

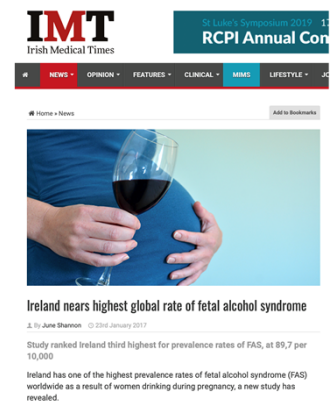
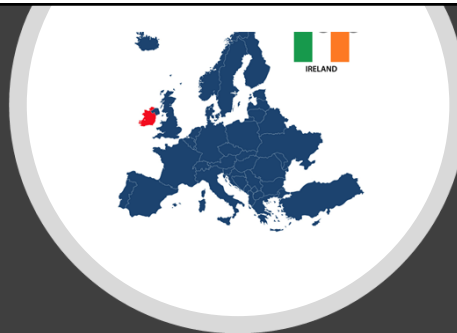
Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Continued Professional Development & Knowledge Exchange for professionals working with complex cases.

Dr. Barry Coughlan
Director of Clinical Psychology
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Ireland's long standing association with alcohol use



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FASD & Ireland: What do we know...

A/c to recent statistics, Ireland is one of the top five countries with the highest estimated prevalence of alcohol use during pregnancy.

80% of Irish women reported consuming alcohol on their first pregnancy.

Estimated that 600 babies are born with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome in Ireland each year.

Estimated 40,000 people living with FAS or FASD in Ireland.

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FASD & Ireland: What do we know... Common Difficulties

Memory problems

Inconsistent performance

Impulsivity

Difficulty with abstract concepts

Slower to process information

Developmental delays

Inability to understand consequences of actions

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Missed & Mis-Diagnoses...

ADHD; ADD

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Conduct Disorder

Reactive Attachment Disorder

Personality Disorder

Bipolar Disorder


Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)

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Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Interdisciplinary Understanding – IRC Funded Conference, June 2014.

- Conference brought together a range of international experts, covering a range of topics on FASD:

- Family perspectives.
- Assessment & diagnostic issues.
- Management of FASD.
- Educational perspectives.
- Challenges in adolescence.



**The Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology,
Faculty of Education & Health Sciences,
University of Limerick,
invites you to:**

A Two Day Interdisciplinary Conference entitled:
**"Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders:
Interdisciplinary Understanding."**

Thursday June 5th & Friday June 6th 2014.

Background:
 Foetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) have emerged as a significant phenomenon within the fields of health, education and social care worldwide. FASD is present in a range of lifelong conditions that are caused by alcohol exposure to a developing foetus. Current prevalence figures suggest that one in a hundred children and young people have FASD.

The Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology is hosting a two-day interdisciplinary conference on the topic of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, with the specific aim of disseminating current international research findings, discussing & debating current evidence based intervention strategies and highlighting the need for effective preventative strategies.

This interdisciplinary conference aims to stimulate dialogue between health, education & allied disciplines to discuss the many implications of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. It will provide up to date information on the latest research & practice in the field of FASD, & suggest implications for policy and practice.

Keynote Speakers:
 Professor Barry Carpenter (UK)
 Dr. Fergus McCarthy (Ireland)
 Dr. Rajesh Malik (UK)
 Dr. Kieran O'Malley (Ireland)
 Ms. Cynthia Silva (USA)
 Ms. Michele Savage (Ireland)

Topics covered include:

- Family Perspectives on FASD
- Complexities in Assessment & Diagnosis
- From Diagnosis to Management of FASD
- Education & evolving pedagogy
- Working with adolescents & adults with FASD

Who Should Attend?
 This event is open to all health professionals, educators, academics, parents, guardians & researchers.

Dates:
 Thursday June 5th & Friday June 6th 2014.

Venue:
 Castletroy Park Hotel, Dublin Road, Limerick.
<http://castletroypark.ie/en/>

Cost:
 This is an Irish Research Council funded event through the New Foundations Scheme. There is no cost for attendees.

Workshop Presenters:
 Olivia Sexton, Eirinn Doyle, Christine McElaney, Marion Rackard, Danny Meenan.

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Knowledge & Training of Professionals?

Discussions arose out of ongoing curriculum review.

What are the “critical issues” for practice?

Given the prevalence figures, are we giving our professionals sufficient grounding in FAS/FASD?

- ASD
- ADD/ADHD
- Conduct disorder

Differential Diagnosis??

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Knowledge & Training for Professionals?

A Survey of Health Care Professionals' Knowledge and Experience of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Alcohol Use in Pregnancy

Helen Howlett¹, Shorag Mackenzie², Eugen-Matthias Strehle³, Judith Rankin⁴ and William K Gray⁵

¹Department of Research and Development, North Tyneside General Hospital, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, North Shields, UK; ²North Tyneside General Hospital, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, North Shields, UK; ³Institute of Health & Society, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK;

⁴Orinda Medical, Highgate Reproductive Health, Weymouth, UK; ⁵© The Author(s) 2015. All rights reserved. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1063426915588931>

SAGE

adoption & fostering

Article

Knowledge and opinions of professional groups concerning FASD in the UK

Raja Mukherjee

Specialist: FASD Behavioural Clinic, UK

Elizabeth Wray

Specialist: FASD Behavioural Clinic, UK

Leopold Curfs

Maastricht University Medical Center, Netherlands

Sheila Hollins

St George's University of London, UK

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Knowledge & Training – What is the research evidence telling us?



LIMITED INPUT ACROSS
MANY PROFESSIONAL
TRAINING PROGRAMMES
ON FASD.



LACK OF KNOWLEDGE.



REQUIREMENT FOR CLEAR
& CONSISTENT GUIDANCE.



IMPACT OF STIGMA.



PREVENTION & EARLY
INTERVENTION IS KEY.



ADEQUATE SUPPORT
SERVICES.



LACK OF CPD ON THE
TOPIC OF FASD.

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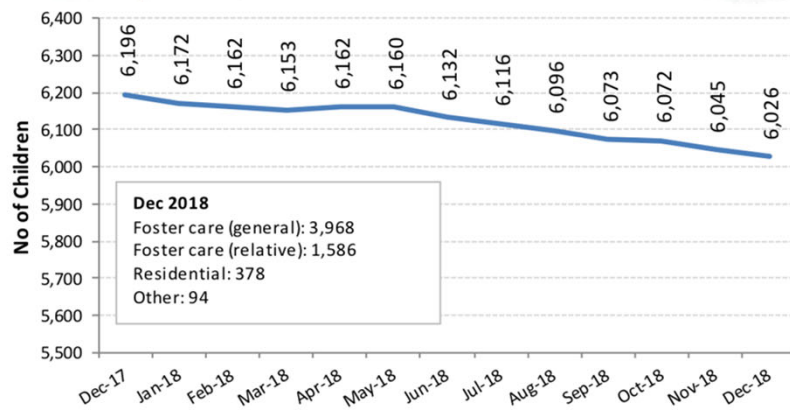
Complexities of Children in Care...

Large numbers of children with FASD are in formal care situations and many are looked after by relatives and/or other caregivers...

FASD is too prevalent for social workers to avoid being involved, yet FASD education and training is woefully inadequate for this profession (Gibbs, Bagley, Badry & Gollner, 2018, p.3)

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TUSLA – Children in Care Figures (Dec 2018)



TUSLA
 An Ghníomhaireacht um
 Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
 Child and Family Agency

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FASD & Ireland: What are the implications?

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Implications
are wide
ranging...

Prevention.

- FASD is 100% preventable; it is a lifelong condition
- FASD affects the individual; the family; one's community & society.

Intervention.

- Primary interventions aimed at prevention.
- Secondary interventions aimed at those affected.

Education

- Education is key.
- Given the complexity of the condition, are we training our practitioners adequately?

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While acknowledging that some literature may not necessarily correlate increasing knowledge with behavior change, we feel that education is the key facilitator available in this instance.

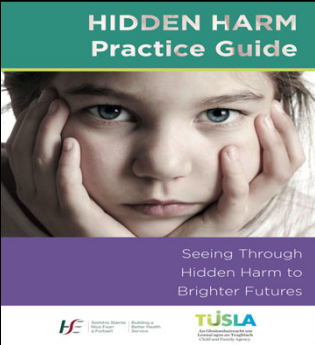
Training will increase knowledge and understanding, thus providing a rationale and catalyst for health care professionals to change attitudes to prevention, diagnosis & early intervention

Howlett et al., 2019

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Future Directions...


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HIDDEN HARM Practice Guide

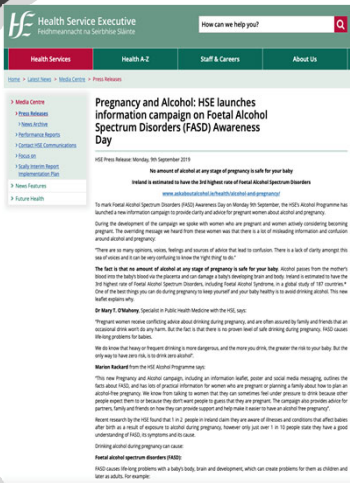
Seeing Through Hidden Harm to Brighter Futures

HSE, Tusla, Department of Health



Pregnancy and alcohol

ask about alcohol.ie



Pregnancy and Alcohol: HSE launches information campaign on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day

HSE Press Release Monday, 10 September 2018

No amount of alcohol at any stage of pregnancy is safe for your baby

Hidden Harm is a new information campaign to provide clarity and advice for pregnant women about alcohol and pregnancy.

During the development of the campaign we spoke with women who are pregnant and women actively considering becoming pregnant. The resulting message we heard from these women was that there is a lot of misleading information and confusion about alcohol and pregnancy.

There are so many opinions, views, feelings and sources of advice that lead to confusion. There is a lack of clarity amongst this sea of advice and it can be very confusing to know the right thing to do.

The fact is that no amount of alcohol at any stage of pregnancy is safe for your baby. Alcohol passes from the mother's blood into the baby through the placenta and can damage the baby's developing brain and body. In fact, it's essential to have the 3rd highest rate of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, including Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, in a global study of 181 countries.* One of the best things you can do during pregnancy is keep yourself and your baby healthy by avoiding drinking alcohol. This new leaflet explains why.

Dr Mary's Challenge: Specialist in Public Health Medicine with the HSE, said:

"Pregnant women receive conflicting advice about drinking during pregnancy, and are often accused of being fussy and that an occasional drink won't do any harm. But the fact is that there is no proven level of safe drinking during pregnancy. HSE causes the long problems for babies.

We do know that heavy or frequent drinking is more dangerous, and the more you drink, the greater the risk to your baby. But the only way to have one child, to be drunk are advised."

Martin Backlund from the HSE Alcohol Programme says:

"This new Pregnancy and Alcohol campaign, including an information leaflet, poster and social media messaging, outlines the facts about FASD, and has a lot of practical information for women who are pregnant or planning a family about how to give an alcohol free pregnancy. We know from talking to women that they can sometimes feel under pressure to drink because other people expect them to or because they don't want people to judge their pregnancy. The campaign also provides advice for partners, family and friends on how they can provide support and help make it easier to have an alcohol free pregnancy."

Recent research by the HSE found that 1 in 2 people in Ireland claim they are aware of FASD and conditions that affect babies after birth as a result of exposure to alcohol during pregnancy, however only just over 1 in 10 people state they have a good understanding of FASD, its symptoms and its cause.

Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause:

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD)

FASD causes lifelong problems with a baby's body, brain and development, which can create problems for them as children and later in adults. For example:

Evidence-based training for health professionals (Mandatory?).

Significant challenges for children in care.

How do we support the carers?

Whole system approach is required.

Universal public health message.

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