What Do Australian Psychologists Know About FASD And What Are Their Training Needs?

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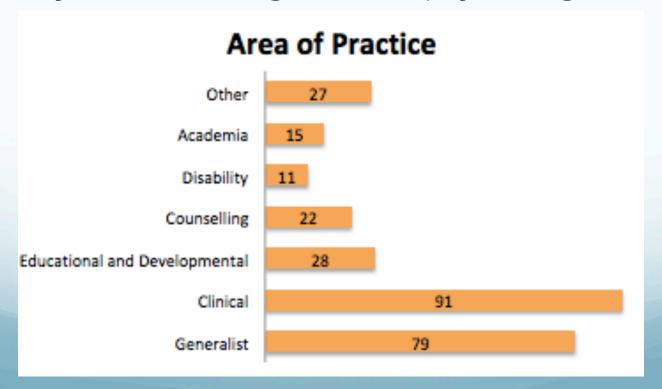
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Why Psychologists?

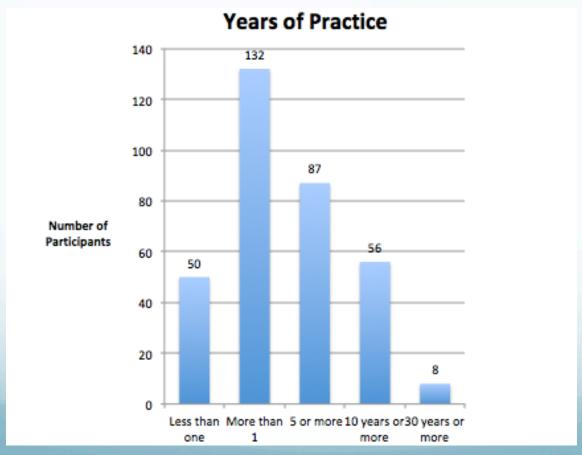
- Personal bias
- There's a lot of us 34918*
- Limited previous research
- 7/10 brain domains assessed
- They provide assessment and treatment of other mental health alphabet i.e., ADHD, ODD, ASD, Anxiety, Depression, BPD, self harm
- Anecdotally many parents and caregivers report that psychologists and health professionals have limited knowledge of FASD

Who Were Our Participants?

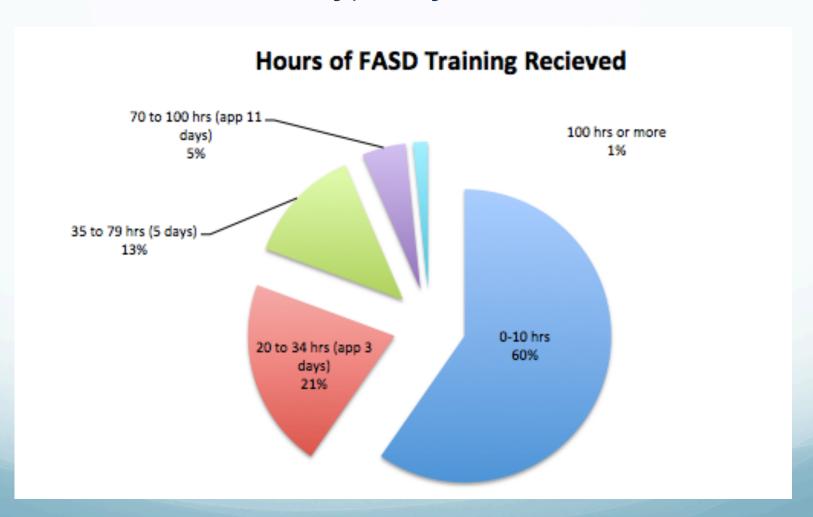
- 182 participants
- Mostly female (88.5%)
- Mean age 38.5 years
- Mostly clinical and generalist psychologists



- Most had more than one year of experience as a psychologist, many had 5 years or more
- Average years working as a psychologist was 8.5 years



- Most had no previous training in FASD (70%).
- Those that did typically had 10 hrs or less.



 Over half had <u>not worked</u> with someone <u>diagnosed</u> with FASD

 65% had worked with a client they suspected had FASD

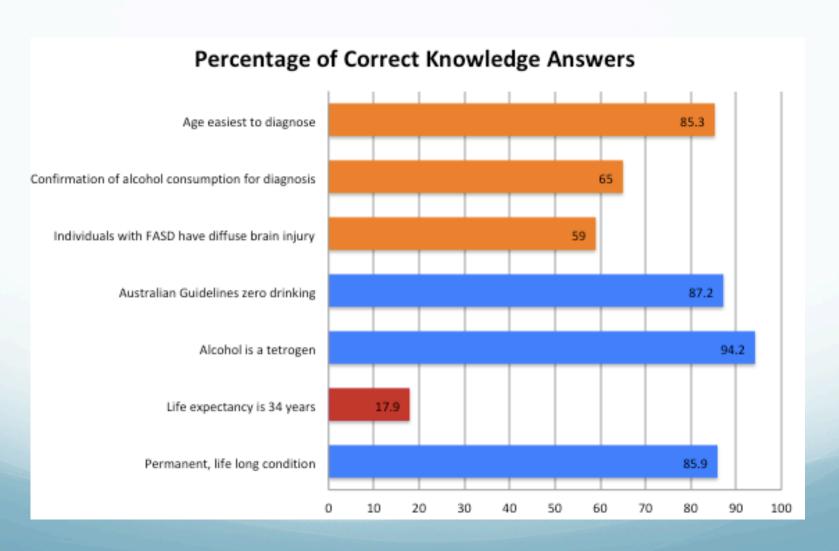
 Less than 10% <u>had diagnosed someone</u> with FASD

Perceived Abilities

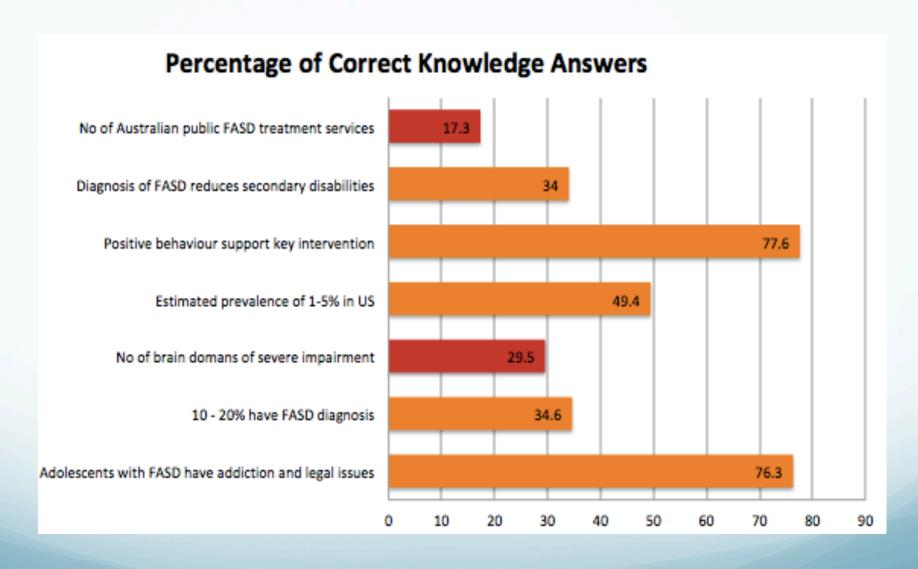
- 65% of psychologists rated themselves as either somewhat or very unable to <u>identify and work</u> with someone with FASD
- Over <u>80% felt unable to diagnose</u> someone with FASD
- Those with previous training (33.3%) rated themselves as more able to:
 - identify individuals with FASD (p=0.000)
 - diagnose individuals with FASD (p=0.000)
 - competently provide services to children and families affected by FASD (p=0.000)

What Do Psychologists Know About FASD?

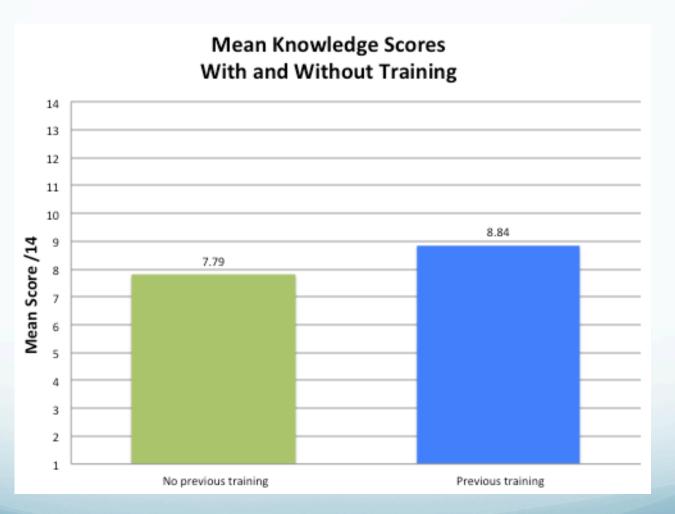
Asked 14, multiple choice questions about features of FASD, prevalence, diagnosis, treatment options, drinking guidelines



What Do Psychologists Know About FASD?



Does Previous Training Make a Difference?



This difference is significant p=.001

What Further Training is Needed?

- Participants could select more than one response
- 59% requested further training in the form of workshops
- 44% wanted the training to be accredited
- 38% indicated that on-line training was desirable
- 42% thought it should be included in post-graduate programs
- Less than 1% indicated no further training was required

Conclusions

- Our study reported similar findings to a previous study of psychologists (Wedding et al., 2007)
- However our participants had:
 - greater knowledge in some areas
 - similar or higher perceived inabilities to identify, diagnose and treat FASD
- Psychologists are very likely to come across individuals with FASD but have very little confidence in their abilities to identify, work and diagnosis them resulting the need for more training.

What's Next?

- Continue training Psychologists about FASD
- Refine our questionnaires
- What do <u>teachers</u> know about FASD? (281, 948)
 - First and enduring contact with young people

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