

Abstract

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are the leading cause of mental retardation as a birth defect in the United States, and are 100% preventable. This thesis documents the current state of FASD prevention/education efforts in Alaska, including an inventory of existing outreach efforts, and a secondary data analysis of an existing data set. Rural community perspectives of FASD and its prevention were sampled through the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Knowledge Assessment Project (FASKAP) conducted by others in 2003 and re-analyzed in 2005. Key findings from the FASKAP study suggest that there is substantial knowledge and awareness of FAS in rural Alaska, but still much room for strengthened educational outreach. Recommendations for the State of Alaska, public health practitioners, and future research and practices are provided.

Key Words: FAS, FASD, Alaska, Prevention, Educational tools, Evaluation.