**From:** Christine Rogan
**Sent:** 29 April 2013 5:03 p.m.
**To:** fannz
**Subject:** FASD April 2013 Update

Kia ora FANNZ

It is great having your continued interest and support for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder matters. The Alcohol Healthwatch team is currently upgrading our database and we are asking for a few more details from you so that we can communicate more effectively about FASD or any other alcohol-related topic you may be interested in.  We would therefore appreciate if you could help us by completing the information in the attached form and returning it by the 7th May 2013 to one of the addresses listed on the back page of the form (or email it to me).  We are always keen to expand our network so please encourage your family, friends, and colleagues to join!

Below is an update on recent information from the FASD world!

Ka kite ano

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***“Whilst we need to be as aware as possible of the constraints of FASD, we must not be limited by these”(Tracey Jongens, Christchurch parent).***

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**New Zealand**

            **Northern Advocate** - Safer Journeys - North mums-to-be putting babies at risk

Mums-to-be are putting their babies at risk by continuing to drink during pregnancy, and even driving under the influence of alcohol.

[http://www.northernadvocate.co.nz/news/safer-journeys-north-mums-to-be-putting-babies-at-/1845847/](http://t.ymlp268.net/ybeazaqysjaxaysakabjj/click.php)

**Hazardous drinking in 2011/12: Findings from the New Zealand Health Survey**  <http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/hazardous-drinking-2011-12-findings-new-zealand-health-survey>  - The proportion of adults who had consumed alcohol in the past 12 months dropped from 84% in 2006/07 to 80% in 2011/12. The proportion fell for both men (from 88% to 85) and women (from 80% to 74%).   Since 2006/07 the level of hazardous drinking among male past-year drinkers has fallen from 30% to 26%. Among female past-year drinkers, the level of hazardous drinking has not changed significantly between 2006/07 (13%) and 2011/12 (12%).

**Maternal factors associated with alcohol intake before and following pregnancy recognition: A post-partum survey of New Zealand women**  [Mallard et al 2013 Drug and Alcohol Review](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dar.12024/abstract) . A retrospective survey of 723 post-partum women resident in maternitywards located across New Zealand was conducted using a self-administered questionnaire. Maternal sociodemographic and obstetric characteristics and alcohol intake before and after pregnancy recognition were assessed. Of the 968 womeninvited to participate, 78% agreed. Eighty-two percent of women reported consuming alcohol prior to pregnancy and 20% reported typically consuming >4 New Zealand standard drinks per occasion.Overall,34% of women reported drinking at some time during pregnancy. Twelve percent of pregnancies were at high risk of heavy alcohol exposure in early gestation.

**Australia**

**Australasian FASD Conference - 19- 20 November 2013**

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) and the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) invite you to the Australasian Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Conference in Brisbane on 19- 20 November 2013.

[http://iaha.com.au/australasian-fasd-conference/](http://t.ymlp268.net/yhharaqysjalaysavabjj/click.php)

**Fathers play role in childhood health pre-conception (childhood cancer)**

During the preconception window of vulnerability in men, alcohol is believed to compromise sperm health by damaging DNA and impairing DNA repair systems. [The study’s](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23247637) researchers Elizabeth Milne and Carol Bower from WA’s Telethon Institute for Child Health Research say there is a role for fathers in safeguarding the health of their unborn children.

<http://www.sciencewa.net.au/topics/health-a-medicine/item/2104-test.html>

**NOFASARD Submission** to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Inquiry into the Value of a Justice Reinvestment Approach to Criminal Justice in Australia <http://www.nofasard.org.au/content/newsletters/2013april.pdf>

**Maternal Alcohol Use and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Infant Mortality Excluding SIDS**

O’Leary, et al (2013) <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2013/02/20/peds.2012-1907.abstract>.  Children whose mothers are diagnosed with an alcohol disorder in pregnancy, or within a year after giving birth, are three times more likely to die from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), compared with infants whose mothers do not have an alcohol disorder, a new study finds. 3% of non-SIDS infant deaths are also attributed to maternal alcohol use.

**Canada**

                **The fifth International FASD Conference February 2013** – Presentations are available to download in PDF <http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/FASd/>  with Webcasts of plenary presentations available soon.

                **Canada FASD Research Network -** **Light Drinking During Pregnancy: CanFASD Responds to Confusing Information That Continues to Cloud the Issue.** A recent article, in the BBC (April 16, 2013) online reported about a study in an International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (BJOG). The headlines read: “Light drinking ‘not harmful to baby’ say scientists,” and “Light drinking during pregnancy does not harm child behavioural or mental development.”

[http://www.pr.com/press-release/487067](http://t.ymlp268.net/yjyagaqysjapaysaoabjj/click.php)

                **Canada.com** - **Signs warn of risk in mixing booze, pregnancy.** Nanaimo's liquor-service sector will soon be required to warn patrons about the dangers of mixing alcohol with pregnancy.

[http://www.canada.com/Signs+warn+risk+mixing+booze+pregnancy/8228868/story.html](http://t.ymlp268.net/yjqapaqysjadaysaiabjj/click.php)

                **The Toronto Observer** - **Ad campaign turning heads one belly at a time.** While roaming around Toronto these days you might have seen some interesting poster ads. Ads displaying words such as ‘love’, ‘joy’, ‘mom’ and ‘hope’, have been turning heads because the letter ‘O’ is actually the bare belly of a pregnant woman.

[http://torontoobserver.ca/2013/04/14/ad-campaign-turning-heads-one-belly-at-a-time/](http://t.ymlp268.net/ybuapaqysjalaysalabjj/click.php)

                **YourAlberta** Youtube resource - **FASD Prevention: Women and Pregnancy.** This session provides background information on FASD including data on alcohol use during pregnancy, how FASD can be prevented, and challenges that are faced in interventions. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5CkjrzYLBo](http://t.ymlp268.net/ybjanaqysjadaysaxabjj/click.php)

                **YourAlberta** Youtube Resource - **Engaging Students with FASD**

Dr. Jacqueline Pei gives a brief overview of the challenges a child with FASD will face in the classroom environment and focus on strategies for their success. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dA\_XMU2pSwI](http://t.ymlp268.net/ybhataqysjazaysanabjj/click.php)

**Consensus Development Conference on Legal Issues of FASD, Edmonton, Canada: September 18 – 20, 2013.**This conference is a 3-day juried hearing of evidence and scientific findings that allows for the engagement and collaboration of citizens, decision makers in government, and the justice system in addressing a specific set of key questions on legal issues of FASD <http://www.fasdedmonton2013.ca/FASD-Legal/Default.aspx>

**First International Conference on Prevention of FASD - Sep 23 - 25, 2013.** This is the first international conference to address the primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of FASD. Plenary sessions will promote discussion and reflection on promising and innovative approaches for preventing FASD, such as policies and programs to address alcohol use and the social determinants of health. [http://www.fasdedmonton2013.ca/fasd-prevention/Default.aspx](http://t.ymlp268.net/yhbafaqysjavaysaoabjj/click.php)

**Towards Identifying a Characteristic Neuropsychological Profile for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders – Analysis of the Motherisk FASD Clinic** ([Nash et al 2013](http://www.jptcp.com/pubmed.php?articleId=402))<http://www.motherisk.org/FAR/> **.** This study looked at 170 children who were seen by the Motherisk FASD Clinic between 2005 and 2009, 109 of whom had received a FASD diagnosis. Children with a FASD diagnosis were found to have neuropsychological profile characterised by clear weaknesses in verbal reasoning, memory, language function and mathematical reasoning and calculation.

**USA**

**Medical Daily -** **Rich Women Most Likely to Binge Drink**

Binge drinking is a risk factor in many health and social problems that affect women, including unintentional injuries, violence, liver disease, hypertension, heart disease, stroke, breast and other cancers, reduced cognitive function, and alcohol dependence.

[http://www.medicaldaily.com/articles/14884/20130424/rich-women-binge-drink.htm](http://t.ymlp268.net/ybmazaqysjazaysarabjj/click.php)

                **NOFAS responds to “light drinking” Research**

Research published last week in BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology affirms that, “…the safest option for pregnant women is to avoid drinking [alcohol] during pregnancies.” Although, if you read the headlines or the research sponsor’s news release you wouldn’t find that statement anywhere.

[http://www.nofas.org/news/nofas-responds-to-light-drinking-research/](http://t.ymlp268.net/yjwaaaqysjacaysaxabjj/click.php)

                **40th Anniversary Conference on FASD - September 26-27, 2013**.. This Atlantic City, NJ  40th anniversary professional summit features a keynote address by Dr. Kenneth L. Jones, the lead author for the seminal 1973 article on FASD.  The conference also features Dr. Luther Robinson, Dr. Jennifer Thomas, Dr. Grace Chang, Dr. Claire Coles, and Dr. Natalie Novick-Brown. [Register Now: 40th Anniversary Conference on FASD in New Jersey](http://nofas.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=0c4e3277b83599d7092769953&id=c7805273fb&e=4ff9ddde55)