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## LIFESTYLE

# Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Is A Real Crisis In South Africa, Deserving Of Urgent Attention

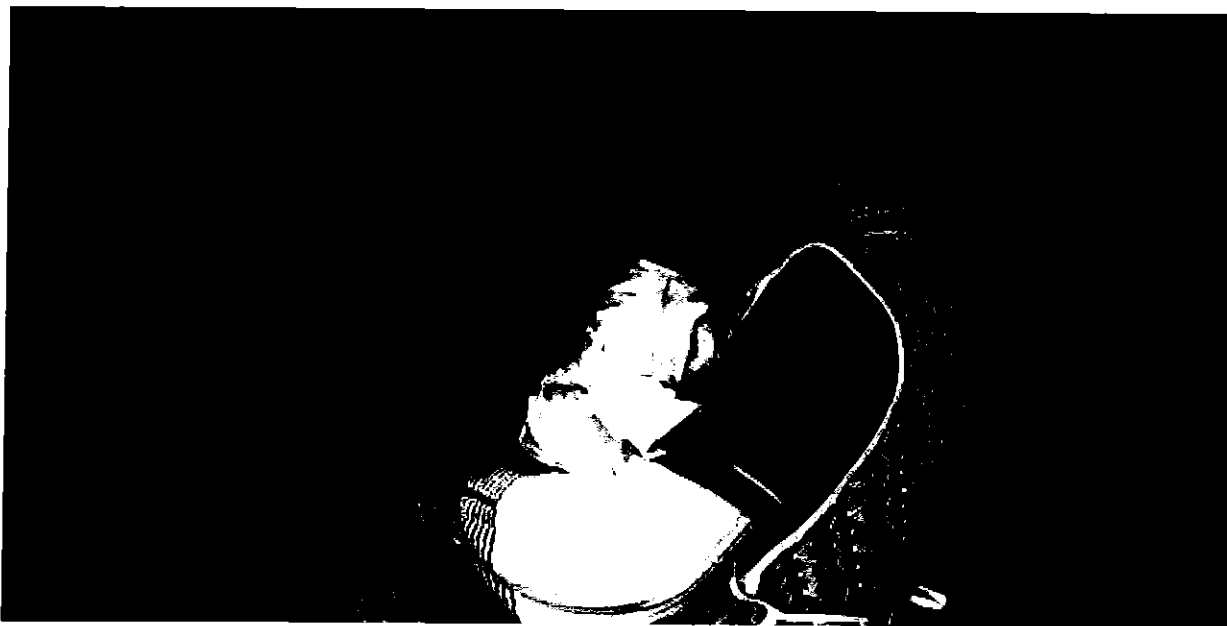
It's a permanently crippling but totally preventable condition.

🕒 04/09/2017 06:09 SAST | **Updated** 04/09/2017 06:10 SAST



Zongile Nhlapo

Lifestyle Reporter for HuffPost SA



ANDREW AITCHISON VIA GETTY IMAGES

A young baby suffering from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in the arms of a child minder.

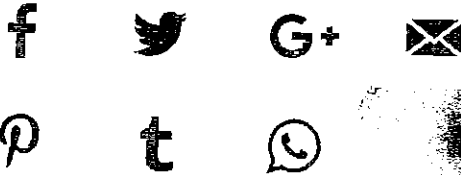
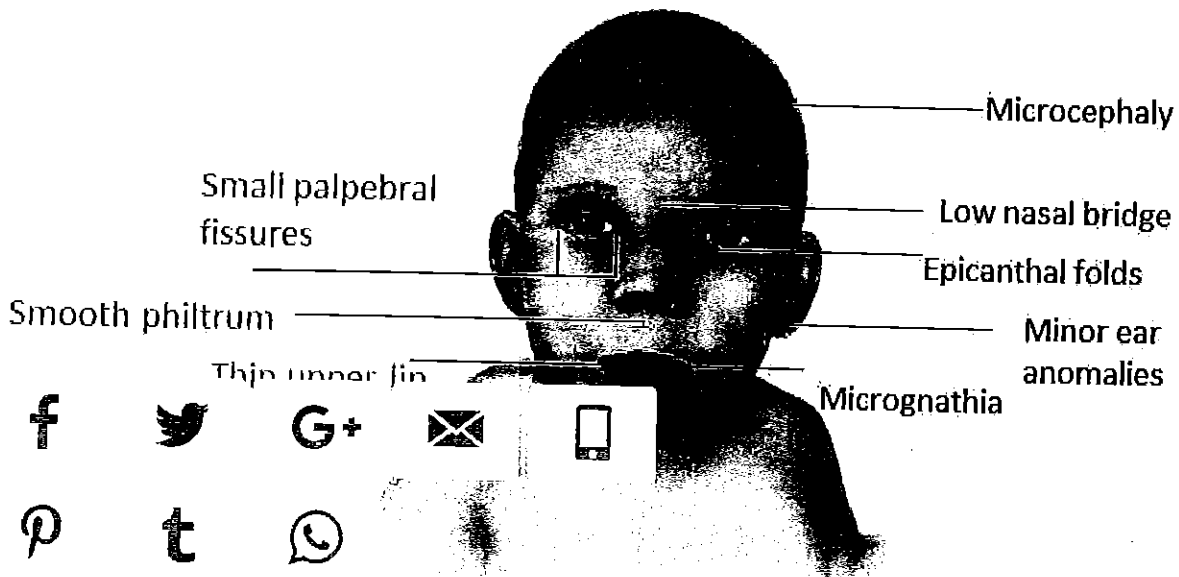
The latest global statistics on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders' (FASD) prevalence in



# Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Is A Real Cr...



FASD is an umbrella term used for a group of permanent, life-long and irreversible conditions caused by the effects of alcohol on a foetus. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is the most severe -- with at least two characteristic facial features, growth retardation in terms of height and weight, a smaller head circumference and central nervous system damage with neurodevelopmental delays.



INSTAGRAM  
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Similar research into FASD by the Foundation of Alcohol-Related Research (FARR) found that at least three million people in the country are affected by FAS, with about six million affected by FASD.