

**MCCARTHY-ERGUN
FETAL ALCOHOL
SPECTRUM
DISORDER
SCREENER
PILOT**

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD) SCREENING SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 7, 2025

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

PROJECT LEAD

PATTIE GEISER MSW, LISW-S CLINICAL DIRECTOR

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES STAFF SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED
114 MCCARTHY-ERGUN FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM
DISORDER SCREENERS (MEFADS). ALL PARTICIPATING
STAFF WERE TRAINED BY DR. ERGUN IN AUGUST 2025 AND
HOLD ACTIVE CLINICAL LICENSURE IN SOCIAL WORK OR
COUNSELING THROUGH THE STATE OF OHIO.**

SCREENING BREAKDOWN

EARLY CHILDHOOD VERSION (EC)

- Administered to children ages 0-6
- 29 screens completed
- Average score: 5.27 out of 20

SCHOOL AGED VERSION (SA)

- ADMINISTERED TO CHILDREN AGES 7-18
- 85 SCREENS COMPLETED
- AVERAGE SCORE: 7.62 OUT OF 25

Summary

BOTH AVERAGES FALL JUST WITHIN THE RANGE OF FOLLOW-UP RECOMMENDED AT A FUTURE VISIT. HOWEVER THE MAJORITY OF SCREENS REFLECTED NO REFERRAL NECESSARY FOR BOTH THE ECARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL AGE VERSIONS.



EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREEN

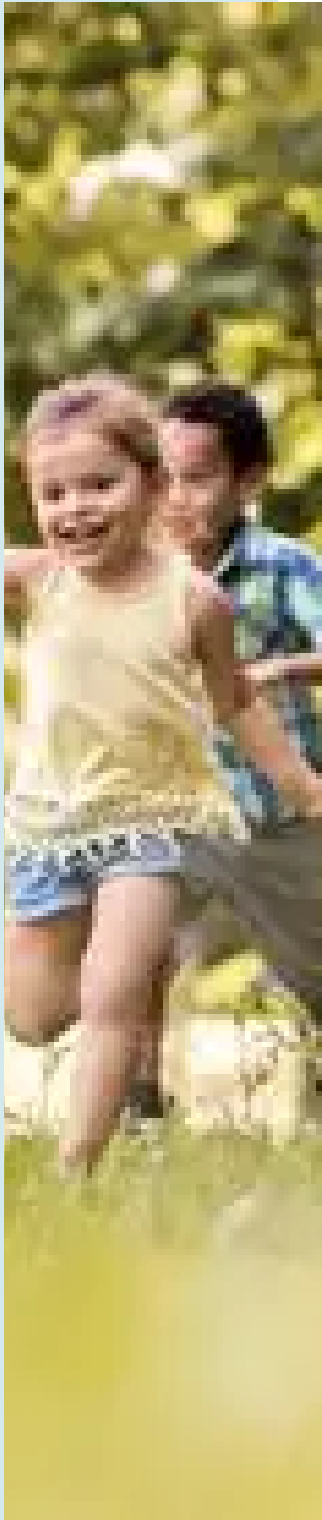
No referral necessary (0-5)	15
Follow-up at future visit recommended (6-10)	9
Referral highly recommended (11-20)	9

SCHOOL AGED SCREEN

No referral necessary (0-6)	42
Follow-up at future visit recommend (7-12)	23
Referral highly recommended (13-25)	21

SCREENING POPULATION SUMMARY

114 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) screens completed



- 15 screenings were direct referrals from Wayne County Children's Services
- 9 additional youth screened were identified as being in foster care or adopted at the time of screening.
- 19 screenings were administered to children actively receiving services at Catholic Charities.
- 27 screenings were conducted for siblings of children currently engaged in services.
- 68 screenings involved individuals not affiliated with Catholic Charities

**Includes all Wayne CSB referrals*

SCREENING DATA

Unique ID	Score	EC or SA	Maternal Alcohol Use During Pregnancy	Currently Fostered or Adopted	SA #18	Age	Gender
1	5	S	SUSPECTED	YES	n	7	f
2	2	ec	Unknown	Yes	n	5 mo	f
3	13	s	Unknown	Yes	y	8	m
4	5	ec	Denied	YES	n	2	m
5	5	ec	Denied	YES		4	m
6	3	E	SUSPECTED	YES		8 weeks	f
7	7	ec	Unknown	Yes		3	m
8	9	ec	Unknown	Yes		3	f
9	1	s	Denied	No	y	16	f
10	3	s	Denied	No	y	11	f
11	0	s	Denied	No	n	8	f
12	0	ec	Denied	No		7	f
13	6	e	denied	no		4	f
14	11	s	Unknown	Yes	y	16	f
15	19	s	Confirmed	Yes	y	15	m
16	13	s	Confirmed	Yes	y	13	f
17	4	s	Unknown	Yes	n	7	m
18	11	ec	Confirmed	Yes		5	m
19	13	s	Denied	No	y	11	f
20	3	s	Denied	no	y	14	f
21	8	s	Unknown	no	y	11	f
22	12	s	Unknown	no	y	11	f
23	10	s	Denied	no	y	5	m
24	16	s	Suspected	no	y	15	m
25	24	s	Confirmed	Yes	y	17	m
26	21	s	Confirmed	Yes	y	18	f
27	25	s	Confirmed	Yes	y	17	f
28	3	s	Denied	No	y	15	f
29	3	s	Denied	No	n	13	f
30	7	s	Denied	No	y	12	f
31	1	s	Denied	No	n	11	m
32	4	s	Denied	No	n	8	f
33	12	e	Denied	No		3	f
34	7	e	Denied	No		3	f
39	20	S	Denied	No	y	16	m
40	20	S	Denied	No	y	18	m

SCREENING DATA

41	16	s	Denied	No	y	11	
42	10	s	Denied	No	y	4	m
43	17	s	denied	no	y	10	m
47	6	s	Denied	No	y	16	f
48	5	s	Denied	No	n	16	f
49	10	s	Denied	No	n	4	f
50	3	s	Denied	No	n	14	f
51	0	e	denied	no		4	m
52	0	e	denied	no		2	m
53	6	S	Denied	No	n	18	f
54	10	S	Denied	No	y	14	m
58	11	ec	Denied	No		4	f
60	17	s	Suspected	No	y	18	m
61	1	s	Denied	No	n	9	m
62	1	e	Denied	No		5	m
63	1	e	Denied	No		4	f
64	7	e	Denied	No		4	m
65	0	e	Denied	No		2	f
66	10	s	Denied	No	y	12	m
67	3	S	DENIED	NO	n	14	m
68	6	S	DENIED	NO	n	6	m
69	2	E	DENIED	NO		4	m
70	15	s	Denied	Yes	y	10	m
71	17	s	Denied	No	y	11	m
72	0	s	Denied	No	n	9	m
81	7	s	Denied	No	n	15	m
82	10	s	Confirmed	No	y	16	m
83	19	s	Denied	no	y	16	m
84	3	S	Denied	No	y	13	m
85	2	S	Denied	No	n	10	f
86	2	S	Denied	No	n	9	f
87	6	E	Denied	No		5	m
88	6	E	Denied	No		3	m
89	4	s	Denied	No	n	7	f
90	0	s	Denied	No	n	12	m
91	6	e	suspected	yes		2	f
92	2	s	Denied	Yes	n	7	f
93	18	e	suspected	yes		3	f
94	4	s	Suspected	Yes	y	17	f
95	1	s	Suspected	Yes	n	9	f
96	12	s	Suspected	Yes	y	7	m

SCREENING DATA

97	13	S	DENIED	YES	y	16	f
98	0	s	Denied	No	n	17	f
100	15	s	Denied	No	y	14	f
101	3	s	Denied	no	n	16	f
102	1	S	Denied	No	y	13	f
103	2	S	DENIED	NO	n	17	f
104	5	e	denied	no		3	f
105	13	S	Denied	No	y	14	f
106	3	s	Denied	No	n	10	f
107	0	s	Denied	No	n	14	m
108	2	s	Denied	No	n	13	m
109	1	s	Denied	No	n	9	f
110	3	s	Denied	no	n	7	m
111	1	s	Denied	no	n	17	m
112	5	e	Denied	no		4	f
113	0	s	denied	no	n	10	m
114	12	s	denied	no	y	14	m
115	9	s	denied	no	y	12	m
116	13	s	Denied	No	y	13	m
117	4	e	Denied	No		5	m
118	4	s	confirmed	no	y	15	m
119	3	s	denied	no	n	11	m
123	0	s	denied	no	n	17	m
124	0	s	denied	no	n	14	m
125	3	s	denied	no	n	10	m
126	0	S	DENIED	NO	n	12	f
127	6	S	DENIED	NO	n	11	m
128	11	s	denied	no	n	16	f
129	3	s	confirmed	no	n	8	f
130	0	S	DENIED	NO	n	10	m
131	9	s	denied	no	y	17	m
132	21	s	Denied	no	y	14	m
133	6	e	denied	no		3	m
134	9	s	Denied	no	n	9	m
135	11	s	denied	no	y	16	f
136	2	e	Denied	No		3	f
137	6	e	denied	no		6	m

SCREENING QUESTION SCORING EXPLANATION

LOW	No referral necessary
MID	Follow up at future visit recommended
HIGH	Referral highly recommended



The following data reflects combined
early childhood and school age data

SCREENING QUESTION SCORING SUMMARY

“Is the child currently in foster care or have been adopted?”

YES: 24 children

NO: 90 children

Children in foster care/adopted	24
LOW	9
MID	6
HIGH	9

Children NOT in foster care/adopted	90
LOW	48
MID	29
HIGH	13

SCREENING QUESTION SCORING SUMMARY

“Is there confirmation of maternal alcohol use during pregnancy?”

CONFIRMED: 9 DENIED: 88 SUSPECTED: 9 UNKNOWN: 8

CONFIRMED USE	9
LOW	2
MID	1
HIGH	6

DENIED USE	88
LOW	49
MID	24
HIGH	15

SUSPECTED USE	9
LOW	4
MID	2
HIGH	3

UNKNOWN USE	8
LOW	2
MID	5
HIGH	1

CATHOLIC CHARITIES STAFF SUMMARY

All staff who administered the MEFADS screenings hold active professional licensure through the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapy Board. Each has a strong background in working with children in a clinical capacity and has been employed by Catholic Charities for over five years, reflecting both experience and stability within the team.

Prior to this pilot, none of the participating staff had experience using a formal screening instrument or outcome measure to evaluate for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Staff viewed FASD as a diagnosis made exclusively by physicians or psychiatrists. FASD was not commonly addressed within behavioral health settings.

Staff felt that the MEFADS indicated behavioral struggles but were not sure if it provided a new insight into diagnosis or behavioral origin.

Another staff felt it provided the most beneficial insight if there was preexisting confirmation of maternal alcohol consumption.

Staff agreed that the screen was likely reliable in that if it was re-administered it would yield the same result as upon our administration. However, they question if it is ultimately measuring FASD or other developmental disabilities or behavioral health concerns.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES STAFF FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Symptoms for FASD and other developmental disabilities overlap significantly which seems to support the importance of the medical component since there are strong physical indicators. While it seems this could be utilized as a first step in assessing the potential for FASD, it might capture a significant portion of the population who has a developmental disability rather than FASD.

The language needs to be normed at a lower reading level, I found myself needing to explain concepts like “neurocognitive” and “abstract concepts”

More examples could be provided for “bonding”, “poor sleeping patterns” and “overly friendly with strangers”. I found myself giving examples and I am concerned that my examples weren’t in line with what they intended.

With the supplemental question section – I think that we need to add “kinship care”. Many of the kids that have been removed from the home are living in kinship care. It is not technically foster care but if there wasn’t a member of the family (or close friend) available then the child would be in foster care.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES STAFF FEEDBACK SUMMARY

It was easy asking foster or adoptive parents the supplemental questions. It was awkward asking the parent, which in all of my screens was the mom, about maternal use of alcohol during pregnancy.

I wonder if the inclusion of the medical or physical component question would have changed the results. Many of our scores seemed to coincide with a preexisting diagnosed behavioral health concern.



THE MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY BOARD OF WAYNE AND HOLMES COUNTIES EXTENDS A SINCERE THANK YOU TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PROJECT LEADS KAREN KIMBROUGH, LCDCH AND DR. KRAIG KNUDSEN PH.D. WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A SMALL PART OF THIS IMPORTANT WORK. THANK YOU TO SHERYL VILLEGAS, PATTIE GEISER AND THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES TEAM, CHRISTA HISSONG AND WAYNE COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES AND NICK CASCARELLI AND THE WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

