

TITLE: Marijuana use during pregnancy: results from Samaritan Health Services, 2016-2019

AUTHOR(S): Paulina Kaiser, PhD MPH; Olivia Pipitone, MPH; Julia Paz, DO

PRESENTER(S): Paulina Kaiser

STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: public health and clinical professionals who work with pregnant women and/or are interested in marijuana use during pregnancy

ABSTRACT: **BACKGROUND**The prevalence of marijuana use during pregnancy is understudied, even where recreational marijuana is legal. In June 2016 (prior to Oregon's legalization of recreational marijuana in 2017), Samaritan Health Services adopted a policy to routinely drug screen all pregnant women. **PURPOSE** We evaluated patterns of marijuana use during pregnancy among mothers in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties who received prenatal care at Samaritan Health Services. **METHODS** Retrospective data was collected from electronic health records for pregnancies that began between January 2016 and May 2019. The number of women with THC test results during their pregnancy and the proportion who tested positive for THC was trended by month. We will also explore risk factors for continued marijuana use during pregnancy with summary statistics and regression models as appropriate. **RESULTS** Among 6,246 unique pregnancies, 10.3% (n=643) tested positive for THC at least once. Prevalence increased over time, from 8.0% among women who delivered in 2016 to 12.1% in the first half of 2019. Results about risk factors is pending. **CONCLUSIONS** Marijuana use during pregnancy is increasing; additional research is needed on the health consequences to babies as well as interventions to reduce prenatal marijuana use.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe patterns in marijuana use since 2016 among pregnant women at a regional medical center in Corvallis, Oregon. Identify key risk factors for continued marijuana use during pregnancy.
