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TWENTY YEARS OF FASD RESEARCH IN MANITOBA

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Background:

The Manitoba FASD Centre (previously Clinic for Alcohol and Drug Exposed Children) has been operating since 1999 and is the only FASD diagnostic clinic with a provincial scope and mandate. The clinical multidisciplinary team at MB FASD Centre along with the regional diagnostic coordinators throughout the province have specialized expertise in the diagnosis, intervention, and management of children with FASD and their families. The Centre has maintained a database of its clinical assessments, including one of the largest national cohort of preschool and school age assessments. Our database is shared with the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, which has offered unique opportunity for understanding the neurodevelopmental patterns and population health impact related to FASD.

Objective:

The purpose of this poster is to present a twenty year overview of research at the Manitoba FASD Centre in the clinical diagnosis and multidisciplinary assessment of children and youth with FASD in Manitoba as well as in the understanding of the population health issues of those affected by FASD.

Methods:

This is a descriptive overview of twenty years of multidisciplinary FASD research in Manitoba.

Results:

Our research has contributed to both the original and the recently revised Canadian Diagnostic Guidelines which guides clinicians nationally. Our research has informed clinical assessment of the cognitive and behavioural functioning of those with FASD including communication, learning, sensory processing, and sleep. Our recent novel work describes preschool neurodevelopmental patterns in order to advocate for early identification and intervention. Emergent research in partnership with basic science and community health science is seeking to further support early clinical identification.

Conclusion:

The work of Manitoba's multidisciplinary FASD assessment and intervention team has informed government FASD policy and programs. Our research has been instrumental in contributing to the early identification, assessment, treatment and management of FASD to optimize support for individuals affected and their families.