75 word abstract:

This study was done to describe thinness versus short stature in children with poor growth in South Africa. Of the 225 children, 13% were diagnosed as only thin, 58% as only short of stature, and 21% (n=47) as both. Mid-upper-arm circumference (MUAC) was associated with thinness but not with stature; thus it cannot be used to identify poor growth. Health workers should weigh and measure children to ensure the best treatment for these children.

140 character message

Poor skeletal growth in South African children in vulnerable communities is driving underweight for age.