

FASD Survey Summary

August 2002

Summary

Surveys were conducted with the public on two separate occasions in Prince George, in 1999 and again in 2002, three years later. Initially the objective of the first survey was to determine the community's knowledge, attitudes and awareness of resources in regards to FASD. Subsequently, the 2002 survey was to ascertain any changes in the 1999 baseline reading.

Though the sample size of the 2002 survey was smaller than that of the 1999 survey, it is thought that 135 individuals would give at least a limited idea of change as gender distribution and previous involvement with pregnancy percentages were almost exactly the same.

Findings

It appears that misinformation about FASD characteristics, blindness, paralysis, cleft palate, baldness and taller height, were reduced. However knowledge of correct characteristics, on average, while not increasing also did not decrease. The survey results do not show any significant change in knowledge about FASD characteristics.

In terms of the resources available for help or information, the overall majority (42%) still would access their Doctor first, Public Health Nurses or the NIHU second (33%) and hospitals, third (31%).

There was an increase in the knowledge of access to the FAS Community Network up from 0.3% to 7% indicating a growing awareness of the Network and its activities.

Interestingly only 1.5% of people surveyed would access prenatal classes as a resource.

An increase of 82% of individuals in the 2002 surveys correctly identified that FASD could not be "grown out of" as compared to 73% in 1999.

Overall there was no statistical difference in the percentages of the survey results between 1999 and 2001.