, including FASD, are lifetime conditions. Those who live with an FASD face extraordinary challenges throughout their lifespan, impacting not only themselves, but their families.

The Need

In February 2018, *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) published a study led by UNC researcher, Philip May, Ph.D. The study estimated the prevalence of FASD among first-graders in U.S. communities to be **up to one in 20**.

Although the disorder was first identified in 1973, the reality is that prenatal alcohol exposure is typically not being considered when diagnosing the behavioral conditions of children, teens, and adults. Estimates are that approximately 90% of those with a diagnosable FASD are misdiagnosed or have a missing diagnosis. ADHD and anxiety are the most common diagnoses given as a means to explain the observed behavior.

Prenatal alcohol exposure is a significant public health issue that can no longer be ignored.

North Carolinian children and adults impacted by prenatal alcohol exposure need to receive proper diagnoses and intervention services as soon as possible.

Many parents, educators, and health professionals are becoming trauma informed to improve outcomes for children. In order for our children to receive appropriate interventions, NCFASD Informed is devoted to all North Carolinians becoming knowledgeable of this disorder.

Who We Serve & How

All living with an FASD in North Carolina deserve to receive proper services throughout their lifetimes so that they and their families can experience the best possible quality of life.

NCFASD Informed will strive to create FASD informed communities of parents, educators, and health care professionals throughout North Carolina by increasing awareness around multiple issues, including:

- how exposure to alcohol *in utero* can be manifested
- how to seek a diagnosis if such exposure is suspected
- how to find effective interventions and services

About Us

NCFASD Informed, Inc. is a grassroots, all-volunteer, nonprofit organization launched by two mothers of children exposed to alcohol *in utero*. We are a 501(c)3 organization; donations made to NCFASD Informed are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Contact

Kathy Hotelling, Ph.D.
Kathy.Hotelling@NCFASDinformed.org

Elizabeth Field, M.S.
Elizabeth.Field@NCFASDinformed.org