

Preliminary evaluation (Participant feedback)

Consensus Development Conference on Legal Issues of FASD

November 2013

Summary

The Consensus Development Conference on Legal Issues of FASD attracted more than 400 registrants from Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand. The conference took place September 18-20, 2013 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Feedback from participants indicates the conference, the first of its kind in this field, was viewed very positively. More than 90% of participants agreed the conference was of high quality, interesting, relevant, a good learning experience, covered important topics, had informative speakers, met expectations, and improved their understanding of FASD. The Consensus Statement produced by the Jury was highly valued, with more than 80% of participants stating they will share it with colleagues and expect it to make a difference in their work-place or field. In addition, more than 80% of participants agreed the Consensus Statement will increase awareness about legal issues of FASD, will increase attention to these issues among legal professionals, and will be useful for informing policy changes.

Introduction

This conference took place from the 18th to 20th of September, 2013 at the Delta South Edmonton Hotel in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. In total, there were approximately 400 registrants from 5 countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States of America.

The evaluation questionnaires were included in the conference package distributed to all the attendees at the registration desk. During the conference, attendees were reminded several times to complete the evaluation form and return it to the organiser (IHE) at the end of conference. In order to increase the response rate, after the conference, a follow-up email was sent to those attendees who had not returned the form, to collect their feedback electronically.

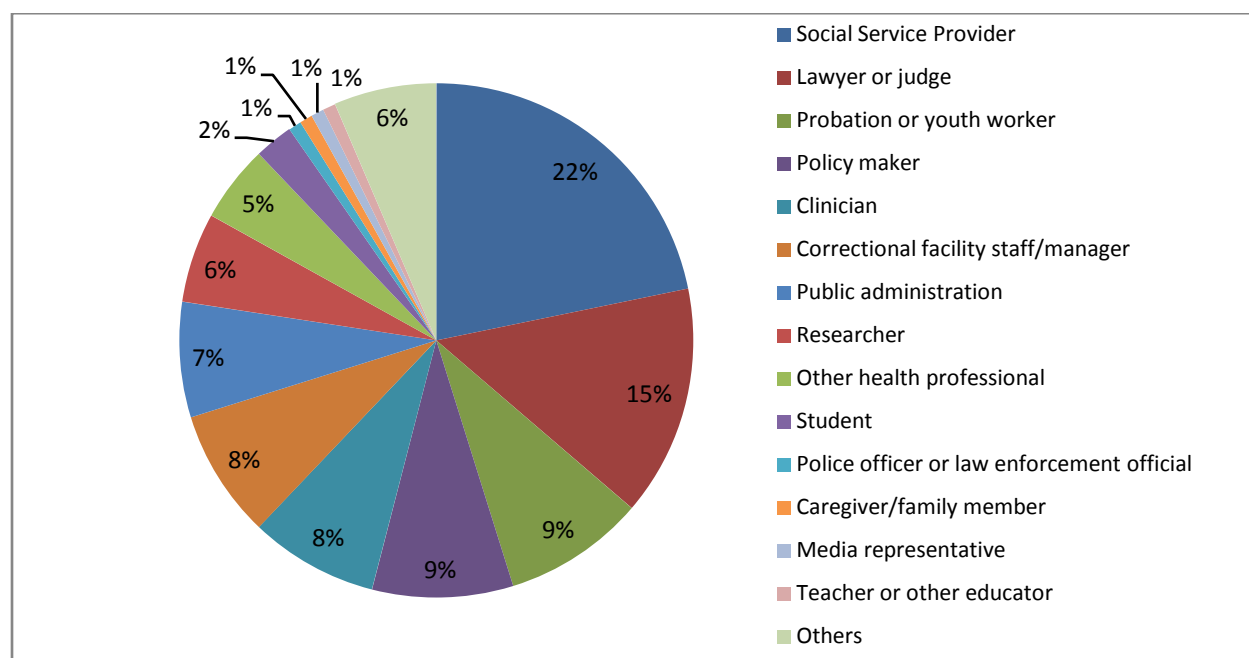
In this document, we report the feedback of the attendees who responded to our survey (response rate was approximately 44%).

Results

1. Occupations of attendants

This conference attracted a variety of people from different sectors in society. Of responders, social service providers were most frequent (22%), followed by lawyers or judges (15%), probation or youth workers (9%), policy makers (9%), clinicians (8%), correctional facility staff/managers (8%), public administrators (7%), researchers (6%), other health professionals (5%), students (2%), and police officers or law enforcement officials, caregivers or family members, media representatives, and teachers or other educators (1% each). (Figure 1).

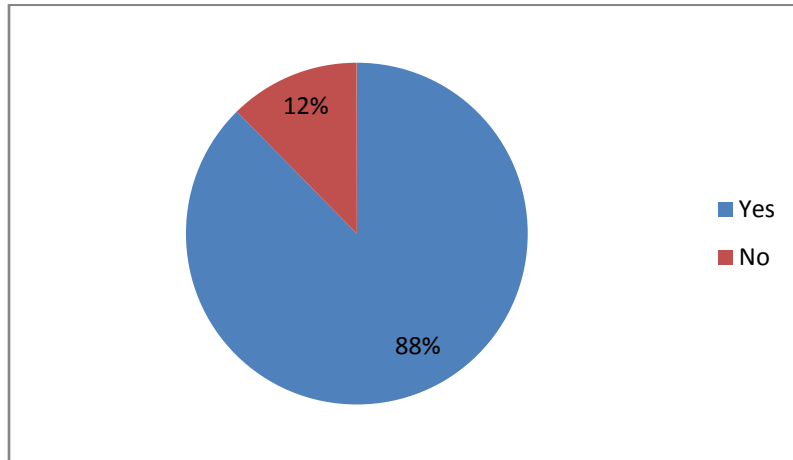
Figure 1. Occupations of attendants



2. Recognition of legal issues of FASD

Eighty eight percent of responders answered that the legal issues of FASD are recognized in their field of work and the remaining 12% answered “no” (Figure 2)

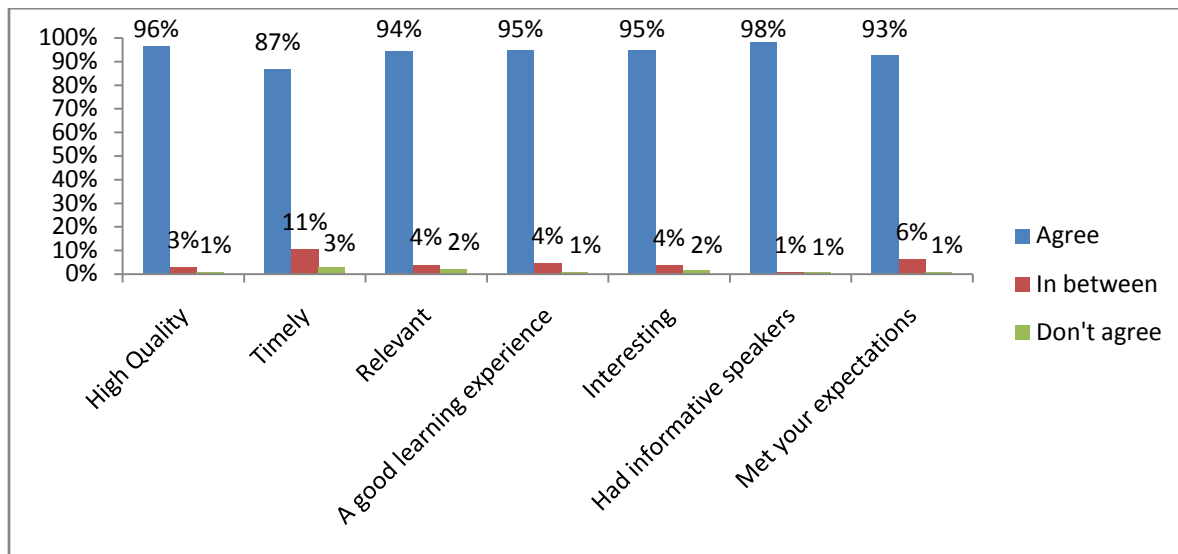
Figure 2. Recognition of legal issues of FASD



3. Quality of conference

Ninety six percent of responders agreed that the conference was of high quality. Eighty seven percent agreed that the conference was timely. Ninety four percent agreed that the conference was relevant. Ninety five percent agreed that the conference was a good learning experience. Ninety five percent agreed that the conference was interesting. Ninety eight percent agreed that the conference had informative speakers. Ninety three percent of responders agreed that the conference met their expectations (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Quality of conference

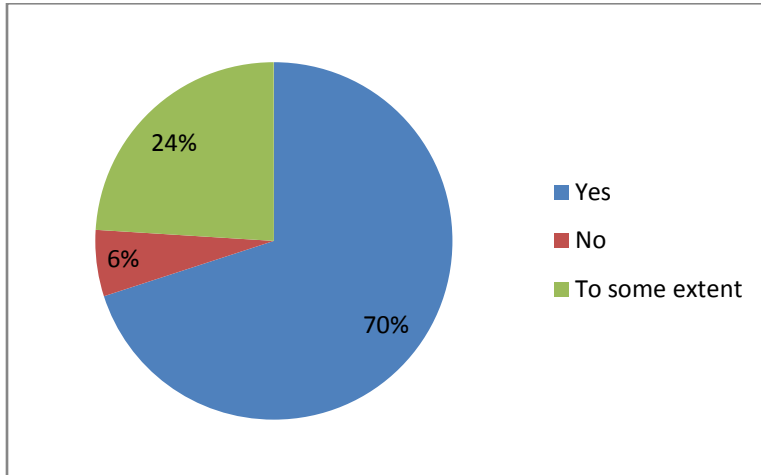


4. Potential impacts of the conference

4.1. Short term impacts

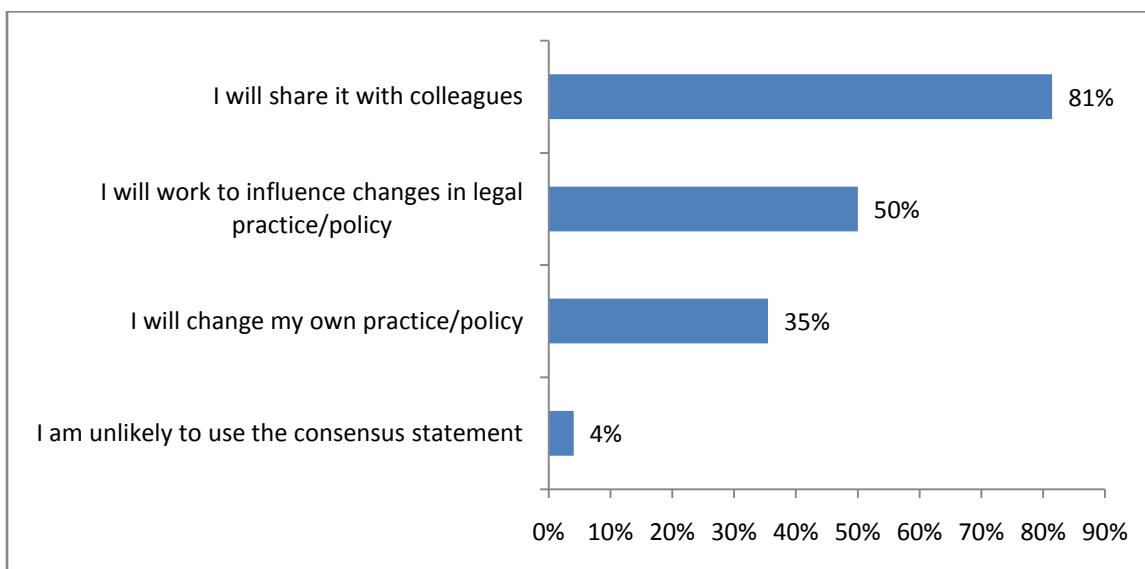
Ninety three percent of responders agreed that their understanding of FASD was improved as a result of attending this conference. This included 70% answered “yes” and 24% answered “to some extent” (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Impacts of the conference on attendants



Regarding possibilities of use of the consensus statement, 81% chose “I will share it with colleagues”, 50% chose “I will work to influence changes in legal practice/policy”, 35% chose “I will change my own practice/policy”, and only 4% chose “I am unlikely to use the consensus statement” (Figure 5).

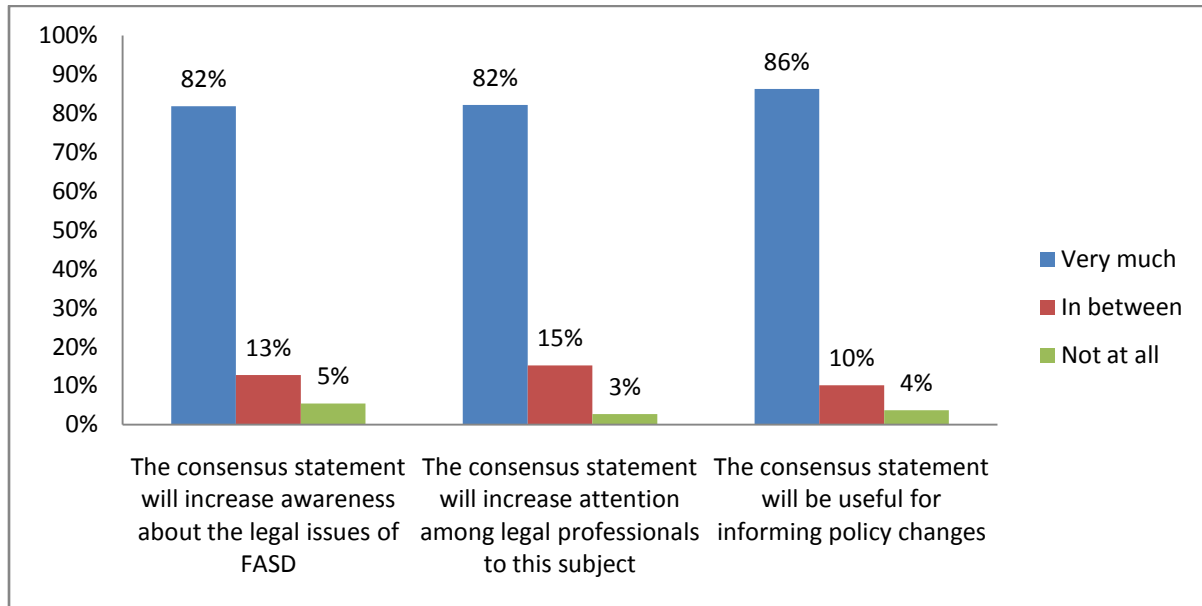
Figure 5. Use of the consensus statement



4.2. Long term impacts

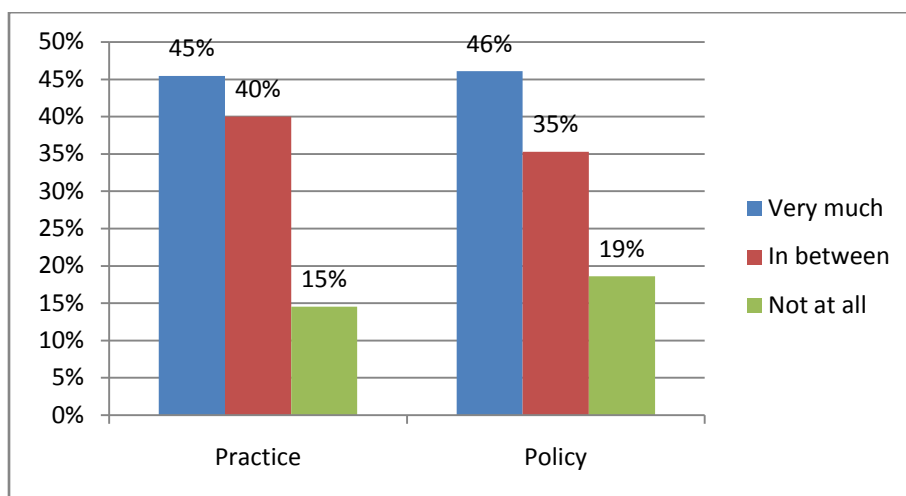
Eighty two percent of responders agreed that the consensus statement will increase awareness about the legal issues of FASD and increase attention among legal professionals to this subject, and 86% agreed that the consensus statement will be useful for informing policy changes (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Long term impacts of the conference



Answers to the question “To what extent would you think that the consensus statement will influence policy and practice in your field of work?” are shown in Figure 7. For the influence on practice, 45% answered “very much”, 10% “not at all” and 40% “in between”. The corresponding numbers for influence on policy were 46%, 19% and 35%.

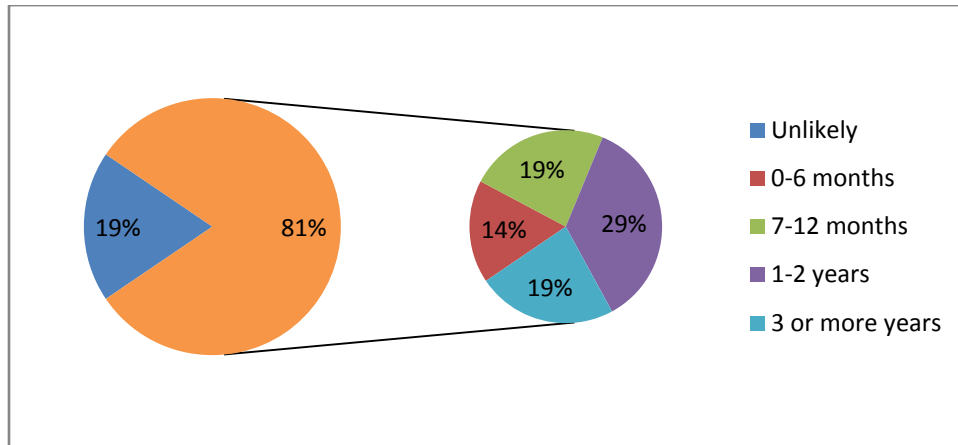
Figure 7. Influence of the consensus statement



5. Time frame expected to see the impacts

Eighty one percent of responders would expect the consensus statement to make a difference in their work place/context. This included 14% expected the difference within 0-6 months, 19% 7-12 months, 29% 1-2 years, and 19% 3 or more years. Only 19% of responders chose “statement is unlikely to make a difference” (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Time frame expected to see the impacts



6. Most interesting aspects of the conference

The 5 aspects of the conference that were of particular interest to participants were sentencing options, knowledge of FASD in the legal system, policy recommendations in the criminal justice system, screening for FASD, and legislative considerations (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Interesting aspects of the conference

