

# Evaluating Risk Factors in International Adoption

## Outline

Dr. Judith Eckerle is the Medical Director of the Adoption Medicine Clinic at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Eckerle assists families pre and post adoption with consultation, referral, and clinical services. Her academic interests include FASD research, adoption and foster care issues, and global advocacy for children. She is also an adult transracial international adoptee.

- Prenatal exposure: How common in international adoption? How much and when in the pregnancy? What does the impact look like in an infant, preschooler, school-aged child, and older?
  - Alcohol
  - Opioids
  - Cocaine
  - Marijuana
  - Cigarettes
- Prenatal stress: Does maternal stress during pregnancy have long term impact on the child?
- How heritable are mental illnesses?
  - Depression
  - Bi-polar
  - Schizophrenia
- How heritable are the following?
  - ADHD
  - Intelligence or academic success
- Attachment issues: How common with international adoption and what do they look like?
- How common is Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD)?
- Impacts of neglect: How common is neglect in international adoption?
- Impact of institutionalization in international adoption.
- Impacts of physical abuse: How common in international adoption? How often do referrals report physical abuse?
- Impact of sexual abuse: How common in international adoption? How often do referrals report sexual abuse?
- Impact of lack of prenatal care.
- Hepatitis B: How common? Where is it most prevalent? Long term prognosis?
- Hepatitis C: How common? Where is it most prevalent? Long term prognosis?
- HIV: How common? Where is it most prevalent? Long term prognosis?
- Congenital Syphilis: How common? Where is it most prevalent? Long term prognosis?
- What is the risk to the child if the birth mother has/had tuberculosis?
- Prematurity: How common? Where is it most prevalent? Long term prognosis?

- Low Birth Weight: What is the long-term prognosis of a child who was born with low birth weight?
- Cleft lip/palate: How common? Where is it most prevalent? Long term prognosis?
- Congenital heart issues
- Missing limbs/digits-amniotic band syndrome
- Albinism
- Dwarfism
- Tips for evaluating risk factors in international adoption. How to find a clinic that specializes in evaluating international adoption referrals?