

Perinatal substance use disorder and the accessibility of health services for perinatal substance use in British Columbia, Canada

Category: Oral Presentation

Abstract Body

Background: Limited data exists on the population of pregnant people with substance use disorder (SUD) in British Columbia (BC) as well as the accessibility of health services for this population across regions of the province. Access to health services among this population is challenged by many factors including geographic barriers and a limited availability of comprehensive services.

Objectives: To identify the population with perinatal SUD in BC and evaluate the availability of health services for perinatal substance use by region.

Methods: Using linked provincial health administrative data, we identified people with an indication of substance use from within 12 months of the first perinatal care visit to delivery between 2016 to 2021. We identified all acute care facilities and community-based services for perinatal substance use offered in BC from publicly available data and direct consultation with key stakeholders. Data was collected on perinatal care and substance use care components, admission criteria, number of beds, waitlists, availability of Indigenous cultural components, and other support services offered within each facility by region.

Results: We identified a total of 12,450 people with perinatal SUD during the study period. We identified a total of 30 organizations offering services specific to perinatal substance use. Of these, 2 (7%) were acute care services, 9 (30%) were live-in community services, and 19 (63%) were community resource centers offering “wrap-around” services. Vancouver Coastal Health region accounted for 10.5% (n=1453) of the population with perinatal SUD and 27% (n=8) of the services, with 42% (n=60) of the province’s 143 live-in community beds, and 93% (n=13) of the 14 acute care beds as compared to the other regions of the province.

Conclusions: The findings highlight the need to increase the availability and capacity of health services for perinatal substance use in BC particularly for acute care and live-in services within more rural and remote regions to support the health of pregnant people and infants impacted by substance use.

Key Words

- Quality Improvement
- Substance Use Disorder (general)
- Treatment Models/Programs
- Women/Pregnancy/Neonatal Issues

Learning Objective # 1

Understand the prevalence of perinatal substance use disorder (SUD) in British Columbia (BC) and the geographic availability of acute care and community-based services for perinatal substance use.

Learning Objective # 2

Recognize the disparities in geographic access to acute care and community-based services for perinatal substance use throughout BC.

Reference # 1

Piske M, Homayra F, Min JE, Zhou H, Marchand C, Mead A, et al. Opioid Use Disorder and Perinatal Outcomes. *Pediatrics*. 2021;148(4): e2021050279.

Reference # 2

Provincial Perinatal Substance Use Project. Provincial Blueprint for a perinatal substance use continuum of care. [Internet]. Vancouver: BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre; 2021 [cited 2022 December 3]. Available from: <http://www.bcwomens.ca/Professional-Resources-site/Documents/Perinatal%20Substance%20Use/PPSUP%20Blueprint%20Final%203Nov2021.pdf>.

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