



The Canada Northwest FASD Research Network's

FASD Prevention from a Women's Health Determinants Perspective

Purpose

The Network Action Team (NAT) on FASD Prevention from a Women's Health Determinants Perspective links researchers, service providers, and policy advisors in Canada's western provinces and northern territories, in order to build upon the current knowledge base of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevention, and bring it into health promotion, prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and policy development, as well as further research.

A women's health determinants perspective on FASD prevention assures that social determinants of health are taken into account in our prevention efforts. Understanding and acting on the factors that increase, or reduce, women's risks for developing addictions and having a child with FASD requires collaborative action among women, service providers, policy makers, researchers, and the communities who are affected.

Network Action Team Description

The NAT has over 35 active members from Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon. This NAT's team members have:

- expertise in conducting research on FASD, women's substance use, and many other areas related to women's health
- direct involvement with community-based service delivery
- expertise in health education, psychology, sociology, nursing, epidemiology, First Nations and Inuit health, public health
- expertise in health policy and planning, program evaluation and knowledge translation

Network Action Team Activities

The team's current aims and activities are in the following areas.

- *Network building* - Build a network of researchers and research collaborators dedicated to FASD prevention from a women's health determinants perspective in the northern territories and western provinces in Canada.
- *Research* - Build multidisciplinary research teams, develop research proposals, and conduct research identifying and examining how social determinants of health mediate women's substance use during pregnancy and inform FASD prevention efforts.
- *Influencing policy and service provision* - Facilitate the incorporation of gender-based analysis and traditional indigenous knowledge into FASD prevention efforts, surveillance research and measurement tools, addictions treatment, and harm reduction services for pregnant women and mothers, and as well into program and policy development.
- *Collaborative knowledge translation* - Utilize and evaluate a virtual Community of Practice (CoP) model as a mechanism for knowledge exchange, engaging researchers, policy makers, government representatives, clinicians, community-based service providers, advocates, and women concerned with FASD prevention from a women's health determinants perspective.

New participants who are interested in the NAT's goals and activities are welcome.

For more information, find us on the web: www.canfasd.ca/networkActionTeams/womens-health-determinants.aspx

Read our blog: <http://fasdprevention.wordpress.com/>

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