

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) occur in up to 5% of school-aged children. Prevent FASDs and care for those diagnosed with it by joining The SAFEST Choice Learning Collaborative.

Alcohol use during pregnancy is the leading preventable cause of birth defects and neurodevelopmental problems in the U.S.

The SAFEST Choice Learning Collaborative, a partnership between Boston Medical Center and Proof Alliance, aims to reduce prenatal alcohol exposure and improve outcomes in children with a suspected or diagnosed FASD. Since 2021, we have trained approximately 40 clinics from 9 states using virtual education to engage healthcare teams in the Northeast and the Upper Midwest.

Costs of participation are covered through a cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Clinics will participate in Prenatal and/or Pediatric trainings. The **Prenatal trainings** cover screening and counseling about the risks of alcohol use during pregnancy. The **Pediatric trainings** cover identification and care of children and adolescents with a suspected or diagnosed FASD.

By becoming a *SAFEST Choice Learning Collaborative* participant, each health center will receive:

- **Free continuing education credits** (physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, certified counselors) and MOC Part 2 credits (some of the content can be used to fulfill the new [DEA substance use disorder training requirement](#))
- **Access to a diverse, interprofessional team of national experts** in the fields of FASDs, addiction, maternal medicine, developmental pediatrics, and more (<https://safestchoice.org/about-us/>)
- **A health center stipend**

Time Commitment

The Pediatric trainings will begin September 2023 and run through January 2024. Prenatal trainings will take place from February 2024 through June 2024. Health centers may participate in one or both trainings.

After an introductory webinar there will be ten 75-minute virtual sessions held on two Monday mornings per month and delivered over 5 months. Each session will provide a brief lecture by experts, case-based learning and collaborative problem-solving. No clinical data reporting is required by participating clinics.

Ideal Participants

Participating clinics are encouraged to invite all appropriate clinic staff who will be involved in implementation of FASD prevention and care including physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, other medical personnel, behavioral health staff, and paraprofessionals such as community health and outreach workers.

If you would like more information on how your clinic can be part of the SAFEST Choice Learning Collaborative, email safestchoice@bmc.org