

# Fetal Alcohol Syndrome:

## Guidelines for Referral and Diagnosis



National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Department of Health and Human Services

in coordination with

National Task Force on  
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect





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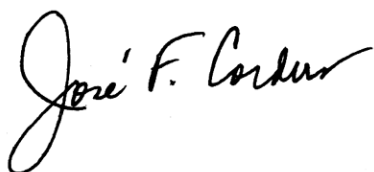


## Foreword

The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in collaboration with the National Taskforce on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects, is pleased to present *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Guidelines for Referral and Diagnosis*. This document represents the deliberations of clinicians, researchers, parents, and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, whose main goals were to increase the identification of individuals with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) using uniform criteria, and to improve the delivery of appropriate services to those individuals and their families. These new guidelines will help achieve those goals by educating medical and allied health professionals about FAS.

In 2003, we, in the FAS research and practice communities, celebrated the 30th anniversary of the first reports describing fetal alcohol syndrome. Since that time we have learned a great deal about this preventable condition. We now recognize that FAS represents the tip of the iceberg and that there is a continuum of outcomes associated with prenatal exposure to alcohol. These guidelines were undertaken, in part, as an effort to facilitate further identification, understanding, and study of all conditions resulting from prenatal exposure to alcohol. They build on previous work and incorporate important scientific and clinical knowledge that has been obtained in recent years. CDC is pleased to provide continuing support for the expansion and refinement of scientific descriptions for FAS and other disorders related to prenatal exposure to alcohol through its ongoing work with the National Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect and the federal Interagency Coordinating Committee on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (ICCFAS).

Preventing all adverse outcomes associated with prenatal alcohol exposure remains a primary goal of CDC, as well as the entire U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CDC is committed to working with other federal agencies, organizations in the private sector, relevant partners, and the public to achieve this goal. Similarly, CDC is committed to enhanced early identification of individuals with FAS and related disorders to ensure their access to appropriate services. These latest guidelines for referral and diagnosis are an important step towards that goal. Together we will ensure all persons with FAS and related disorders develop optimally and reach their full potential.



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