Prenatal Cannabis Use

symptom modulation and contextual influences

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Introduction

• THC crosses the placenta at ~10% maternal levels.
• The evolving cannabis legalization landscape may lead to complacency regarding risks of prenatal cannabis use (PCU).
• This study examines availability/patterns, and social use/contexts associated with PCU.

Results

Patterns of PCU

- On a typical PCU day, participants consumed:
  - <=¼ gram of flower: 70%
  - <=10 mg of THC edibles: 85%
  - <=5 hits of concentrates: 73%

Most reported using cannabis with roughly equal parts THC and CBD.

Symptom Management

- 75-95% perceived PCU as “highly effective” for managing nausea, distress, and physical discomfort.
- Over half of participants believed PCU would harm the fetus (~60%) or herself (~64%) “not at all” or “a little.”

Women in the third trimester reported the most frequent PCU.

Conclusions

• Perceived efficacy of PCU for symptom modulation was high, while perceived risk was low.
• Tobacco use is common among women who engage in PCU.
• The majority of women’s social networks used cannabis.
• Cannabis was typically used in the company of others.
• Although quantity of PCU consumed was relatively low, any amount may have a negative effect on the developing fetus.

Methods

• 64 pregnant women who use cannabis were recruited from Amazon’s Mechanical Turk to complete a survey.
• Average age: 22 years (range: 22-49)
• Average income: ~$44,000
• Gestational age:
  - 1st trimester: 53.3%
  - 2nd trimester: 43.3%
  - 3rd trimester: 3.4%

Social Networks

- 50% had a partner who used cannabis
- 80% had social networks that used cannabis

Symptom Management

- Polysubstance Use
  - 64% used cigarettes
  - 25% used alcohol

PCU Contexts (where women use and with whom)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Alone:</th>
<th>Group:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bars/clubs</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other homes</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>Group: 39%</td>
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