FASDs & Foster Care System

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) is the umbrella term for conditions that can occur in a person whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. There is no cure for FASDs, but FASDs are 100% preventable. According to the CDC, approximately **1 in 20** school-age children have an FASD.

According to FASD United, children with FASDs are overrepresented in the child welfare system. On average, a child with an FASD is **17-19 times** more likely to be in the child welfare system than a child without an FASD*.

Legislation Examples From Other States:

Washington

- **Parent-Child Assistance Program:** places moms at high risk of alcoholism with case managers to help resolve their substance use problems & prevent future alcohol exposed pregnancies. Includes database for informing future policies.

Colorado

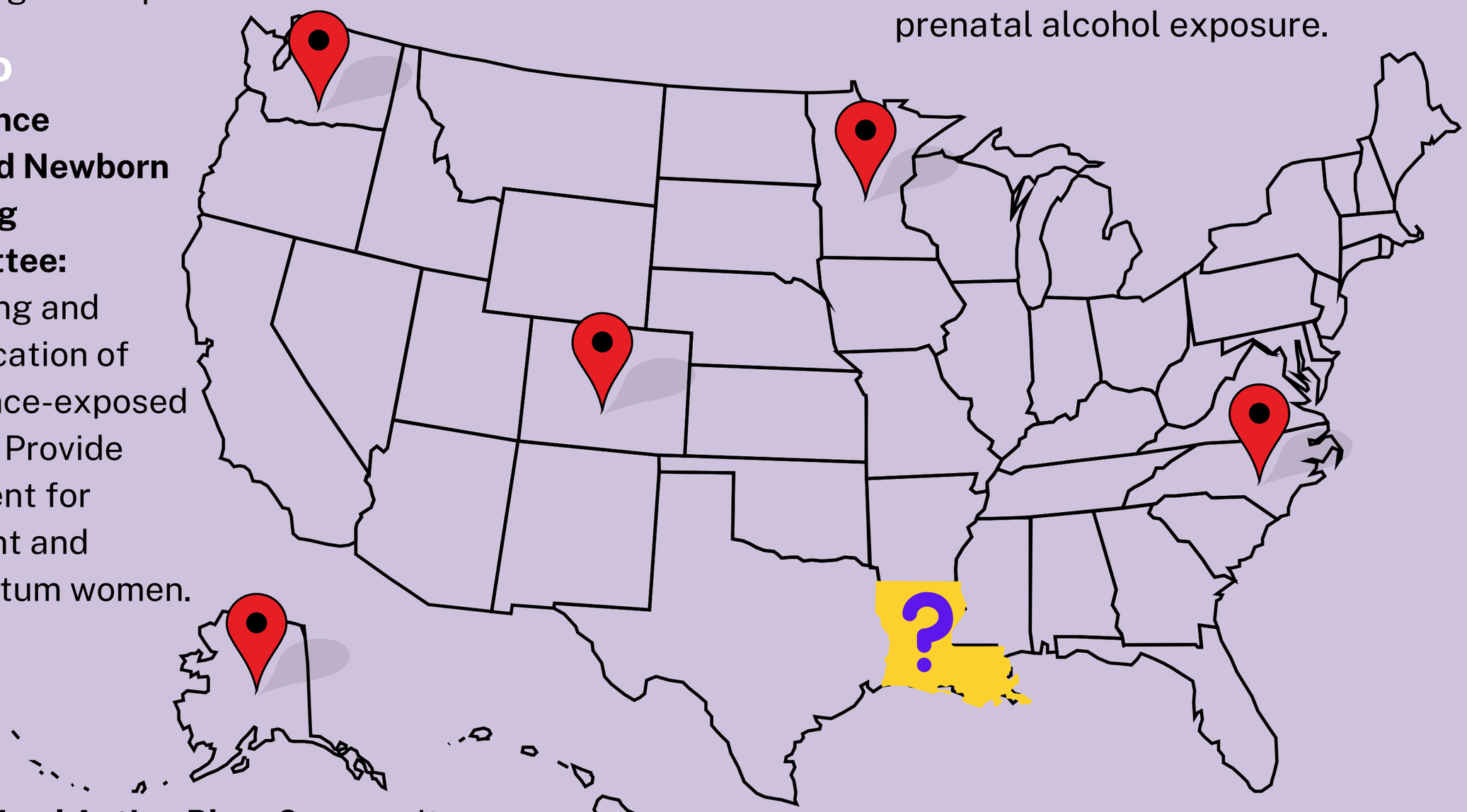
- **Substance Exposed Newborn Steering Committee:** screening and identification of substance-exposed infants. Provide treatment for pregnant and postpartum women.

Alaska

- **Formalized Action Plan:** Community outreach to foster families to gather more information about FASD in their state welfare system and recruit more advocates.
- Several state support agencies for foster parents (Alaska Center for FASDs, Alaska Center for Resource families).

Minnesota

- **Statute 245A.175:** requires all foster care providers to receive at least 1 hour of training on FASD each year.
- **Statute 260C.219:** requires all children entering foster care to be screened for prenatal alcohol exposure.



North Carolina

- **FASDinNC:** educates women and healthcare providers about FASD and emphasizes importance of early identification.

WHAT WILL LOUISIANA DO ?

*Petrenko CLM, Alto ME, Hart AR, Freeze SM, & Cole LL. (2019). *J Family Nursing, 25*(2), 314-347.

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