2025 World Education Report

By Sarah Soyeon Oh, PhD

Faith as the Foundation

The World Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WWCTU) has long championed the belief that temperance is not prohibition but compassion. To warn of harm is an act of love — a moral duty rooted in empathy rather than judgment.

"Let all that you do be done in love." — *1 Corinthians 16:14*

For more than a century, this philosophy has guided temperance education worldwide — from classrooms to clinics, from church basements to community halls — nurturing the belief that prevention is not punishment, but protection.

Science Guided by Grace

Using data from the **Collaborative Initiative on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (CIFASD)**, our research team has applied machine-learning models to analyze information from **590+ women across five U.S. sites**, predicting risk based on alcohol use, age, and demographics to identify women at risk before harm occurs. **CIFASD** is a **multidisciplinary, NIH/NIAAA-supported consortium** that coordinates basic, behavioral, clinical, and translational research to **inform and develop effective interventions and treatments for FASD** and to foster collaboration across investigators and projects (see **cifasd.org** for program details). This data-driven approach reframes prevention as proactive care—combining scientific precision with compassion. Rather than reacting to tragedy, it empowers healthcare providers to offer early counseling, universal screening, and timely intervention. When science serves love, prevention becomes an act of grace.This data-driven approach reframes prevention as *proactive care* — combining scientific precision with compassion. Rather than reacting to tragedy, it empowers healthcare providers to offer early counseling, universal screening, and timely intervention. When science serves love, prevention becomes an act of grace.

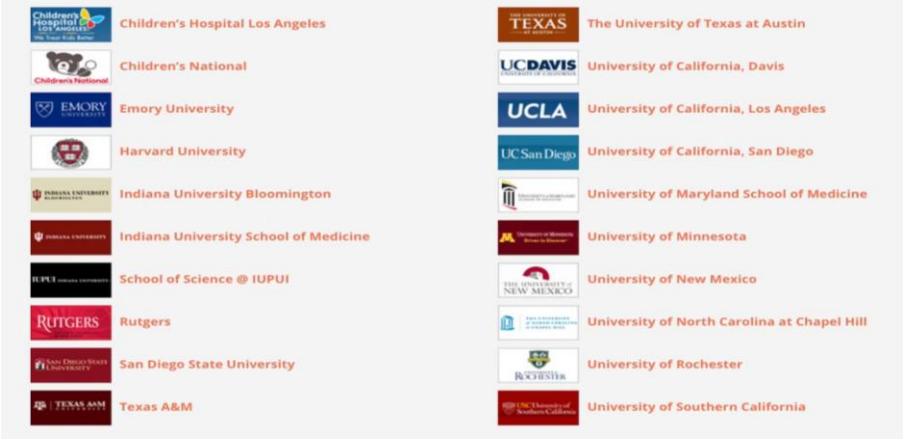


Figure 1 CIFASD homepage (cifasd.org). Image courtesy of the CIFASD consortium; used *for educational/reporting purposes.*

Alcohol as a Teratogen: The Unseen Danger

No level of alcohol is safe during pregnancy. The brain begins forming between weeks 3 and 8 — often before pregnancy is even recognized — and damage sustained during this time is irreversible (Figure 2).

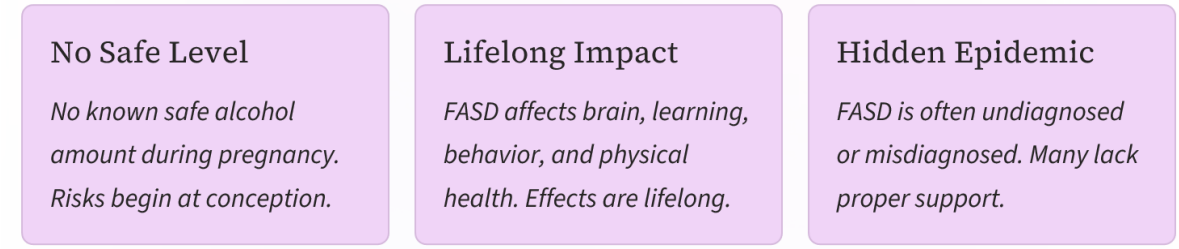


Figure 2 Alcohol as a Teratogen

Learning from Global Models of Temperance Education

Across the world, temperance education takes many creative and culturally attuned forms.

- **In Australia**, WCTU's *Drug-Free Kids* program reaches primary-school students through interactive magazines and digital content (Figure 3).

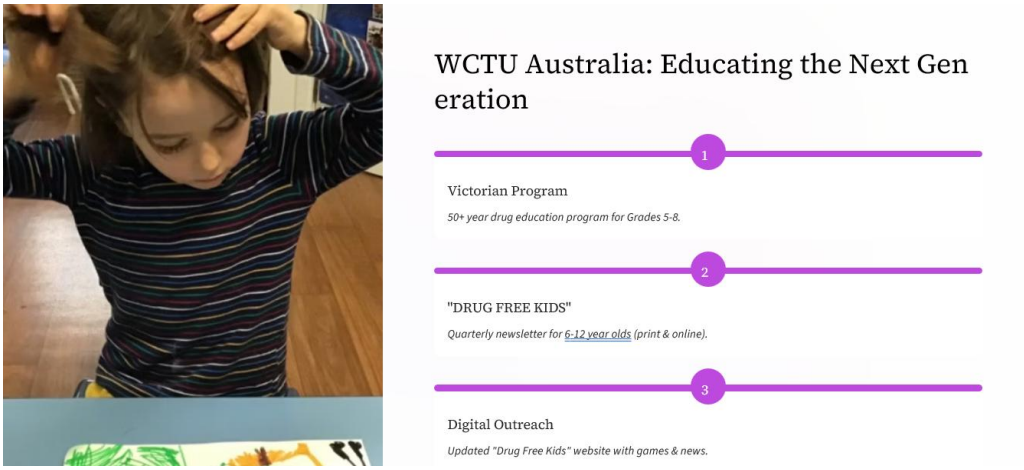


Figure 3 WCTU Australia in Action

- **In Finland**, Valkonauha leads nationwide *Sober Summer* and *Sober Christmas* campaigns, substance-awareness seminars, and intergenerational outreach programs that connect youth and the elderly (Figure 4).

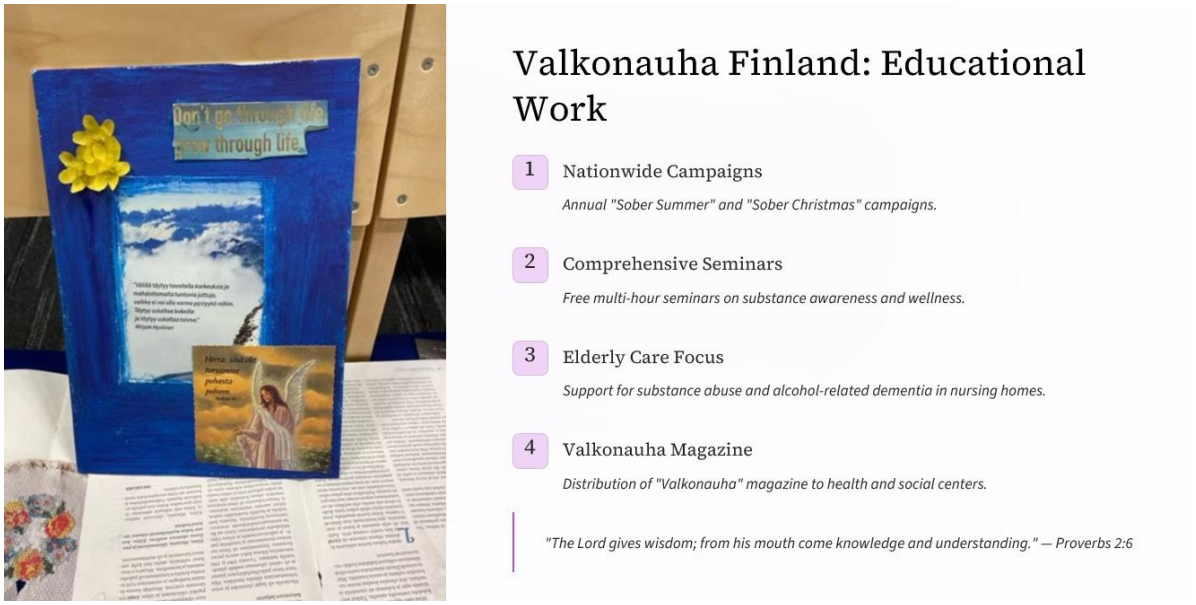


Figure 4 Finland's Educational Work

These programs remind us that sustained, empathetic education can transform culture far more effectively than punitive approaches (Figure 5).



Figure 5 Seminar programs; Angel paintings by prisoners; Dr. Koivisto lecturing to Memory Experts.

The Korean Model: Faith in Action

In Korea, the **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention Centre (FPC)**—established by the KWCTU and Ewha Womans University Mokdong Hospital—embodies this union of faith, science, and service. Situated within an obstetrics and gynecology department, the Centre provides prenatal counseling, digital education, and free public lectures. By integrating church-based compassion with hospital-based expertise, temperance becomes a tangible health service (Figure 6).



Figure 6 Asia's First-Ever FAS Prevention Center

The KWCTU also translated Ann Streissguth's book *"Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: A Guide for Families and Communities"* into Korean and other Asian languages — expanding access to knowledge and empathy across the region (Figure 7).



Figure 7 FAS Book Translation

Warning as Love

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” — *John 10:10*

To “warn as love” is to educate early, gently, and persistently. It means curing the environment as well as supporting individuals — merging evidence and empathy to protect life. When faith, science, and education converge, prevention becomes not only possible, but inevitable.