

# FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS

## IN NORTH CAROLINA

### Why The FASD Respect Act Needs Your Support

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are lifelong physical, developmental, behavioral, and intellectual disabilities caused by prenatal alcohol exposure

According to the CDC, **FASD impacts as many as 1 in 20 in the US – 2.5x more than autism**

Of the over 118,700 babies born annually in North Carolina, **over 5900 are estimated to have a FASD**, far in excess of current diagnostic capacity

**Roughly 85%** of children seen in diagnostic clinics are either adoptees or are in foster care, children living with their biological parents lack access to diagnosis due to **stigma and untrained medical staff**

Most people with FASD **won't qualify for disability services**, even with a diagnosis

Over 90% of individuals with FASD will develop co-morbid **mental health conditions**

High rates of older youth and adults with FASD **struggle with independent living and employment**

Individuals with FASD, with or without a diagnosis, face **high rates of incarceration and recidivism**

Even at lower prevalence rates, the estimated average annual cost to North Carolina for FASD is over **\$6.49 Billion** in health care, special education, residential care, productivity losses and corrections costs

Raising a child with FASD costs **30X more** than the cost of successful prevention efforts

Of the 1.48 Million students in North Carolina schools, as many as **74,000** may have FASD, yet far fewer are diagnosed

FASD is not tracked in special education under IDEA, and most **schools lack training** and supports for students with FASD

Without appropriate diagnosis and support, students with FASD face **higher than average school exclusion rates**

An estimated **524,400** of the 10.49 Million people living in North Carolina could be impacted by FASD

For more information go to  
[www.nofaspolicycenter.org](http://www.nofaspolicycenter.org)

-Streissguth AP et al. (2004). Risk factors for adverse life outcomes in fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects. Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, 25, 228-238.

-A Multi-country Updated Assessment of the Economic Impact of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Costs for Children and Adults (J Addict Med 2018;12: 466-473) – subscription required.

-MacLachlan K et al. (2020). Difficulties in daily living experienced by adolescents, transition-aged youth and adults with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 44, 1609-1624

# **Advancing FASD Research, Services, and Prevention Act**

## **The FASD Respect Act Builds a System of Care**

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are lifelong physical, behavioral, and intellectual disabilities caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. According to the CDC, FASD impacts as many as one in twenty Americans.

### **The provisions in this act can:**

**Support** the creation of a State FASD Task Force and the creation of a state plan for FASD

**Introduce** the use of evidence-based FASD behavioral interventions

**Supply trained mentors**, housing assistance, vocational training and placement, **for adults with FASD**

**Provide resources and supports for individuals with FASD**, parents, caregivers and professionals

**Integrate** FASD informed care into existing programs and services

**Decrease** the recidivism rate for FASD in the justice system through the training of police, judges and prison staff

**Reduce waste** and increase the effectiveness of FASD programming through the creation of FASD Centers for Excellence

**Expand** diagnostic capacity to other cities through mentoring and training

**Identify** FASD under IDEA and provide training for schools on teaching students with FASD

**Provide FASD education to foster care and adoption** training programs

**Build knowledge** and capacity of professionals to identify individuals with a possible FASD diagnosis

**Reduce** the incidence of FASD through the reduction of substance exposed pregnancies

**Improve** recovery of adults and teens with FASD through FASD informed addictions treatment services.

### **FASD is a Bi-Partisan Issue**

#### **Senate Sponsors:**

- Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK-R)
- Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN-D)

#### **House Sponsors**

- Don Young (AK-R)
- Betty McCollum (MN-D)



**#FASDRESPECT**

**For more information go to [www.nofaspolicycenter.org](http://www.nofaspolicycenter.org)**