

# FACTS ABOUT Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders



## Who We Are

Children deserve a future shaped by their dreams. However, so many children live with disabilities that could have been completely prevented. **TOPDD's mission is to prevent the occurrence of disabilities whenever possible and reduce their impact.** That's why TOPDD educates, motivates, and empowers Texans to protect the minds of children.

## What We Do

TOPDD operates as the statewide bridge to excellence to eliminate all preventable disabilities and diminishing their effects by:

- Educating communities
- Motivating and connecting stakeholders
- Empowering Texans to make prevention a daily habit for all children

## FASD Collaborative of Texas

The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Collaborative of Texas is supported by TOPDD. This volunteer-driven program is led by a Steering Committee and members are divided into three workgroups that focus on research, policy, and education.

## Why It Matters

**FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) is a brain-based physical disability; it is permanent and cannot be cured.** The term FASD is an umbrella term that describes the range of effects caused by alcohol usage during pregnancy which includes the following conditions:

- Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Alcohol-Related Birth Defects
- Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

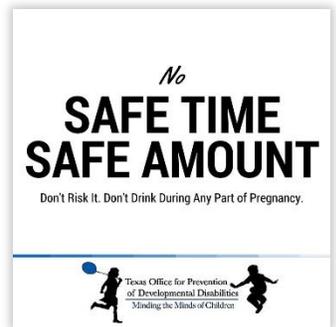
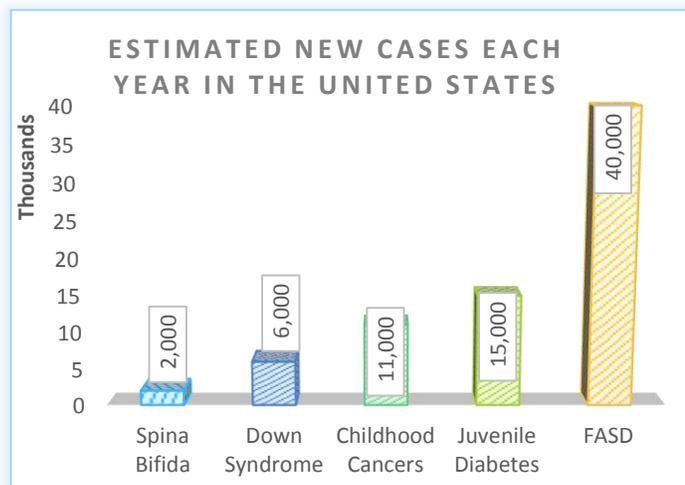
## Prevalence

Conservative estimates say a FASD occurs in 1 of 100 births nationally. **Of the approximate 380,000 Texas births each year, 3,800 babies have FASD.**



## Cost

FAS costs, nationally, may be up to \$3.6 billion each year. **The lifetime costs for an individual with FASD is about \$2 million.**



## Of The Individuals With FASD:

- **94%** also have a mental illness
- **82%** are unable to live independently
- **72%** experience physical or sexual abuse, or domestic violence
- **60%** have disrupted school experiences
- **60%** age 12 or older are charged or convicted of a crime
- **35%** have alcohol and drug problems