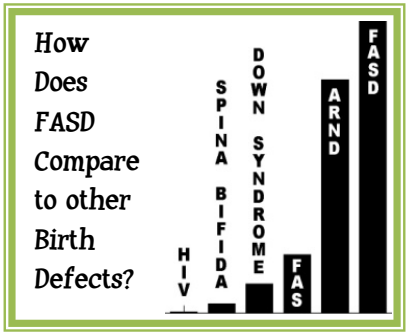
FASD Facts

What is FASD?

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term used to describe the many different problems, from mild to severe, that are caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol. Problems like Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Alcohol Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND).

Brain damage caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol is the most harmful effect and can lead to challenges like learning disabilities or attention deficit disorders to more serious problems like autism, mental illness or even mental retardation.



What's it like to live with FASD?

Most people with FASD do not have mental retardation and yet still have many problems achieving independence.
In fact, 90% are never fully independent.

"Secondary" Disabilities
Mental Illness – 94%
Trouble with the law – 60%
Disrupted Schooling – 60%
Addictions – 47%
Incarceration – 40%

"Healthy babies are good for everybody."

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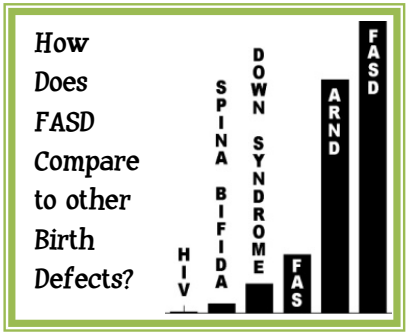

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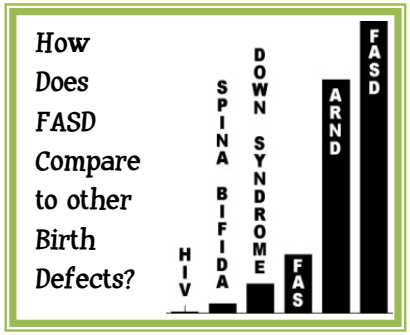

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Prevalence in California

Researchers generally agree that one in 100 births are affected by FASD. In California, that means that over 365,000 citizens are struggling in life because of prenatal exposure to alcohol.

Unfortunately, these figures are not getting smaller. In fact, some studies show alcohol consumption among women is increasing. This includes binge drinking, which is most dangerous for the fetus.

California's Future

Over 15 babies will be born with FASD today in California. That's over 5,475 this year.

Why do most women drink during pregnancy?

Most exposure happens in the first weeks when there is the greatest risk of physical birth defects.

In the U.S., over half of all pregnancies are alcohol exposed; 12.4% at rates that have been shown to be very dangerous to a developing baby. About 6% continue to drink throughout pregnancy .

So, why do women drink during pregnancy? The answer is simple: because they don't know they're pregnant yet.

The Woman Most Likely To Drink During Pregnancy

College Educated
White
Upper Income
Smoker

For more Information Visit:

NINEZERO™ .ORG

or call 888.818.6298

Information provided by Eva Carner

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