

Maternal Marijuana Use and Childhood Outcomes

Between four and five percent of pregnant women report some level of cannabis use. This level decreases markedly throughout pregnancy. Many women who report using cannabis during pregnancy do so to address symptoms of nausea/morning sickness.

RESOURCES:

- Cannabis and pregnancy: Maternal child health implications during a period of drug policy liberalization, Preventive Medicine, 2017
- Marijuana use in pregnancy and lactation: A review of the evidence, American Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics & Gynecology, 2015
- Survey of medicinal cannabis use among childbearing women: patterns of its use in pregnancy and retroactive self-assessment of its efficacy against 'morning sickness', Complementary Therapies In Clinical Practice, 2006

In utero cannabis exposure is not independently associated with low birthweight, pre-term birth, or other adverse neonatal outcomes

"A study was carried out in 4465 infants whose mothers delivered during 2017 and 2018. Self-reported maternal smoking, e-cigarette and cannabis use at booking were recorded. Outcome measures were birthweight and head circumference z-scores and admission to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). ... Cannabis use alone was not associated with a significant reduction in birthweight or head circumference z-score, but the combination of cannabis and cigarette smoking resulted in a significant decrease in both z-scores compared to cigarette smoking alone."

Maternal smoking and cannabis use during pregnancy and infant outcomes, Journal of Perinatal Medicine, 2020

In utero cannabis exposure is not independently associated with significant, consistent adverse effects on childhood development

RESOURCES:

- Breathe, Push, Puff? Pot Use and Pregnancy: A Review of the Literature, NORML, 2009
- Women and Cannabis: Medicine, Science, and Sociology, Haworth Press, 2002

"The evidence base for maternal-infant health outcomes of cannabis use in pregnancy is more robust than for many other substances. ... Although there is a theoretical potential for cannabis to interfere with neurodevelopment, human data drawn from four prospective cohorts have not identified any long-term or long lasting meaningful differences between children exposed in utero to cannabis and those not."

Cannabis and pregnancy: Maternal child health implications during a period of drug policy liberalization, Preventive Medicine, 2017

"Neither maternal nor paternal cannabis use was associated with educational attainment (in their children) in observational analyses, but few mothers in our sample used cannabis regularly in pregnancy."

The effect of in utero exposure to alcohol, tobacco and cannabis on educational attainment in adolescence: findings from ALSPAC, a UK cohort study, Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health, 2017