

FASD NPN Communications Bulletin

A collection of content updates + tips

Issue 16 | October 2025



Quick Tip

Submit your abstract for the [International Conference on Adolescents and Adults with FASDs](#) hosted by FASD United

📌 Abstract submission deadline: November 16 📌

10th International Conference on
**Adolescents and Adults with
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
Disorders**
Integrating Research, Practice,
and Policy Around the World

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Dates
April 17-20, 2026

Location
The Hyatt Regency, Seattle, WA

Research

Real Life
of adolescents & adults with FASD

Practice & Policy

**April 17-20
2026**

Submission Deadline
November 16, 2025
bit.ly/CallForAbstracts2026

🔗 Call for abstracts: fasdunited.org/fasd2026/2026-call-for-abstracts

FASD NPN Resource Updates

[2026 Awareness Events and Observances Calendar](#)

[NPN Toolkit Communication Resources page](#) > [FASD NPN Resources](#) > [Awareness Events and Observances Calendar](#)

Use this calendar to identify important awareness days for your organization and inform your social media content plan. 📌 Want help creating content? ORAU can help! [Send us an email](#)

January
Dry January January
National Birth Defects Awareness Month January
New Year's Day January 1, 2026
Sundance Film Festival January 22-February 1, 2026
Maternal Health Awareness Day January 23, 2026
National Pediatrician Day January 28, 2026
February
Black History Month February
Patient Recognition Week February 1-7, 2026
Super Bowl February 8, 2026
Galentine's Day February 13, 2026
Valentine's Day February 14, 2026
Random Acts of Kindness Day February 17, 2026
National Caregiver's Day February 20, 2026
March
Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month March
Social Work Month March
Women's History Month March

NPN Content Stream

Between August 1 and September 30, 2025, the FASD NPN disseminated **211 social media posts** about prenatal alcohol and polysubstance use and FASDs reaching approximately **2,360,743 people**. A selection of posts is featured in this section.

RECOGNIZING AWARENESS DAYS + OBSERVANCES

FASD Awareness Month was observed across the NPN

Check out highlights and explore posts:

- [AAP](#) hosted a webinar series* about early identification and support for families impacted by prenatal alcohol exposure
📢 Shout out to [MAP](#) for promoting [AAP's series](#)
"Join AAP's FASD Awareness Month webinar series! 🌟 Learn about early identification and support for families impacted by prenatal alcohol exposure."
- [ACOG](#) highlighted FASDs as a [lifelong condition](#) that can include [behavioral challenges](#), [learning difficulties](#), and [physical health problems](#) and promoted [SBI as a key role in preventing alcohol exposure during pregnancy](#)
- [FASD United](#) encouraged followers to [learn, share, and take action](#) to challenge [stigma](#), improve [support systems](#), and raise awareness about [FASDs](#), [universal screening](#), and [early identification](#)
- [MSU](#) with [NACCHO](#) highlighted [FASDs as a group of preventable conditions caused by prenatal alcohol exposure](#) and promoted [resources for local health departments to communicate about preventing substance-exposed pregnancies and support individuals and families living with FASDs](#)
- [UAA](#) with [AWHONN](#) shared [facts about alcohol and pregnancy](#) and highlighted [provider resources](#)
- [UAA](#) with [NPWH](#) highlighted [resources](#), recognized the [critical role WHNP-BCs play in preventing alcohol-exposed pregnancies and FASDs](#), and promoted their [position statement](#)
- University of Nevada, Reno/AAMA's [Medical Assistant Partnership for Healthy Pregnancies and Families \(MAP\)](#) highlighted the [risks of drinking alcohol while pregnant](#), encouraged [normalizing conversations about alcohol use at all stages of life](#), and promoted [resources to help patients get correct information](#)
- [MAP](#) with AAMA highlighted [medical assistants' role in FASD education and prevention](#) and promoted [resources to help protect the health and future of the next generation](#)
- UT-Austin with [NASW](#) highlighted [alcohol use during pregnancy as a leading preventable cause of birth defects and neurodevelopmental disabilities](#) and promoted a new [blog post about women's drinking trends and social work's role in reducing FASD prevalence: What to Know About Women and Alcohol During FASD Awareness Month](#)

* This event has already occurred

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Month Webinar Series – September 2025
Hosted by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

August 20
Multidisciplinary Strategies for Identifying & Supporting Children with FASDs: Birth to Five
This webinar, in collaboration with Los Angeles County Mental Health Department, Birth to Five, focuses on enhancing care coordination for children from birth to five years old and their families affected by FASDs. It emphasizes the importance of universal screening and an interdisciplinary approach. Participants will learn effective strategies for identifying early signs of FASDs, utilizing resources and improving overall care and support through collaborative efforts.
Presenters: Roseanne Chang, MD, FAAP, Kaiser Permanente; FASD United

September 10
From Crayons to Caps & Gowns: Understanding FASDs Across the School-Age Spectrum
This webinar will provide primary care clinicians with the tools they need to coordinate care for children with FASDs from school-age to young adulthood. The session will focus on identifying and managing neurobehavioral and medical concerns at different developmental stages. Participants will learn about medical, therapeutic, and pharmacological considerations.
Presenters: Yaelin Serrano, MD & Adalberto Spinks-Franklin, MD, MPH

September 24
Supporting Children with FASDs in School: Effective Strategies for Pediatricians
This webinar, sponsored by the AAP Council on School Health (COH), aims to highlight the importance of supporting children with FASDs in educational settings and fostering effective collaboration between pediatricians, parents, and school professionals. The session will cover practical strategies and questions on the pediatrician's role in special education services and broader school-based supports.
Presenters: Mary Beth Woods, MD & Elizabeth Cleveland, PhD, CCC-SLP



September is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month

Healthcare and allied health professionals play a **crucial role** in the prevention, identification, and management of FASDs.

September is FASD AWARENESS MONTH

Explore the Collaborative for Alcohol-Free Pregnancies' website for patient and clinician resources.



At NPWH, we believe WHNP-BCs protect moms and babies.



FASD United recognized National Recovery Month

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"September is National Recovery Month, a time to acknowledge the journeys of millions of Americans in recovery. This month is a reminder that recovery is possible, and it's a message of hope for those currently struggling with mental health or substance use issues. [SAMHSA's Recovery Month Toolkit](#) is a great resource to learn more about support services. Use this toolkit to help share a message of hope with your own community."



FASD United recognized Suicide Prevention Week

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"During Suicide Prevention Week, we want to shed light on a vulnerable and often-overlooked group: adolescents with FASD. A [recent study](#) found alarming statistics on suicidal risk in this population. The study showed that a staggering 13% of teens with FASD had a serious suicide attempt in the past year, which is over five times higher than the national average. For males with FASD, the number of serious suicide attempts was 19 times higher than their peers. This highlights the critical need for more support and understanding."



EDUCATING + AWARENESS RAISING

FASD United shared a new video from their Louisiana Affiliate: Give FASD a Seat at the Table

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“LSU Health New Orleans Human Development Center, an FASD United affiliate, has released a powerful new short video to raise awareness of FASD. The message is clear: FASD deserves a seat at the table in every conversation — from education and maternal & child health to mental health, policy, child welfare, and beyond.”



UAA with NPWH presented at the NPWH Women's Healthcare Conference: Patient-Centered Conversations around Polysubstance Use, Contraception, and Pregnancy

[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

“How can providers approach conversations about polysubstance use, contraception, and pregnancy with compassion and cultural safety? Join Lily Bastain, MSN, APRN, CNM, and Faith Ozer Green, MPH, ... where they will highlight how cultural safety frameworks can help providers move beyond stigma and systemic bias when addressing sensitive topics. Attendees will gain tools to:

- ◆ Build trust with patients
- ◆ Balance power in the patient-provider relationship
- ◆ Deliver more respectful, informed, and compassionate care

Let's advance culturally responsive communication in women's health together!”



FASD United was an invited speaker at the First International Conference on FASD: Support Programs for Individuals and Families Living with FASD

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“We are proud to share that our COO, Jennifer Wisdahl, was invited to speak at the First International Conference on FASDs in Mexico City, Mexico! Jenn highlighted the importance of building systems of care that empower and sustain families worldwide.”



FASD United interviewed Mary Kate Weber

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“After 26 years of dedicated service at CDC, Mary Kate Weber has retired from NCBDDD. Throughout her career, she made a lasting impact through her work on prenatal substance exposure surveillance and research. FASD United is honored to continue our partnership with CDC, including our role in the FASD NPN. ❤️”



ACOG highlighted their newly updated guidance on cannabis use in pregnancy and lactation

📣 Shout out to MAP and FASD United for promoting the guidance

- MAP

[X](#) | [Instagram](#)

“📣 New ACOG guidance alert 📣 Expectant or hoping to be—read this. ACOG now recommends complete abstinence from cannabis during pregnancy and lactation and calls for universal screening for cannabis use before, during, and after pregnancy. Risk associations include preterm birth, low birth weight, NICU admissions, and neurodevelopmental challenges—and there’s no proven medical benefit for cannabis use in pregnancy. Let’s normalize honest, nonjudgmental conversations about cannabis and reproductive health. **#fasdnpn**”

- FASD United

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“📣 ACOG now recommends universal screening for cannabis use during the pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, and post-partum periods. This significant update to clinical guidance was released on September 19th, highlighting the importance of maternal and child health.”

CNN Health [Subscribe](#)

Ob/gyn group advises against cannabis use during pregnancy, recommends universal screening

UPDATED SEP 18, 2025
By Deldre McPhillips



ACOG Releases New Recommendations on Cannabis Use in Pregnancy and Lactation



FASD United promoted their new resource: What to do After an FASD Diagnosis

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“... a brand-new resource designed to guide individuals and families after receiving an FASD diagnosis. This tool highlights clear action steps like documenting your diagnosis and accessing services.”

New Resource from FASD United: What to do After an FASD Diagnosis

FASD: What to do After an FASD Diagnosis

- 1 Take Time to Process**
 - Acknowledge your emotions—relief, validation, grief, confusion, overwhelmed—all are valid.
 - Let yourself feel without judgment. It's okay to take time to adjust.
- 2 Learn About FASD**
 - Reach out to trusted connections, like the FASD United Family Navigators. You can also find a lot of resources on the last page of this document.
 - Understand how FASD impacts the brain, body, and behavior.
 - Understand that your developmental age may not match your chronological age, and that is okay.
 - Remember that while there are many characteristics associated with FASD, each person with FASD has distinct challenges and strengths. Every person with FASD is unique.
- 3 Identify Strengths and Needed Supports**
 - Give FASD a Seat at the Table.
 - Know that FASD comes with both strengths and challenges.
 - Create a list of your strengths, reflect on what areas of support would be helpful (such as organization, time management, money management, mobility, communication, emotional regulation, social connections, daily life skills).

bit.ly/AfterDiagnosisFASD

🌟 Collaboration Spotlight 🌟

MAP amplified living experiences of FASD by sharing graphics from CDC's FASDs video series and the Partner Promotion Toolkit

[X](#)

“👧 FASDs affect every part of the body and last a lifetime. Emily’s story reminds us that prevention and awareness matter. 💙”

FASD Awareness Month

Because my life-giving mother drank every day, I pretty much have something going on with every organ system. This is a lifelong, whole-body diagnosis.

Emily
Diagnosed with a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder at age 1

FASD United promoted their Family Navigator Service

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"Have questions about FASD, need resources, or just want someone who understands? FASD United's Family Navigator Program is your go-to resource for compassionate, free support.

🔗 Our services include:

- Personalized guidance and referrals
- Educational information about #FASD
- Support for families, caregivers, and professionals
- Together, we can connect the pieces and build a stronger community for all

☎ Contact a Family Navigator today at 202-785-4585 or learn more: bit.ly/FamilyNavigatorSupport"



FASD United hosted Impact Week

- Symposium

[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

"... attendees are contributing across 3 sessions to share insights, spark ideas, and co-create updated recommendations for progress in the #FASD field and community 🍌"

- Poster Reception

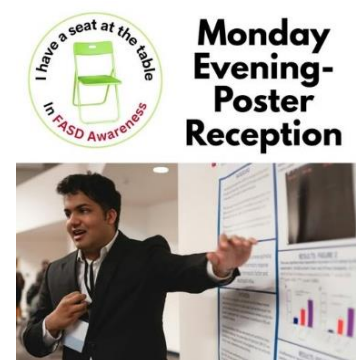
[X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

"The Poster Reception brings together attendees from across backgrounds and career areas for a powerful professional development opportunity. Join us to connect, share ideas, and celebrate the innovative work shaping the future of the FASD field."

- Partners' Day

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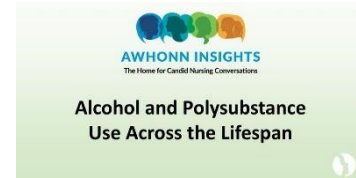
"It's Partners' Day, and we're so excited to spend the day with our friends at Uniformed Services University and other amazing partners! Today is all about collaboration and activities focused on the latest and most impactful research in the FASD field and beyond. We can't wait to see what new insights emerge from our discussions!"



UAA with AWHONN released an AWHONN Insights Podcast: Alcohol and Polysubstance Use Across the Lifespan

[Instagram](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

"Research professionals from the University of Alaska Anchorage share their insights on the evolving landscape of polysubstance use across the lifespan and its complex implications for health care. Tune in to learn evidence-based strategies for screening and how to provide patient-centered treatment through innovative methods."



AAFP promoted their CME webinar: Identifying and Caring for Patients with FASDs*

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"... Join us to learn how to implement evidence-based interventions and treatment strategies for managing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome ..."

* This event has already occurred



The FASD NPN Communications Bulletin is created by ORAU.
Please send any questions, corrections, or suggestions to [Katherine Chyka](#).

Want something included in the next bi-monthly bulletin?

[Let us know.](#) We'd love to hear from you!



FASD NATIONAL PARTNER NETWORK