



Pre-Budget Submission 2025

Awareness | Education | Support

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FASD Ireland CLG is a not-for-profit social enterprise
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Content

A Message from our CEO

About Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder & FASD Ireland

Executive Summary

Introduction

Continued Investment for FASD Ireland

Developing Irish Research into FASD

Creating Awareness in Education

Ringfenced Alcohol Related Harm Fund

Economic Context

Economic Context (continued)

References

FASD Ireland Awareness Campaign Image

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“As we look to the future, let us envision a society where every person living with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) receives the care, respect and opportunities they deserve.”

A Chara,

It is my privilege to present our Pre-Budget Submission for Budget 2025. This document represents not just the financial and operational needs of FASD Ireland, but also the hopes and aspirations of the many people and families that we support. Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) continues to pose significant challenges in our society, affecting the lives of a large number of our population across Ireland. Our mission, along with reducing the prevalence of FASD, is to ensure that those impacted by FASD receive the necessary resources, care, and support to lead fulfilling lives.

This Pre-Budget proposal highlights the critical areas where funding and resources are urgently needed to make a tangible difference. From developing education and a consistent public health message, along with early intervention and FASD aware education services to family support initiatives and research, our proposals are designed to create a robust framework of support for everyone affected by FASD.

The upcoming budget presents a pivotal opportunity for the government to demonstrate its commitment to the well-being of some of its most vulnerable citizens. By investing in FASD Ireland, the government can ensure that people living with FASD will have access to the support they need to thrive and can significantly improve their quality of life. This is not just an investment in services, but an investment in people - empowering them to reach their full potential and contribute positively to society.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated team in Ennis, County Clare who have worked tirelessly to compile this submission. Their commitment and passion are the driving force behind our mission. Together, we can create a future where FASD is fully understood, appropriately managed, and effectively supported.

As we look to the future, let us envision a society where every person living with FASD receives the care, respect, and opportunities they deserve. This budget submission is a step towards that vision, and I urge our government leaders to give it the consideration and action it warrants.

Is mise, le meas,

Tristan Casson-Rennie
Chief Executive Officer
FASD Ireland



About Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and FASD Ireland

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is Ireland's most prevalent, yet only preventable neuro-developmental disability. FASD is caused by the consumption of any amount of alcohol at any time from 6 weeks before conception (either parent) and for the duration of the pregnancy..

In 2017, a survey was conducted by JAMA Paediatrics looking at FASD by WHO Region. Ireland was estimated to have a FASD prevalence of 4.75% of population; three times as many people diagnosed with Autism in Ireland. Many people do not know or recognise that they are living with FASD. Following Covid, in September 2022 the HSE revised the prevalence estimate announcing up to 7.4% of population, reflecting the increase in the number of babies being born in Ireland together with the surge of home alcohol consumption during lockdown..

It is estimated that 2,700 babies were born in Ireland in 2021 with FASD. We must remember that no parent sets out to harm their baby, and FASD is a result of extremely poor public health awareness messaging, and a lack of education about the risks of prenatal alcohol exposure prior to conception and during pregnancy.

Ireland is unique in that whilst having perhaps the second highest prevalence of FASD in the world, it is the only country in the developed world not to recognise FASD as a neuro-developmental disability. There are no statutory guidelines for diagnosis in Ireland, and there is no provision for support or recognised careplan.

Whilst HSE Agencies including CDNT's and CAMHs are able to meet with Children and Young Adults, there is limited understanding about FASD specifically and without statutory guidelines any attempt of diagnosis is unable to be verified.

FASD is Ireland's silent epidemic, and most people living with the condition are already known to the HSE and other agencies that provide support for one reason or another. Owing to a lack of recognition of the condition, FASD is overlooked and often diagnosed as one or more of the recognised 428 co-morbid conditions instead.

FASD Ireland was established in September 2021 with three core aims, to raise awareness of FASD, to reduce the prevalence of FASD, and to support people living with FASD. In providing support, FASD Hub Ireland was launched in March 2023 with the endorsement of Minister of State with responsibility for Disability Anne Rabbitte TD, and funded in part by Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Ideas Academy and Action Lab. This provides a national telephone helpline operating Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm for anyone who lives with FASD, any who cares for someone living with FASD, and anyone who works with someone living with the condition.

A large volume of calls are received by FASD Hub Ireland when families face challenges or are in crisis. We are able to provide help by working with the Parent or Carer and providing strategies for them to be a more effective external brain for their child; helping to de-escalate and integrate the child back into education or the home setting without further altercation or upset. Parents and Carers really benefit from receiving one-to-one support and guidance with a member of the FASD Ireland team.

We know that interventions with the child are often ineffective, their brain has been damaged by the prenatal alcohol exposure. That is why we believe the most effective intervention and support for the child or young adult is for us to work with Parents or Carers and the team around them.

Whilst HSE Agencies including CDNT's and CAMHs can meet with Children and Young Adults to the age of 18, there is limited understanding about FASD specifically and without statutory guidelines any attempt of diagnosis is unable to be confirmed or provided. When people living with FASD reach 18 years old, there is no further support available to them in any part of the country.



In 2020, when this coalition Government of Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party came into office, they did so following lengthy tripartite negotiations that left them with an ambitious Programme for Government.

On Page 47 of that Programme, the Parties laid out their intentions to create a new Social Contract between citizens and the State. This ambitious proposal sought to achieve a number of targeted actions for people with disabilities.

It committed to **ratifying the Optional Protocol** to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) before the end of the Government term, and to **prioritise early diagnosis interventions and access to services**, which they wanted to **improve and change through better implementation and collaboration**. It committed to **developing programmes promoting awareness, among the general public of the lived experience of people with disabilities**.

When we analyse these commitments from the perspective of FASD Ireland, it would be unfair to say that the Government have managed to fully achieve this particular aim. Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) remains Ireland's most prevalent neurodevelopmental disability, affecting up to 380,000 people according to latest estimates from the HSE. For people living with FASD and their families, there is no recognition for their disability, no statutory support, and thus the number one priority for FASD Ireland and the ask of this Pre-Budget Submission is that the State provides for the recognition of FASD as a neurodevelopmental disability and progresses Statutory diagnostic guidelines and establishes a clinical pathway to diagnosis. Ireland is the only country in the OECD without a diagnostic pathway for people living with FASD.

The provision of diagnostic support must be the key ask of any Pre-Budget Submission from FASD Ireland. Until such time as we have a clearly established diagnostic pathway, this State and this Government are continuing to fail everybody in Ireland who is living with FASD, and their families and carers supporting them.

Second to diagnosis is support. The State currently provides no support for people living with FASD. FASD Ireland bridges that gap and thanks to the hard work and generosity of Minister of State for Disability, Anne Rabbitte TD, we are pleased to do so with financial support from the State this year for the first time ever. But we can, and we must do much more. Establishing a new fund that will support harm reduction through taxes collected on the sale of alcohol would provide a consistent funding stream for FASD Ireland and other key stakeholders to deliver consistent frontline services and supports to people living with FASD.

FASD Ireland is the only organisation in Ireland that provides help, support, and guidance to people living with FASD, their families, and agencies working with them. Our work is currently supported by the Minister of State for Disability, Anne Rabbitte TD, however as the organisation grows to provide more services and supports, we must secure our future through continued investment by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. As we prepare to open Ireland's FASD clinic – the first of its kind on this island – it is essential that we are supported through a permanent funding stream. This forms the core of our Pre-Budget proposal. It is also essential to have indigenous Irish research into FASD taking place on this island, which we intend to undertake alongside the Irish Centre for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Research (ICAN) at the University of Galway.

Ireland requires a new national social contract between citizens and the State. The ambition of this Government is to provide each citizen with **accessible and affordable healthcare**, housing, **education**, childcare and **disability services**, as well as a living wage, upskilling, and a dignified retirement. It will provide **greater security for individuals** and communities, and will be founded on **the principle of equality** and ensuring that every citizen can reach their full potential.

- Programme for Government, *Our Shared Future* (2020)



FASD is Ireland's most prevalent neurodevelopmental disability – the HSE estimated in September 2022, that 7.4% of the population are living with FASD – that's around 381,000 people. There is a higher prevalence of FASD in Ireland than Autism, ADHD, Cerebral Palsy and Down Syndrome combined, and we have the second highest rate of FASD in the world per capita after South Africa.

FASD Ireland is a non-profit social enterprise that was established in 2021 to support people living with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and their families/carers. **FASD is a neurodevelopmental disorder caused by pre-natal alcohol exposure. It is 1 of 10 recognised neurodiverse conditions affecting all areas of the person's life.**

Last year, we established the FASD Hub Ireland which provides telephone and email support through one contact point for the FASD community in Ireland. We also operate the FASD Hub NI which offers the same service to the FASD community in Northern Ireland. We have done all of this without any State funding up to this point, however we have recently been awarded an uplift from the Minister of State for Disability.

Our organisation works across three pillars: awareness, education, and support.

We work to highlight a greater **awareness** of FASD in society, which is the only preventable neurodevelopmental disorder. The HSE estimates that up to 7.4% of the population are living with FASD and as it stands there are no statutory diagnostic criteria, no diagnostic pathway, and no State support for people living with FASD.

We provide **education** about FASD to educators, students, private companies, and the public sector to educate them about FASD. We provide guidance about how we can all work together to create a society where people with FASD are supported and accommodated as needed. Around 125,000 members of the workforce live with FASD, whether they know it or not. So, it is vitally important that people with FASD and other non-visible disabilities are supported at work as needed.

We **support** the FASD community by bridging the gap between the voice of lived experience and key stakeholders and policymakers to work on creating and implementing policy changes to improve supports and services for people living with FASD, and their families and carers. We also support State Agencies like TUSLA, the HSE, and An Garda Síochána through advising them on individual queries with respect to FASD related issues.

FASD Ireland operate the FASD Hub Ireland. An advice line available from Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm at 065 670 3098. No amount of alcohol is safe to consume by either partner at any time in the six weeks before conception or during pregnancy.



The FASD Ireland Team (L-to-R): **Tristan Casson-Rennie**, CEO; **Scott Casson-Rennie**, Director of Operations & Deputy CEO; **Áine Talty**, Research Intern; **Mike Taylor**, Director of Policy & Public Affairs; **Áine O'Halloran**, FASD Hub Ireland Co-Ordinator; **Robert O'Connell**, Policy & Research Co-Ordinator; **Cillian Flynn**, Business Development Manager

Recommendation 1: Continued Investment for FASD Ireland



FASD Ireland is currently being funded by a grant provided by the Minister for State for Disability, Anne Rabbitte TD. In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organisation, it is essential that we are supported to continue our service and support provision through continued investment from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and the HSE.

It is envisioned that, following this year's grant of €200,000, allowing the organisation to scale up, an investment of **€1.2 Million in 2025**, will deliver the following services:

Identify and **partner with appropriate voluntary or charitable organisations** to help us raise awareness of FASD and the risks of pre-natal alcohol exposure

Attend disability focused exhibitions, seminars, and focus groups to **raise greater public awareness of FASD** and the risks of pre-natal alcohol exposure

Increasing our in-house meeting space so that individuals, **families and carers can make appointments to attend in-person meetings**. This allows a personal space for individuals to share and discuss challenges. We can provide strategies to help in a face-to-face environment

We will present 48 **FASD in the Classroom** online workshops for people working in the education sector

FASD Hub Ireland will be able to answer 80 calls each week – 4,160 calls annually

FASD Hub Ireland will **operate Monday to Friday** from 10am to 4pm

12 **Introduction to FASD** online workshops

We will continue to **provide advice, guidance and support to the HSE and TUSLA** employees who may have case-specific queries

6 in-person **Non-Violent Resistance** workshops provided by a registered qualified practitioner

We will host an annual **multi-disciplinary conference** to further raise awareness of FASD, share best practice and raise our own visibility across the disability sector in Ireland

Quarterly **public health campaigns targeting specific advice and guidance messages** around the risks of pre-natal alcohol exposure and what it is like to live with FASD. Existing FASD Ireland social media platforms and local/national media will be used for this work

We will **continue to ardently lobby** for the **recognition of FASD** as neurodevelopmental disability, **development of a statutory diagnostic criteria** and **establishing a diagnostic pathway**

We will continue to develop and deliver bespoke FASD awareness training for public sector agencies including An Garda Síochána, Social Protection, Enterprise, the HSE, and TUSLA

We will continue to work with people living with FASD and their families to **build and develop capacity and advocacy skills** and ensure that the **lived experience of the disability voice is central to policymaking**, in accordance with the commitments made in the Programme for Government

Monthly **peer-to-peer online support groups** with a view to holding bi-annual in-person groups

On-demand workshops for **the FASD Aware School** to be delivered in person at the requests of schools across Ireland

We will have all of our **literature translated into Ukrainian** and distributed to Integration Teams across Ireland to better support new residents



Recommendation 2: Developing Irish Research into FASD

It is fundamental that we develop indigenous Irish research into FASD. The Irish Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Research (ICAN) at the University of Galway will undertake a full prevalence study of FASD in Ireland, the first of its kind, in collaboration with FASD Ireland.

The study will consist of randomly selecting 30 primary schools in Ireland to determine a rate of prevalence in the age cohort up to 12/13 years. All of the children will be screened and thereafter the children who are screened positive will be given a full diagnostic assessment. This is the first time that this study will ever be conducted on the island of Ireland, and it will require Government funding in order to take place. It is envisioned that this study will cost between €160,000 and €180,000 and will take around 12 months to complete.

At present, the 2022 *HSE Position Paper on FASD* gives us the most recent estimate of a prevalence of between 2.8 and 7.4% of the population but states that “the prevalence and epidemiology of FASD in Ireland is not known”. The HSE figure is an estimate, the source of which is not cited, and it has such a wide margin of error that it would simply not be possible to effectively plan service provision and support for people living with FASD in Ireland. In this respect, the Government choosing to fund this research proposal from FASD Ireland and ICAN would be the optimal way to affectively plan for FASD services and supports in Ireland going forward.

In a recent reply to a Parliamentary Question from Thomas Pringle TD, the National Women and Infants Programme at the HSE reiterated its position from the 2022 Position Paper that **“the best available evidence estimates that about 600 Irish babies are born each year with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, with a further 9-10 times this number of babies born annually in Ireland who have other Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). The majority of these children will have no visible signs of disability at birth and difficulties may not manifest until preschool of school age.”**

It further reiterates that **“as there is no register of persons with neurodevelopmental disorder in Ireland, no up-to-date data are available on cases of FASD in Ireland.”**

This clearly points out the significant gap in Irish research into the prevalence or incidence of FASD – and other neurodevelopmental disorders – and highlights the need for this collaborative project between FASD Ireland and ICAN to progress at pace and at scale. It is envisioned that this prevalence study will be the beginning of a strong research partnership between both organisations.

“The prevalence and epidemiology of FASD in Ireland is not known. As there is no register of persons with neurodevelopmental disorder in Ireland, no up to date data are available on cases of FASD in Ireland. A 2017 systematic review and meta-analysis estimating prevalence of alcohol use during pregnancy showed Ireland had one of the highest prevalence of all countries studied. It estimated that between 2.8 – 7.4% of the population of Ireland might have FASD. In Ireland, two in five pregnancies are unplanned, increasing the chance the embryo and foetus will be exposed to alcohol, and many women will not know they are pregnant in the first six weeks.

The best available evidence estimates that about 600 Irish babies are born each year with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, with a further 9-10 times this number of babies born annually in Ireland who have other Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Only a small proportion of children with FASD have visible facial features (facial dysmorphism); the majority of children with FASD have no visible signs of disability at birth and difficulties may not manifest until preschool or school age. **There are no standard diagnostic policies or guidelines for diagnosing or treating children with FASD in Ireland.**

There is no national strategy in Ireland for the prevention of FASD or for the response to children and adults with FASD.”

- HSE Position Paper on FASD (2022)

Recommendation 3: Creating Awareness in Education



Delivering FASD awareness classes to students will significantly benefit the needs of individuals with multiple challenges or disabilities. Firstly, such training fosters a culture of understanding and empathy among students, encouraging acceptance and inclusion of individuals with diverse needs. This inclusive environment reduces stigma and promotes social integration for those with multiple challenges or disabilities, fostering a sense of belonging and support. FASD awareness classes will equip students with knowledge about the complexities of neurodevelopmental conditions, as up to 428 conditions can co-occur with FASD. This understanding will enable students to recognise and accommodate a wide range of needs, promoting accessibility and inclusivity in educational and social settings.

To create awareness in education settings, **FASD Ireland will deliver FASD awareness education to students in Transition Year and above**, and this will require a comprehensive and systematic approach. FASD Ireland have conducted a thorough assessment to understand the specific needs and challenges related to FASD in second level and tertiary education.

We have developed a single 40-minute class covering key topics such as; FASD symptoms, prevalence, risks and prevention strategies. Relevant materials including a presentation, handouts, case studies, a practical experiment and a video have been compiled to facilitate this learning experience.

Our organisation will employ experienced facilitators who understand FASD and are skilled in delivering interactive and engaging sessions.

Additionally, coordination with educational administrators to schedule training sessions suited to their timetables will be a part of this role.

Participants will be encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussion to deepen their understanding of FASD and its implications for education. The subject matter is intended to provoke further discussion outside of the educational environment.

Feedback will be gathered from participants to assess the effectiveness of the training and identify areas for improvement. FASD Ireland will provide follow up support and resources to attendees to reinforce learning and check understanding.

Two employees will deliver awareness classes in Education for FASD Ireland. 360 schools will be visited annually by each employee. This will cover the 38 weeks of secondary education visits, topping up with third level visits, admin time and annual leave. An average of 20 educational locations will receive classes each week during term time. Ireland has thirty six third – level institutions, we aim to complete the first week of classes at each college in one week (targeting Freshers Week).



The pictogram above is the warning symbol for the labelling of alcohol preferred by professionals and NGOs working in FASD and alcohol related harm throughout the European Union.

Unlike the current symbol supported by the Department of Health featuring a red line going through a woman, this image conveys a very strong public health message of the importance of refusing alcohol while pregnant, as denoted by the hand-held up by the pregnant person.

This image does not lay shame, blame and stigma at the feet of the pregnant person but rather gives them choice and agency, and adds a dimension of evoking a conversation around the risks of pre-natal alcohol exposure.



Recommendation 4: Ringfenced Alcohol Related Harm Fund

LEVY ON ALCOHOL INDUSTRY:

HRB Overview Series 13 published in their 2024 report that the current global estimates of almost 1 in every 10 pregnant women consume alcohol during pregnancy. In Ireland this figure is 8 in every 10 women. There are 19.8 cases of FASD per 1000 of the population in the WHO European region, but that the rate is substantially higher in Ireland (4.75 per 100 of the population) due to per capita alcohol use levels. Societal norms of alcohol consumption correlates with alcohol-related harm. FASD demonstrates the long-term repercussions of alcohol-related harm intergenerationally.

A high cost of alcohol-related harm provides a strong incentive to find cost-effective harm reduction investment opportunities. To begin to address the effects of alcohol-related harm in Ireland, FASD Ireland advocates for the establishment of the “polluter pays” principle as well as the implementation of a social responsibility fee on trade alcohol and off-trade alcohol sales levy.

OUR RECOMMENDATION:

The levy could operate in a similar style to the successful model in New Zealand. Ireland could use the Health Promotion Agency to recommend the setting of rates of the levy annually. FASD Ireland would propose that the money from this levy be ringfenced to stakeholders who work to reduce the prevalence of FASD and effectively support the people living with it. Considering the scale of purchase between the on-trade (35%) and off-trade (65%), FASD Ireland would propose that placing a social responsibility levy of 1% on the on-trade, and 2% on the off-trade, should be examined. This could raise over €100m -€54m from the on trade and €50m from the off-trade, using 2021 CSO data.

The levy has been recommended by the Oireachtas Committee on Justice in its pre-legislative scrutiny of the Sale of Alcohol Bill 2022.

A similar social impact fund was proposed in relation to the gambling industry within the Gambling Regulation Bill 2022 for purposes of financing research into, raise awareness of, and eliminate or reduce, compulsive and excessive gambling.

This alcohol levy is a cost recovery mechanism. The high expense of issues linked to alcohol makes it very important to identify areas for initiatives in harm reduction and support. The introduction of the levy can mobilise the concept of harm as a lever to involve the alcohol industry in effects to reduce the harm from the use of its product. When a product such as alcohol causes harm that impacts large swathes of the population (estimated 2.8% -7.4% of Ireland living with FASD) its critical to consider accountability of the industry for adverse health outcomes. According to the Alcohol market Review in 2022 , the societal cost of alcohol use estimates range from €2.4bn to €3.7bn per year. While evidence on the costs of alcohol-related harms cannot be directly related to the cost of addressing harms, it can be used to motivate investment in stakeholders like FASD Ireland in supporting people living with alcohol-related harms.

Each recommendation proposed in this Pre-Budget Submission would be cost neutral for the Government as they can be funded directly by the money from this levy.

As an example, FASD Ireland can utilise the money from the levy in developing indigenous Irish research into FASD. This will be the first of its kind research undertaken in Ireland and will support FASD Ireland in their advocacy work.

	Monetary Value of Alcohol 2021	Value of Proposed Levy
On-Trade (1% Levy)	€3.05bn	€30.5m
Off-Trade (2% Levy)	€2.5bn	€50m



FASD AND THE IRISH ECONOMY:

This section looks at the Economic ties between FASD and the Irish economy. Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is a complex condition that will affect all areas of a person's life who lives with the condition. So, in turn the condition results in being a financial demand in all areas of Irish society including education, healthcare and mental health, welfare and justice.

For the purpose of this report, we have used figures from evidence-based reports on the effects of FASD on the Canadian economy as there have been no similar study completed in Ireland. Using the prevalence estimates of FASD in Ireland and the costs associated with FASD in Canada, FASD Ireland has found the estimated costs of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder on the Irish economy in three main sectors: Education, Justice and Disability.

EDUCATION:

People living with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder are neurodiverse and FASD as a condition is a spectrum. It is impossible to say what the needs of every child with FASD are, as every child is and will be different. There are many different areas to school life that a neurodiverse student may find difficult whether it may be learning difficulties, sensory processing disorders, behavioural disorders, attention deficit or hyperactivity disorder.

Whatever it may be that a child is struggling with does not matter, what does matter is that a child gets the correct supports within education. It is known that most children who are neurodiverse will need some additional help throughout education be it from Special Needs Assistants, resource teachers or from the class teachers themselves.

According to the Central Statistics Office 2023 there are 964,535 primary and secondary students in Ireland. Taking the HSE estimated FASD prevalence of 7.4% that would mean that there are a total of 71,376 primary and secondary students are living with FASD in Ireland. FASD Ireland would recommend to any parent / carer or educator that children with FASD receive full time SNA hours, with particular focus given to unstructured classes such as Art / PE / Home Economics etc.

The annual salary of a qualified SNA is €42,190. So, if each student with FASD needs a full time SNA this would in a total cost of €1.9bn. These costs are calculated from the prevalence estimates, and these students are already in education with many receiving some level of support. These are not all new students that the NCSE will have to fund support for. These students are already in school and costing time and money to the Irish economy due to misdiagnosis and a lack of awareness or understanding of their condition.

Total = €1.9BN



It takes a person with FASD 22 seconds to process a single instruction

FASD Ireland is here to raise awareness of the risks associated with exposing your baby to alcohol whilst being pregnant



DISABILITY:

In November 2021, a report was submitted to the Department of Social Protection by Indecon International Research Economists on the Cost of Disability in Ireland. Disappointingly, there was no mention of FASD in the report. However, there were results for the annual costs associated with a person living with “a developmental disability like Autism or ADHD” at a total of €5,148.00

As Autism and ADHD can both co-occur in people living with FASD, we can assume that the cost of healthcare for these people is at least €5,148.00 annually. FASD Ireland expects that people living with FASD (however undiagnosed) are costing more than this due to the calculated figures only including co-morbidities of the condition and not taking the full picture into account.

It has been found that in Canada, supporting people living with FASD carries average costs of more than \$23,000 (€15,380) per person per year according to the analysis by Dr. Larry Burd, and colleagues of University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Grand Fork. When we compare the prevalence; the prevalence of FASD among Canadian children and youth living in private dwellings was 1 per 1000 (0.1%). The prevalence was significantly higher among those who identified as Indigenous and lived off reserve (1.2%) but still far from the estimated FASD prevalence of 7.4% in Ireland.

These figures give us an insight into the disparity of spending between the two countries, which tells a story reflecting the lack of support, awareness and education around FASD.

Total = €1.88BN

JUSTICE:

Dr David Junior Gilbert of Salford University says that people with FASD are 19 times more likely to encounter the judicial system than their neurotypical peers. This is a sad but truthful story of life that many of these people walk which can often be traced back as far as their first incidence of exclusion (detention) from school. Problems with dysmaturity, executive functioning, confabulation and suggestibility are all causes that can result in a life of crime and drug and alcohol problems for people with FASD.

FASD Ireland has calculated the cost of FASD in the different sectors of the Justice system, including cost of prison spaces, cost of probation, cost of community service order, cost of policing, cost of court cost of Legal Aid.

Total= €851M

Total Cost of FASD as a Disability, on the Justice and Education System = €4.6BN



FASD

Ireland

Cost of FASD on the Irish Economy

Education	€1.9BN
Disability	€1.88BN
Justice	€851M
Total	€4.6BN

FASD Ireland Pre-Budget Proposal

Continued investment into FASD Ireland	€1.2M
Irish Research Development	€180K
FASD Awareness in Education	€ 200K
Ringfenced ARH Fund	€80.5M

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You never drink alone when you are pregnant

FASD Ireland is here to raise awareness
of the risks associated with exposing your
baby to alcohol whilst being pregnant



FASD Ireland have received funding from:



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



FASD Ireland is pleased to be a member of:



Drinking any amount of alcohol in the six weeks before conception by either partner, or at anytime whilst pregnant may harm your baby.



No amount of alcohol is safe to drink at anytime during pregnancy. This may cause Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

FASD 
Hub Ireland™

Tel: 065 670 3098

10am to 4pm Monday to Friday



FASD Ireland CLG, 51 O'Connell Street, Ennis, County Clare, V95 YY19
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