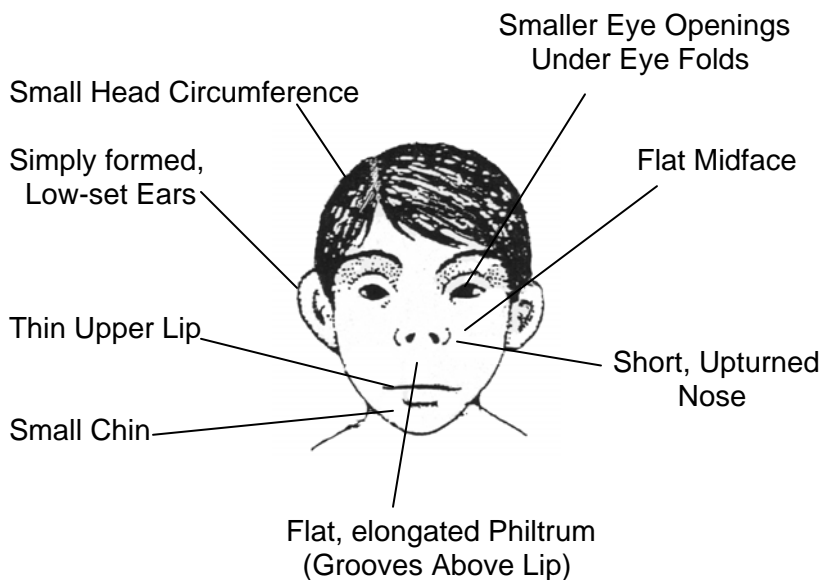


FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME / FETAL ALCOHOL EFFECTS

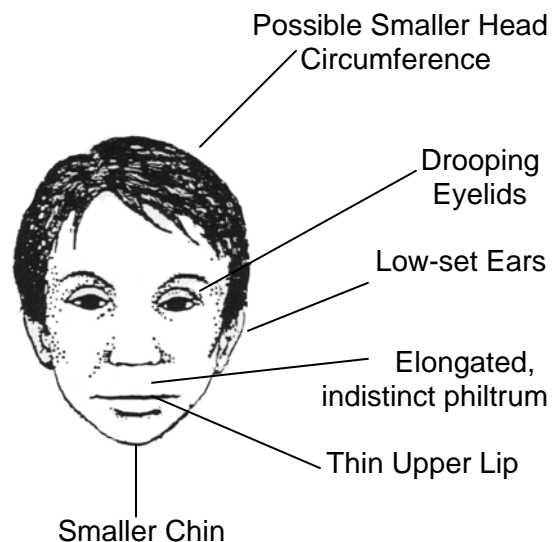
FAS

/

FAE



FAS



FAE

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is characterized by a cluster of congenital birth defects that includes:

- Prenatal and postnatal growth deficiency, meaning low weight at birth and a failure to catch up throughout the entire developmental period
- A particular pattern of facial malformations, including a small head circumference, misshapen eyes, flattened midface, sunken nasal bridge, and a flattened and elongated philtrum (the groove between the nose and upper lip)
- Central nervous system dysfunction, which can include mental retardation, alcohol withdrawal symptoms at birth, a poor sucking response and sleep disturbances during early infancy, restlessness and irritability, developmental delays, a short attention span, and hyperactivity
- Varying degrees of malformations in the body's major organs, including muscle problems, joint and skeletal defects, genial defects, and kidney abnormalities

For every child identified with FAS, as many as 10 children may be affected by alcohol during pregnancy but lack the full set of characteristics of FAS. These birth defects are called alcohol-related birth defects (ARBD).

Almost all alcohol-related birth defects, including most of the defects associated with FAS, are irreversible. They can all be prevented if women refrain from drinking during pregnancy.