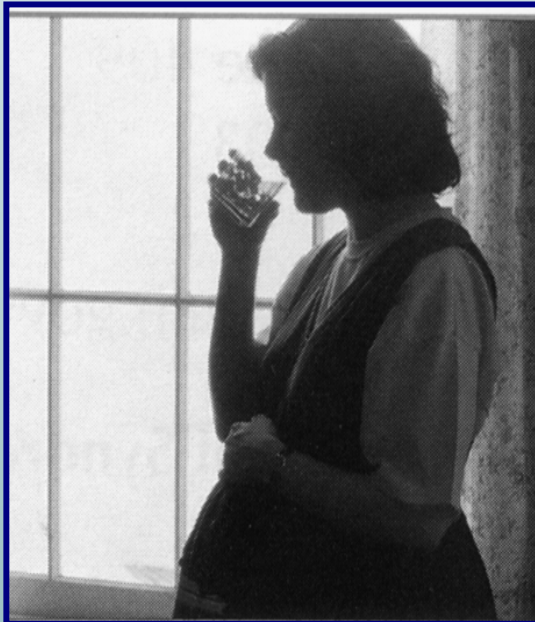


Improving Services for Women and Children Affected by Alcohol Use During Pregnancy



Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development Colloquium:
Tobacco and Alcohol During Pregnancy: Lifelong Effects on the Child

Presented by Dawn Ridd
Manitoba Health, Government of Manitoba
November 22, 2002- Ottawa Ontario

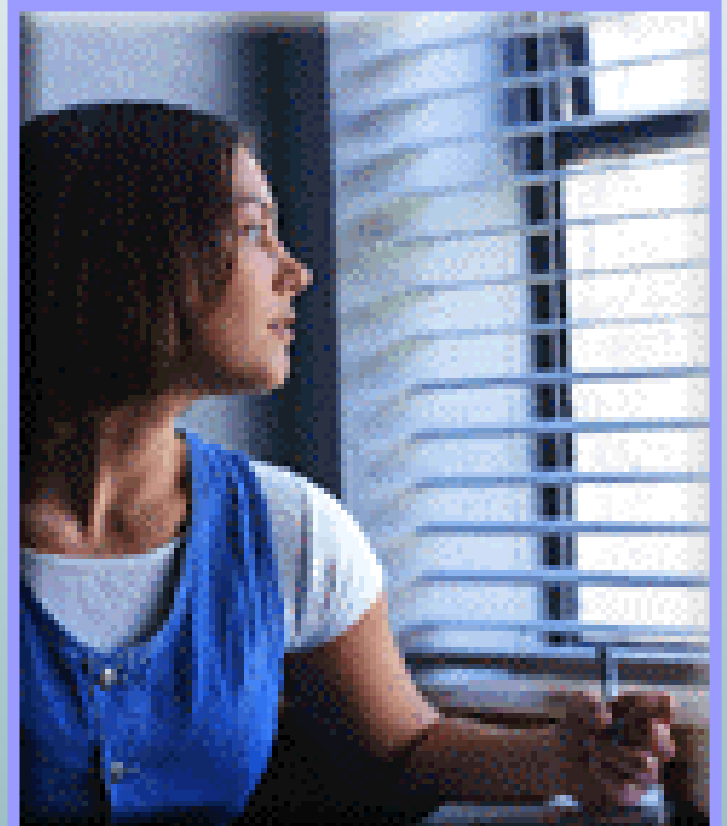
Centre of Excellence for Early
Childhood Development

Manitoba
Health



The Lives of Women with Addictions are Characterized by... Multiple Risk Factors

- Poverty
- Violence
- Chaotic living conditions
- Trouble with the law
- Alienation from community health & social service providers



Significant Barriers

Prevent women from accessing services

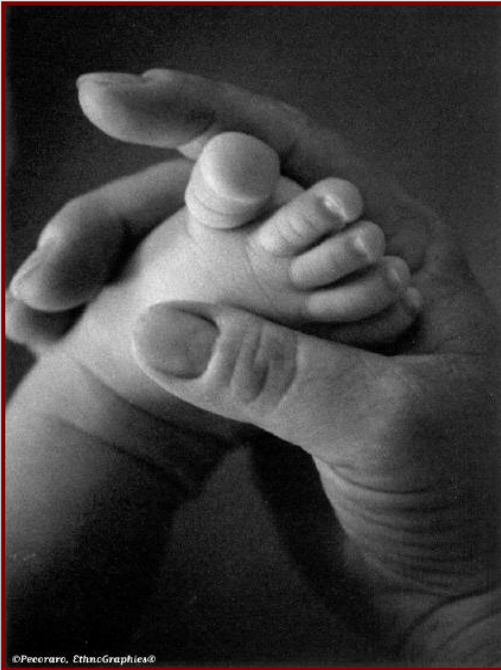
Including:

- Childcare
- Transportation
- Housing
- Culture
- Coordination of service



Multiple Service and Policy Issues

Manitoba's Intersectoral Responses



- Training
- Public Awareness
- Child Related Issues
- Aboriginal/Cultural Issues
- Enhanced Services and Improved Co-ordination
- Research and Evaluation





Training and Awareness

The Challenge of Moving from
Research to Recommendation to Response

- Provide training and information to service providers and the general public regarding the need for prevention and early intervention initiatives.
- Increase awareness:
 - About the risks of binge drinking in pregnancy.
 - De-stigmatize pregnant women who use.
 - Information with program support for higher risk women and their partners.



The STOP FAS Program

- Mission Statement - To work with high-risk mothers with addiction problems to avoid the birth of children affected by alcohol and drug use.
- Enrollment Criteria:
 - Pregnant (or within 2 months post-partum)
 - Heavy alcohol or drug use during pregnancy
 - Not effectively connected to community resources



Principles of STOP FAS

We believe that ...

- women will encounter setbacks
- women should never be asked to leave the program
- the program should connect women with direct service
- the program should connect with the highest need women

Mentor Strengths...

- they believe in the women they work with
- recognize and build on strengths
- believe change is possible
- have a shared history
- believe that every woman wants what is best for her children
- Never give up



STOP FAS - Evaluation

Obtained alcohol or drug tx 88%

Tx completed or in progress 71%

Abstinent from alcohol or using reliable birth control for at least 6 months 80%

Using reliable birth control regularly and abstinent from alcohol 32%

Target Child Resides with:

Mother 32%

Bio Father 12%

Province/Band 40%

Adoption 4%



Issues for Children and Aboriginal People

- **Recognize the role of child welfare services in the lives of women with substance misuse issues.**
 - Make safe and accessible child care services available to women near to where they attend treatment.
- **Aboriginal women and children prefer programs that address their cultural beliefs. Aboriginal agencies are in the best position to create meaningful programs and services for Aboriginal women and children.**
 - Increased cultural training and aboriginal employment in health and social service sectors.



Enhanced Services and Improved Co-ordination

How do we stop kids from "falling through the cracks"?

- Improved links between services.
- Improved knowledge of existing services across service sectors.
- Improved co-ordination between jurisdictions to improve access to services.



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