

HARD FACTS ABOUT FAS/FAE:

- **FAS/FAE can be 100% preventable** with education and alcoholism intervention.
- **FAS is the leading cause of mental retardation** in western civilization, proven by studies done in the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe.
- **FAS has the highest incidence of occurrence of any birth defect.**
- According to the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), **in the U.S. and Canada for every 10,000 births:** 3 will be born with Muscular Dystrophy, 4 with HIV infection, 4 with Cystic Fibrosis, 8 will be born with Spinal Bifida, and 10 with Down Syndrome ... that is 29 of 10,000 with these conditions. **BUT** the incidence of **FAS is 20 in 10,000** and another **100 with FAE**, which will probably never be diagnosed.
- According to a 1998 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in which 100,000 women were surveyed, they found that single women, female students, women with college educations and those with an income greater than \$50,000 a year were the **highest risk groups** for women who drink during pregnancy.
- In 1997 the CDC reported that as of 1995 at least **140,000 expectant mothers (or 3.5%) annually drank** moderate to heavy levels of alcohol during pregnancy.
- A report in the Journal of the American Medical Association said that **25% of pregnant women between 18 and 45 years old used alcohol** during the months before their report. Other studies say that more than half of the women of child bearing age do not even know what FAS is.
- 1996 figures place the cost to U.S. taxpayers at up to **\$2 billion dollars a year** to treat children and adults

diagnosed with FAS, this does not include FAE or those undiagnosed.

- 1994- Drinking is most common among women in their twenties, the peak childbearing years. 40% of women in their twenties poled reported drinking to the point of intoxication in the preceding 12 months. 1994 - **About 50% of pregnancies are unintended** and 10% of women do not recognize their pregnancy until at least the 4th month.

References (more information available)

Web Sites

<http://depts.washington.edu/fadu/>
<http://www.azstarnet.com/~tjk/fashome.htm>
<http://www.nofas.org>
<http://www.acbr.com/fas/htm>
<http://ccsa.ca/fasgen.htm>
<http://www.fascets.org>
<http://www.sesa.org/fasalaska/index.html>
<http://arium.org/fas.html>

Books

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: A Guide for Families and Communities. Ann Streissguth. (1997) Brookes Publishing Company.

The Challenge of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Overcoming Secondary Disabilities. Ann Streissguth and Jonathan Kanter (Eds.) (1997) University of Washington Press

Reaching Out To Children with FAS/FAE. Diane Davis (1994) The Center For Applied Research in Education.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Diagnoses, Epidemiology, Prevention and Treatment. Institute of Medicine (IOM) (1996) National Academy Press.

Understanding the Occurrence of Secondary Disabilities in Clients with FAS and FAE, final report to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Available from University of Washington School of Medicine; Dept. Of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, FADU; 180 Nickerson, Suite 309; Seattle, WA 98109-9112 - \$5).

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects:

Stopping the Plague One Child at a Time

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