

Behavioural Profiles of Kindergarten Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

INTRODUCTION

- Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is the leading developmental disability in Canada¹
- No reliable method for diagnosing FASD exists²
- Because children with FASD share behavioural similarities with other disorders, they may be misdiagnosed³
- FASD underdiagnosis has led to gross underestimates of prevalence, contributing to a lack of awareness of drinking during pregnancy

PURPOSE

- Compare the developmental health of three groups of kindergarten children in Ontario and Manitoba: those with *FASD only*, those with *FASD and comorbidities*, and their *typically-developing peers*

METHODS

Sample: 133,995 kindergarten children

	Ontario	Manitoba
No FASD	111,718	22,127
FASD Only	65	56
FASD + Comorbidities	3	26

Measure: (*Early Development Instrument*)

The EDI is a teacher-completed measure of children's developmental health at school entry in five different domains

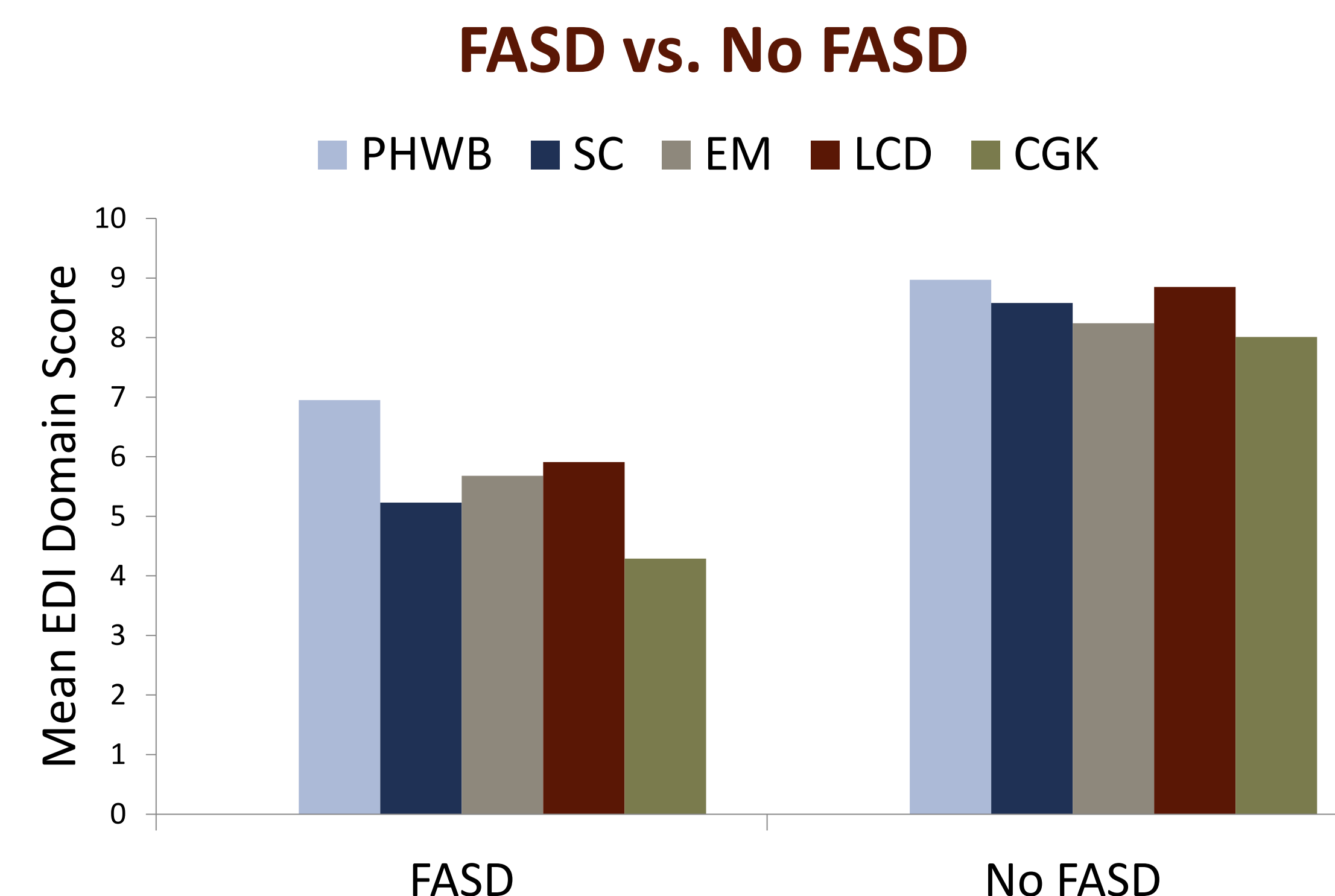


1. Physical Health & Wellbeing (PHWB)
2. Social Competence (SC)
3. Emotional Maturity (EM)
4. Language & Cognitive Development (LCD)
5. Communication Skills & General Knowledge (CGK)

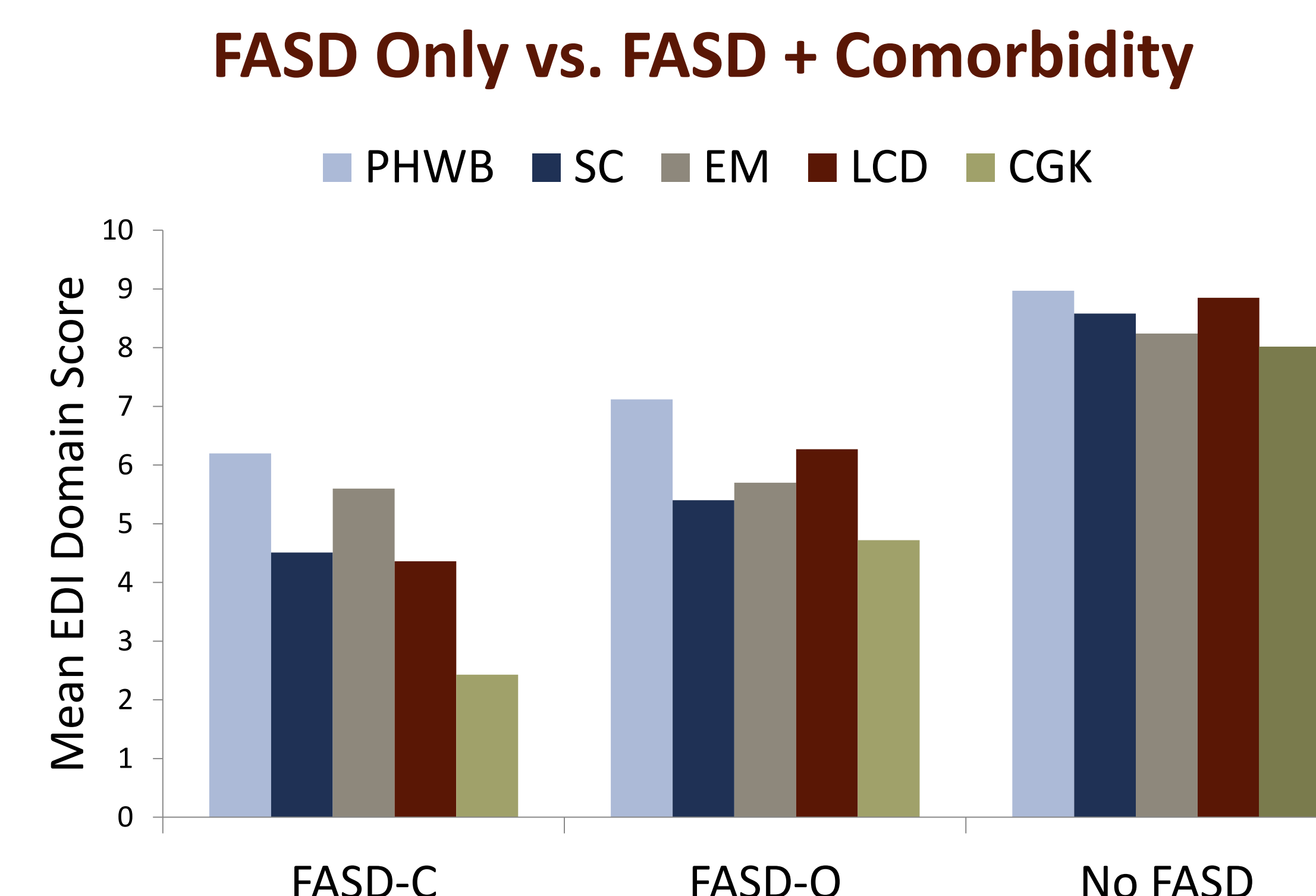
RESULTS

FASD in Manitoba and Ontario

Results 1: No significant differences on EDI scores between children with FASD across provinces



Results 2: Children with FASD score significantly lower on all developmental domains than typically developing children



Results 3: FASD-C scores significantly lower on all developmental domains except emotional maturity

RESULTS

Children with comorbidities differ significantly on the following subdomains:

FASD-C scores worse than FASD-O

Physical independence, overall social competence, readiness to explore new things, basic literacy, basic numeracy, interest in numeracy/literacy + memory

FASD-C scores better than FASD-O

Aggressive behaviour

CONCLUSIONS

- Children with FASD and comorbidities possess unique behavioural profiles and can be distinguished from children who only have FASD
- Comorbidities negatively impact the development of children with FASD

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Investigate FASD in additional provinces
- Examine and compare the effects of specific disorders on FASD
- Investigate the rates at which disorders tend to co-occur with FASD

REFERENCES

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