

Alcohol and Pregnancy: An Overview of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

A Congressional Briefing Sponsored by

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*In conjunction with
The Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus*

**Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Noon - 2:00 pm
(box lunches will be available)
Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-340**

Alcohol consumption during pregnancy can have devastating effects on the developing embryo and fetus. Despite the Surgeon General's Warning about drinking during pregnancy, studies have found that 30 percent of women in the U.S. drink alcohol at some point during pregnancy. Current estimates are that 10 children per 1000 in the U.S. have some effect resulting from alcohol exposure during gestation. Prenatal alcohol exposure can result in physical malformations, learning deficits, problems with emotional control, and poor mental health. Although there is variability in the severity of the problems, they create a variety of health challenges that come under the collective umbrella term: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

Speakers

Kenneth Warren, PhD, Acting Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, will provide an historical overview of how research has changed basic understanding of alcohol and pregnancy.

Edward Riley, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Behavioral Teratology at San Diego State University, will describe recent findings on the consequences of prenatal alcohol exposure, focusing on the changes that occur in the brain and how these impact behavior.

Kathleen Mitchell, MHS, LCADC, Vice President and National Spokesperson for the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, will describe Circle of Hope, an international program for birth mothers of children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

Sponsoring Organizations

ABMRF/The Foundation for Alcohol Research - American College of Neuropsychopharmacology - American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - American Psychological Association - American Society of Addiction Medicine - Association for Psychological Science - Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America - Consortium of Social Science Associations - Fairbanks Hospital - Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences - Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research - National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University - National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc - National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome - Research Society on Alcoholism - Society for Research in Child Development - State Associations of Addiction Services

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