



Hawaii Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Action  
Group

*Awareness, Accommodations,  
& Adapting Supports  
for  
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders*

*April 16, 2022*

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<https://youtu.be/9c2LAbrijnQk>

# Hawaii FASD Action Group



<https://hawaiifasd.org/>

# Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders



<b>PRIMARY DISABILITIES</b>	<b>SECONDARY DISABILITIES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Inconsistent memory recall</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Mental health problems</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Decreased mental stamina</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Poor academic achievement</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Difficulty interpreting and applying abstract concepts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Inability to live independently</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Impulsivity and poor judgement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Alcohol and/or substance use problems</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Resistant to change</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Problems with employment</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Inability to predict outcomes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Incarceration or confinement</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Inability to see another person's perspective</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Trouble with the law</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Inability to recognize indicated social cues</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Disrupted school experience</li></ul>



# Prevalence and Relevance

- 2018 conservative estimate: 1 in 20 (5%) first graders are affected by FASDs
- FASDs are at least twice as common as autism
- CDC: 2015-2017
  - 1 in 9 pregnant women drank alcohol
  - 1 in 3 engaged in binge drinking
- 55% increase in alcohol sales since mid-March shut down for COVID-19
- Almost 50% of pregnancies are unplanned

May, P.A., Chambers, C.D., Kalberg, W.O, Zellner, J., Feldman, H., et al. (2018). Prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in 4 US Communities, 319(5):474-482. doi:10.1001/jama.2017.21896

Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii State Department of Health, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, Drinking alcohol last 3 months of pregnancy for years 2000-2013. Report created 2/8/17.

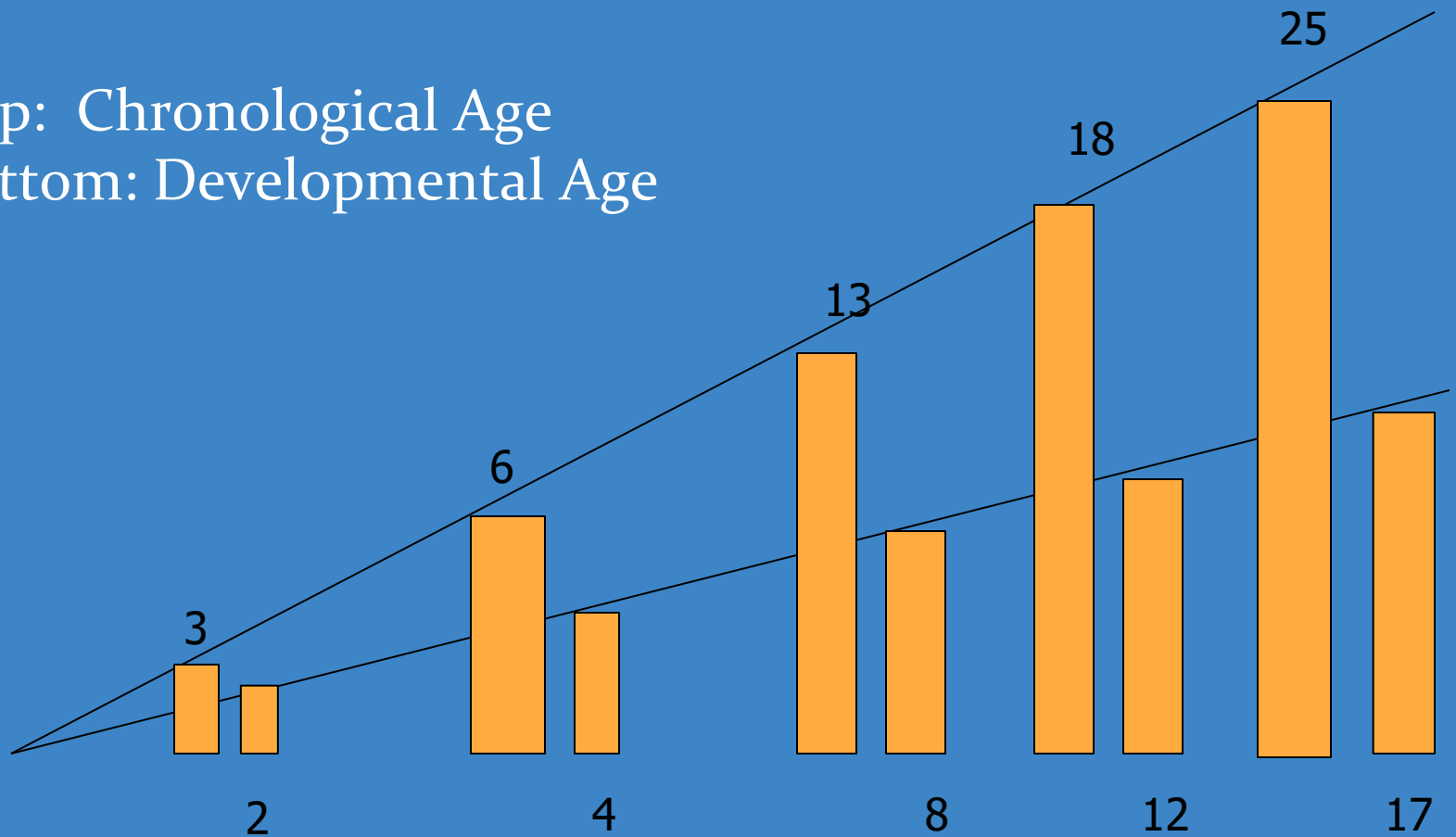
# Diagnostic Barriers

- Difficult to obtain verification of alcohol consumption by bio mom
- Invisible disability  
(misdiagnosed or undiagnosed)
- Need more awareness of FASD in the state
- Currently no comprehensive diagnostic team in Hawaii (Multidisciplinary assessments needed by MD, Psychologist, SLP, OT)



# Dysmaturity: Chronological vs. Developmental Age

Top: Chronological Age  
Bottom: Developmental Age



# Common Strengths

- Intense and determined
- Curious
- Concrete, contextual learner
- Friendly, generous, loyal, loving
- Music (playing instruments, composing, etc.)
- Creativity (art activities)
- Doing work on the computer
- Working with hands (woodworking, crafting...)
- Good with animals







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## *Try Differently, Not Harder...*

### **First Step: Be in the Right Frame of Mind**

Having behaviors	Experiencing symptoms
Won't or defiant	Can't
Refuses to sit still	Under or over stimulated
Resisting or doesn't care	Doesn't get it
Lying (Confabulation)	Memory deficits
Doesn't Try	Tired of failing

## **Presentation Evaluation:**

*Link will be posted in the chat. Please complete. Your feedback is important to us.*

## **Keeping Informed & Getting Involved:**

*Please provide your contact information in the chat if you would like to be on our mailing list and/or want to get involved*

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## **Where to Find Us**

Website: [www.hawaiiifasd.org](http://www.hawaiiifasd.org)

Email: [hawaiiifasdactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiifasdactiongroup@gmail.com)

Facebook: @hawaiiifasd

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