



FASD: What Policy Makers Should Know

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) are a group of diagnosable medical conditions that can occur in a person who was exposed to alcohol before birth. Effects are lifelong and can include mental health conditions, learning disabilities, sensory issues, and physical manifestations such as heart defects, hearing and visual impairments, and more.

The Estimated Rate of FASD:

1 in 20

(CDC, 2023)



How can legislators have a seat at the table?

Local, state, and federal policy makers can have a seat at the table by:

- Becoming FASD-informed and directing their staff to engage with FASD advocates
- Enacting policies that will create FASD-informed systems of care
- Cosponsoring S.1800/HR.3946, the FASD Respect Act

Current FASD Policy:

Funding for FASD programs has been stagnant, with FASD authorization language expiring in 2007.

Prenatal alcohol exposure and FASD are misunderstood by systems of care funded by federal and state governments, which keeps FASD out of the current funding stream.

The Hopeful Future:

FASD-informed systems of care that address the needs of individuals with FASD and their families.

Increased diagnostic capacity leading to early intervention.

Awareness and education to prevent prenatal alcohol exposure and decrease stigma

Many people with FASD have a co-occurring mental health condition.

All interventions and treatments must be FASD-informed for individuals to receive proper support for FASD and any secondary conditions.

By expanding diagnostic capacity and educating our systems of care individuals with FASD can receive screening and early intervention services, leading to improved outcomes



Talking about policy? Give FASD a seat at the table!

FASD awareness does not match its prevalence.

- Rate of alcohol use during pregnancy: 1 in 7
- Rate of drug use during pregnancy: 1 in 10
- Rate of FASD in US school-aged children: 1 in 20

(CDC, 2023)

Take a seat at the table

Enact S.1800/HR.3946, the FASD Respect Act to promptly enact amendments to the Public Health Service Act to strengthen FASD prevention and services programs.