

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term describing a range of disorders that can affect an individual who was exposed to alcohol before birth; fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) is the most recognizable condition along the spectrum; and

WHEREAS, prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of birth defects and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the exact number of people who have FASDs is unknown, but it is estimated that up to 1 in 20 school children in the United States may be affected; and

WHEREAS, the lifetime cost for one individual with FAS is estimated to be \$2 million; the combined cost to the United States for FAS alone (not including other FASDs) is over \$4 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, in a survey of pregnant women, 1 in 10 reported some alcohol use and 1 in 33 reported binge drinking in her past 30 days; and


WHEREAS, about half of all pregnancies are unplanned, contributing to late entry into prenatal care; this delay prevents optimal pregnancy management, particularly during the crucial early weeks of embryonic development; and

WHEREAS, support for state and national efforts to educate about and prevent FASDs can enhance the good health and well-being of the people of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina joins the North Carolina Fetal Alcohol Prevention Program (FASDinNC), the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS), as well as many dedicated volunteers, health care professionals, educators, and parent groups this September in raising awareness of a unified message: "Alcohol and Pregnancy Don't Mix. Why Take the Risk?";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2017, as "FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fourteenth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.