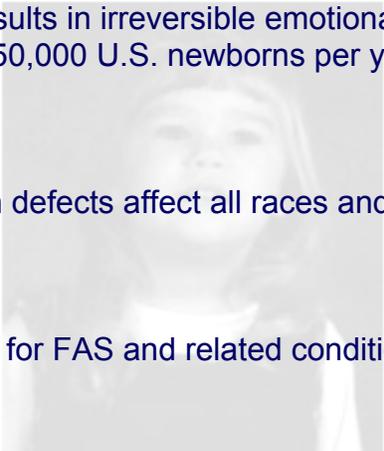


Why Teach Middle and High School Students about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Other Alcohol-Related Birth Defects?



Maternal alcohol abuse results in irreversible emotional, mental and physical damage in approximately 50,000 U.S. newborns per year.



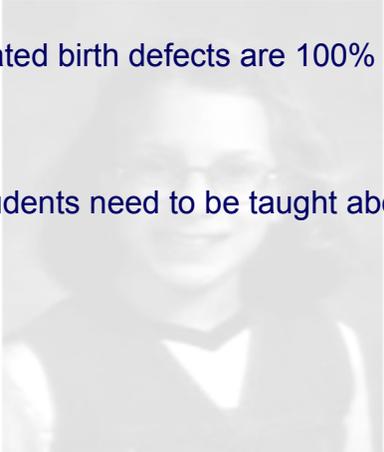
These alcohol-related birth defects affect all races and socio-economic groups.



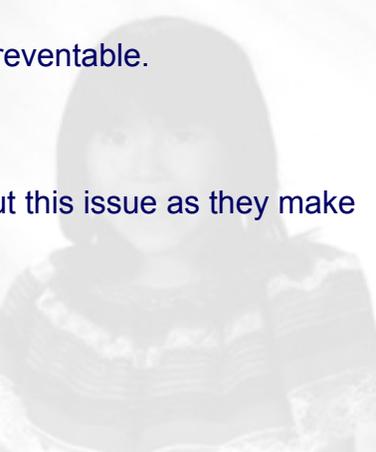
The annual cost estimates for FAS and related conditions in the U.S. range from \$75 million to \$9.7 billion.



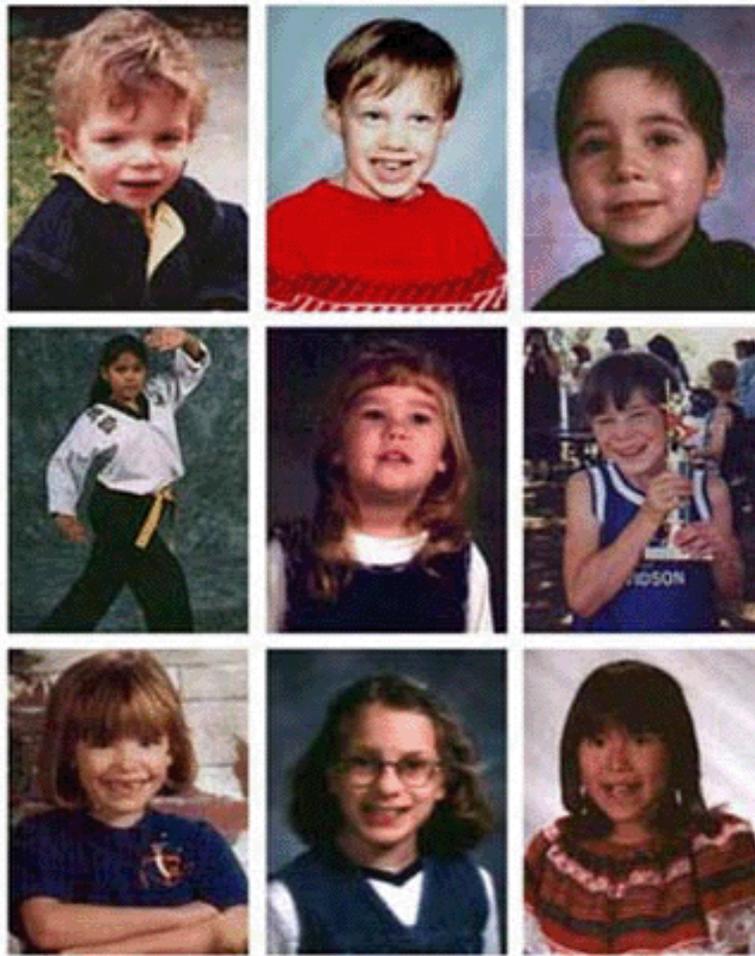
FAS and other alcohol-related birth defects are 100% preventable.



Middle and high school students need to be taught about this issue as they make their life-style choices.



Which of these children has/have Alcohol-Related Birth Defects?



Answer: All of them. Read their stories on the next pages.

The background of the page is a collage of several faded, grayscale photographs of children's faces, arranged in a grid-like pattern. The children are of various ethnicities and ages, some looking directly at the camera and others looking slightly away. The overall tone is soft and humanizing.

About The Children...

McKenzie cried a lot as a baby and had asthma and frequent ear infections. She has attention deficits and developmental delays and requires one-on-one instruction in a small classroom. McKenzie has FAS and her twin brother has Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE), but does not have the full blown syndrome.

Trisha was the 8th pregnancy, born to a 38-year-old alcoholic woman. Trisha was taken home by her adoptive family when she was one day old. Trisha has FAS, Sensory Integration Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and attention deficits. She becomes frustrated easily and often hurts herself or others, but cannot control her behavior. She requires a personal aide at school. Trisha is very small, and has a hard time gaining weight because she does not like to eat.

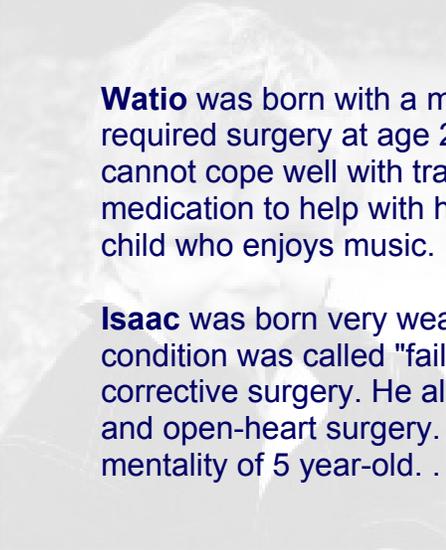
Kayla was born exposed to alcohol and cocaine, and as a result suffers from FAE, attention deficits, severe behavior disorders, sleep disorders, and Hepatitis C. Kayla was adopted shortly after birth. In spite of a stable, loving home, Kayla continues to have serious problems with school and friends.

Mikey has FAS. He also is deaf and has scoliosis which requires a back brace. Mikey is active and needs close supervision. He attends a special nursery school class that has only 10 children and 5 teachers.

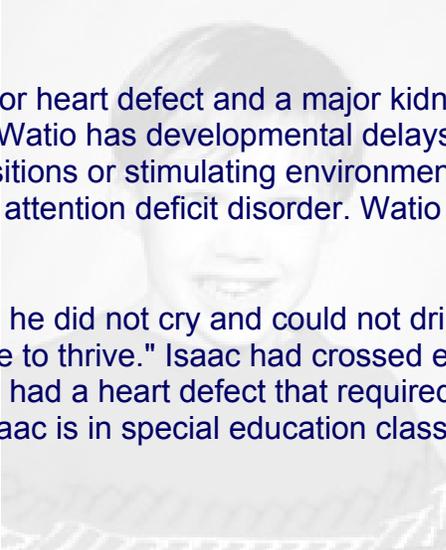
Ryan was adopted as an infant. He was diagnosed early and has received special education and therapies to help him develop his full potential.

Kay was diagnosed with FAS shortly after her birth and was adopted as an infant. Because she had an early diagnosis, she has received intervention support services that have helped her to develop healthy relationships with her family and with friends. She is immature and needs close supervision, but she is happy and well adjusted.

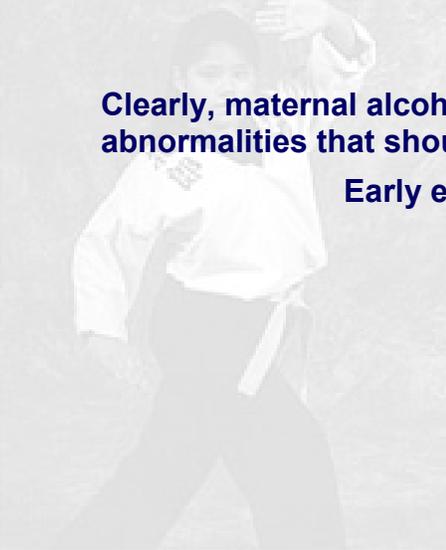
Bonnie has FAE with a higher than average IQ. She looks like a typical child, but has serious problems due to brain damage from prenatal alcohol exposure. On a good day, Bonnie appears to be a normal, energetic child. On a bad day, she may appear to be "unruly, obnoxious, and undisciplined." Bonnie reacts inappropriately to teasing by her peers, and is vulnerable to the suggestions of others. She cannot control her emotions or her behavior, and cannot maintain friendships with children her age. As a result, she feels frustrated, angry, isolated much of the time. Her mother tries to help others understand that her daughter has an invisible disability.



Watio was born with a minor heart defect and a major kidney abnormality that required surgery at age 2. Watio has developmental delays in many areas and cannot cope well with transitions or stimulating environments. He is on medication to help with his attention deficit disorder. Watio is a loving, happy child who enjoys music.



Isaac was born very weak, he did not cry and could not drink his milk. His condition was called "failure to thrive." Isaac had crossed eyes and required corrective surgery. He also had a heart defect that required strong medication and open-heart surgery. Isaac is in special education classes and has the mentality of 5 year-old. .



Clearly, maternal alcohol consumption causes serious developmental abnormalities that should be 100% preventable.

Early educational interventions are needed!

