

Recovering from the COVID-19 Hangover

Are our patients *ready* for pregnancy?

Learning Objectives

1. Learn about the current state of COVID and COVID vaccination in pregnancy
2. Gain an appreciation for changes in routine health surveillance that can affect pregnancy
3. How do you help your patients prepare for pregnancy?

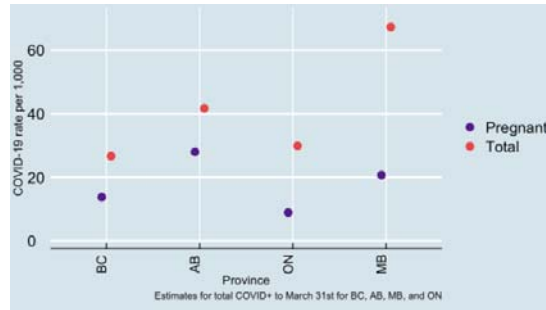


Conflicts of Interest

- Dr. Jackie Thomas and Dr. Evan Tannenbaum have NO relevant conflict of interest to declare
- Except, we both emerged from the COVID Hangover unscathed (moderately, at least)

COVID in
Pregnancy

1.4% (0.9-2.8) **→** **4.14%** (2.6-6.7)
 Pregnant population COVID + Reproductive age population COVID +

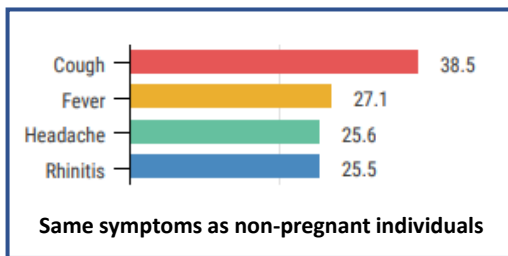


Similar data from USA, UK

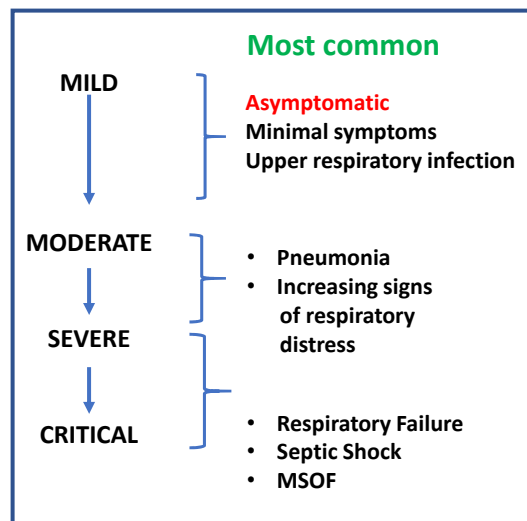
- Pregnancy **NOT** a risk factor for acquiring COVID
- Safety measures **are effective** @ protecting pregnant patients

CanCOVID-Preg Report #4 (Jun 4, 2021)
5 provinces

? Is the COVID disease profile altered in a pregnant individual

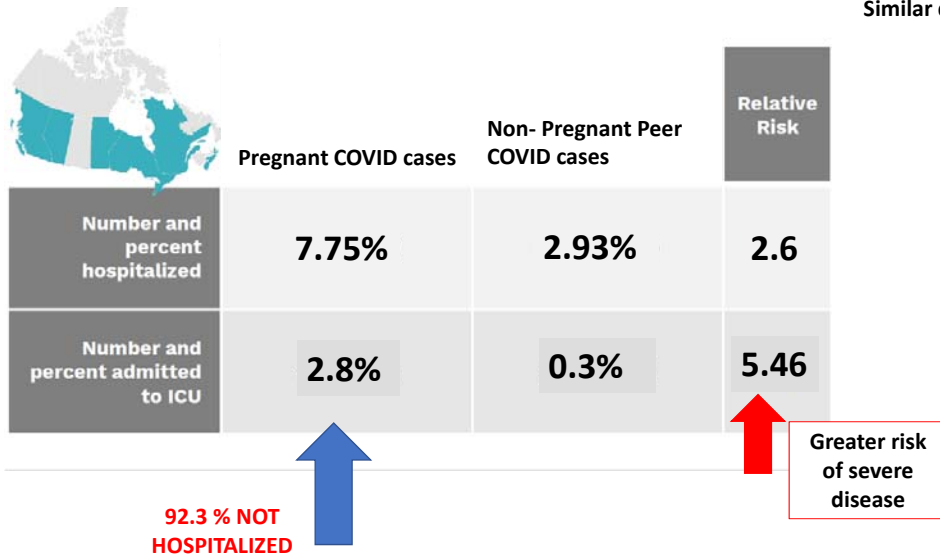


- Cardiovascular disease
 - Chronic Lung disease
 - Diabetes
 - Hypertension
 - Obesity (BMI >30)
- Same co-morbid risk factors as non-pregnant individuals



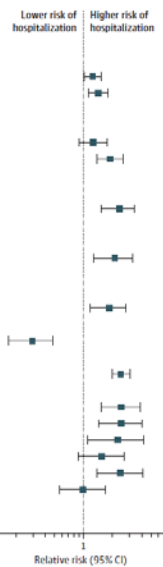
Compared with Non-pregnant Reproductive Aged Peers

Similar data from USA, UK



CanCOVID-Preg (JAMA, May 2022)

Variables	No. (%) of patients		Absolute risk difference, % (95% CI)	Relative risk (95% CI)
	Not hospitalized	Hospitalized		
Age, y				
<30	2262 (93.51)	157 (6.49)	[Reference]	1 [Reference]
30-35	2185 (91.77)	196 (8.23)	1.7 (0.3 to 3.2)	1.25 (1.02-1.53)
≥36	1082 (90.70)	111 (9.30)	2.8 (0.9 to 4.7)	1.42 (1.13-1.8)
Body mass index				
<25	1209 (94.23)	74 (5.77)	[Reference]	1 [Reference]
25-29	708 (92.67)	56 (7.33)	1.6 (-0.7 to 3.8)	1.26 (0.9-1.77)
≥30	585 (89.18)	71 (10.82)	5.1 (2.4 to 7.8)	1.89 (1.38-2.58)
Preexisting hypertension				
No	5343 (92.60)	427 (7.40)	[Reference]	1 [Reference]
Yes	197 (84.19)	37 (15.81)	8.4 (3.7 to 13.1)	2.36 (1.54-3.4)
Type 1 or 2 diabetes				
No	5309 (92.52)	429 (7.48)	[Reference]	1 [Reference]
Yes	231 (86.84)	35 (13.16)	5.7 (1.6 to 9.8)	2.12 (1.27-3.25)
Asthma				
No	3697 (92.82)	286 (7.18)	[Reference]	1 [Reference]
Yes	127 (86.39)	20 (13.61)	6.4 (0.8 to 12)	1.86 (1.17-2.76)
Gestational age at diagnosis, wk				
<14	1064 (98.52)	16 (1.48)	-3.5 (-4.7 to -2.3)	0.3 (0.17-0.48)
14-27	1980 (95.01)	104 (4.99)	[Reference]	1 [Reference]
≥28	2462 (87.83)	341 (12.17)	7.2 (5.6 to 8.7)	2.44 (1.98-3.03)
Race and ethnicity				
African, Black, or Caribbean	216 (88.16)	29 (11.84)	7 (2.7 to 11.3)	2.45 (1.52-3.89)
East Asian or Southeast Asian	149 (88.17)	20 (11.83)	7 (1.9 to 12.1)	2.45 (1.43-4.07)
Hispanic or Latinx	81 (89.01)	10 (10.99)	6.2 (-0.4 to 12.8)	2.28 (1.1-4.24)
Middle Eastern	128 (88.28)	17 (11.72)	6.9 (1.4 to 12.4)	1.55 (0.88-2.64)
Other (including Indigenous)	222 (92.50)	18 (7.50)	2.7 (-1 to 6.3)	2.43 (1.37-4.12)
South Asian	356 (95.19)	18 (4.81)	0 (-2.7 to 2.6)	1 (0.56-1.7)
White	730 (95.18)	37 (4.82)	[Reference]	1 [Reference]



Risk factors for Moderate to Severe Disease in the Pregnant Individual

- Advancing age
- BMI > 30
- Chronic hypertension
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Advancing GA
- Ethnicity:
 - Black
 - East/SE Asian
 - Hispanic

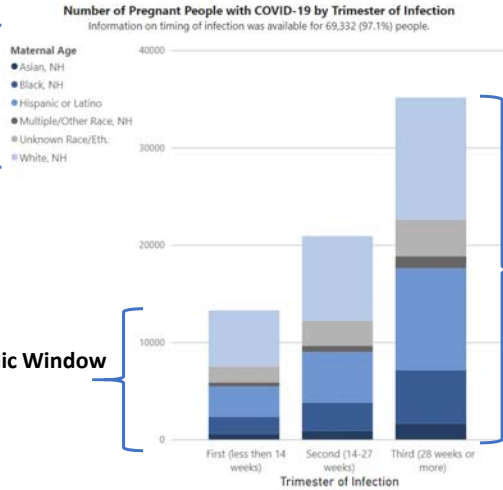
Similar pattern of risk factors for:

- Need for O2 Rx
- Admission to ICU

CanCOVID-Preg (JAMA, May 2022)

? Does the COVID infection rate vary with gestational age

Across all ethnicity & maternal age groups



This is American data, but similar data exists from Canada, UK

Diagnosis most common in T3

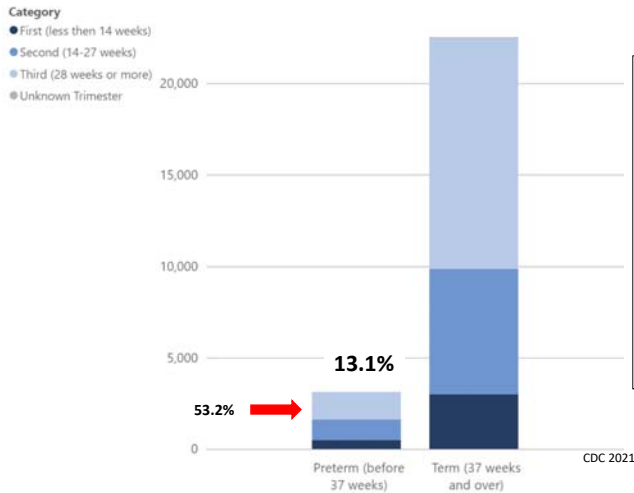
Teratogenic Window

Potential Impact:
Fetal form, function, well-being, OB outcome

CDC Data: up to March 2022

Impact of COVID on obstetrical outcomes

Obstetrical impact of COVID in pregnancy: PTB



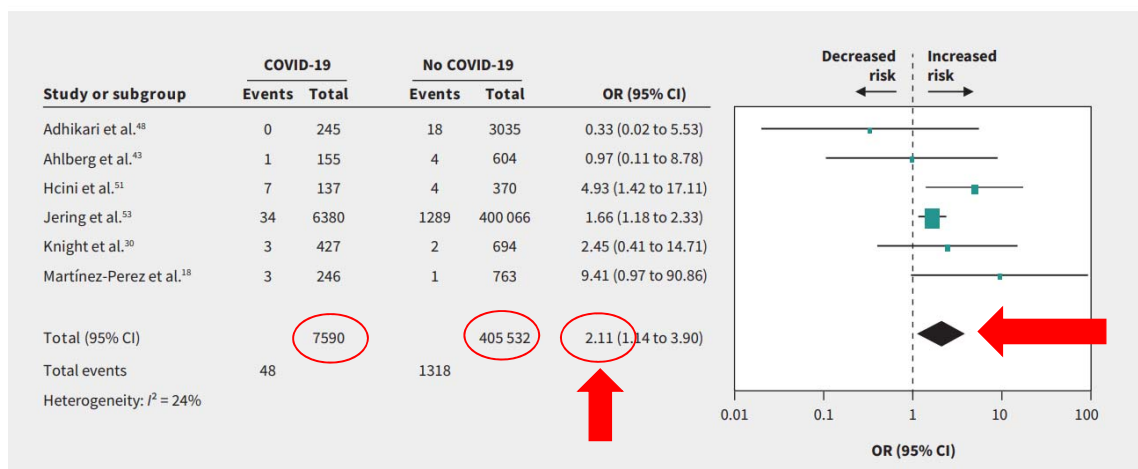
In summary:

- Risk not linked to "variants of concern"
- Risk linked to disease severity
- Most PTB occurred in T3 when infection is most common
- BUT mean GA 34-35w: low risk for neonatal morbidity

Preterm birth most commonly associated with COVID infection in T3

CDC Sept 2021

Obstetrical impact of COVID in pregnancy: Stillbirth



Mahajan et al; OBGYN (Oct 2021)
 UKOSS (Sept 2021)
 Wei et al, CMAJ (April 2021)

Obstetrical impact of COVID in pregnancy: Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and postpartum hemorrhage

Outcome	Critical–Severe (n=141)			Moderate–Mild (n=499)			Asymptomatic (ref) (n=579)
		RR (95% CI)	aRR* (95% CI)		RR (95% CI)	aRR* (95% CI)	
Postpartum hemorrhage [§]	21 (14.9)	2.05 (1.26–3.35)	2.02 (1.18–3.45)	45 (9.0)	1.24 (0.83– 1.86)	1.21 (0.78– 1.87)	42 (7.3)
Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy	57 (40.4)	2.15 (1.65–2.79)	1.61 (1.18–2.20)	119 (23.8)	1.27 (1.01– 1.60)	1.24 (0.98– 1.58)	109 (18.8)

**** Increased risk of both preeclampsia and pregnancy induced hypertension ****

Metz et al (2021)

Obstetrical impact of COVID in pregnancy: Fetal Growth

43 institutions
18 Countries

Table 1. Pregnancy Complications, Perinatal Events, and Neonatal Morbidities Among Women With and Without COVID-19 Diagnosis and Their Newborns

Characteristic	No. (%)		Relative risk (95% CI)	Increased rate of Low Birth Weight
	Women with COVID-19 diag- nosis (n = 706)	Women without COVID-19 diagnosis (n = 1424)		
Low birth weight (<2500 g)	145 (20.5)	181 (12.7)	1.58 (1.29 to 1.94) ^b	←
Small for gestational age (<10th centile) ^f	97 (13.7)	181 (12.7)	1.03 (0.81 to 1.31)	

No studies to determine optimal surveillance in COVID recovery

- Suggest q 2-4w BPP/ EFW
- Self-monitoring: FM, s/s PET

No studies to suggest IOL at term/preterm to reduce risk of harm

InterCOVID Study; JAMA Ped (Apr 2021)

COVID vaccination in pregnancy

Safety of the mRNA Vaccine in Pregnancy

* Pregnant vaccinated individuals matched to pregnant unvaccinated individuals (n= 7 530)

Outcomes	Vaccinated	Matched unvaccinated
No.	7530	7530
SARS-CoV-2 hospitalization, No. (%)	13 (0.2)	23 (0.3)
Abortion, ^c No. (%)	128 (1.7)	118 (1.6)
Intrauterine growth restriction, No. (%)	36 (0.5)	38 (0.5)
Preeclampsia, No. (%)	20 (0.3)	21 (0.3)
Stillbirth, No. (%)	1 (<0.1)	2 (<0.1)
Maternal death, No. (%)	0	0
Obstetric pulmonary embolism, No. (%)	0	0
Birth week, median (IQR)	39 (38-40)	39 (38-40)
Preterm birth (<37 wk), No. (%)	77/1387 (5.6)	85/1427 (6.0)
Infant weight, median (IQR), kg	3.2 (2.9-3.6)	3.2 (2.9-3.5)

No difference in pregnancy outcomes

**IUGR
PET
IUFD
PTB
LBW
Maternal M&M**

Goldshtein et al, JAMA (Aug 2021)

Safety of the mRNA Vaccine in Pregnancy

Event	No. of subjects	Prevalence (events per 100 live births)	aHR ^a (95% CI)	Hazard Ratio
Preterm birth^b				
Full population	46,079	6.6	NA	
No COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy	36,015	7.0	Ref	
Any COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy	10,064	4.9	0.91 (0.82-1.01)	
mRNA vaccine, 1 dose	1,759	7.7	0.78 (0.66-0.93)	
mRNA vaccine, 2 doses	7,881	4.3	0.97 (0.86-1.10)	
Second trimester**	3,668	6.4	1.05 (0.90-1.23)	
Third trimester**	6,224	4.0	0.82 (0.72-0.94)	
Small-for-gestational-age at birth^c				
Full population	40,627	8.2	NA	
No COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy	31,699	8.2	Ref	
Any COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy	8,928	8.2	0.95 (0.87-1.03)	
mRNA vaccine, 1 dose	1,576	8.2	0.92 (0.80-1.07)	
mRNA vaccine, 2 doses	6,982	8.3	0.98 (0.89-1.08)	
Second trimester**	3,226	8.6	1.00 (0.86-1.17)	
Third trimester**	5,561	8.0	0.93 (0.85-1.02)	

Retrospective cohort of >40,000 pregnant women

No associated with Preterm Birth
No associated with SGA

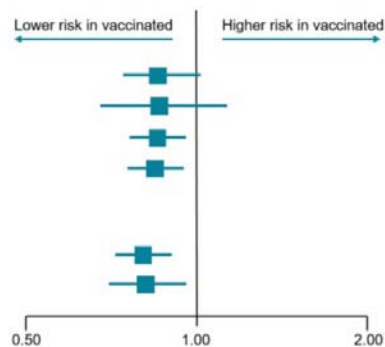
- Trimester at time of vaccination
- # doses of vaccine

CDC MMMWR Jan 2022

COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy was not associated with negative outcomes

Outcome	Received ≥1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy No. (%)	Initiated COVID-19 vaccine series after pregnancy No. (%)
Pregnant individuals with a live birth or stillbirth	N=22,660	N=44,815
- Postpartum hemorrhage	677 (3.0)	1,351 (3.0)
- Chorioamnionitis	101 (0.5)	214 (0.5)
- Cesarean birth	6,988 (30.8)	14,427 (32.2)
- Emergency cesarean	2,829 (15.3)	5,943 (16.4)
Live born infants	N=22,746	N=44,943
- NICU admission	2,508 (11.0)	5,969 (13.3)
- 5-minute Apgar score <7	403 (1.8)	894 (2.0)

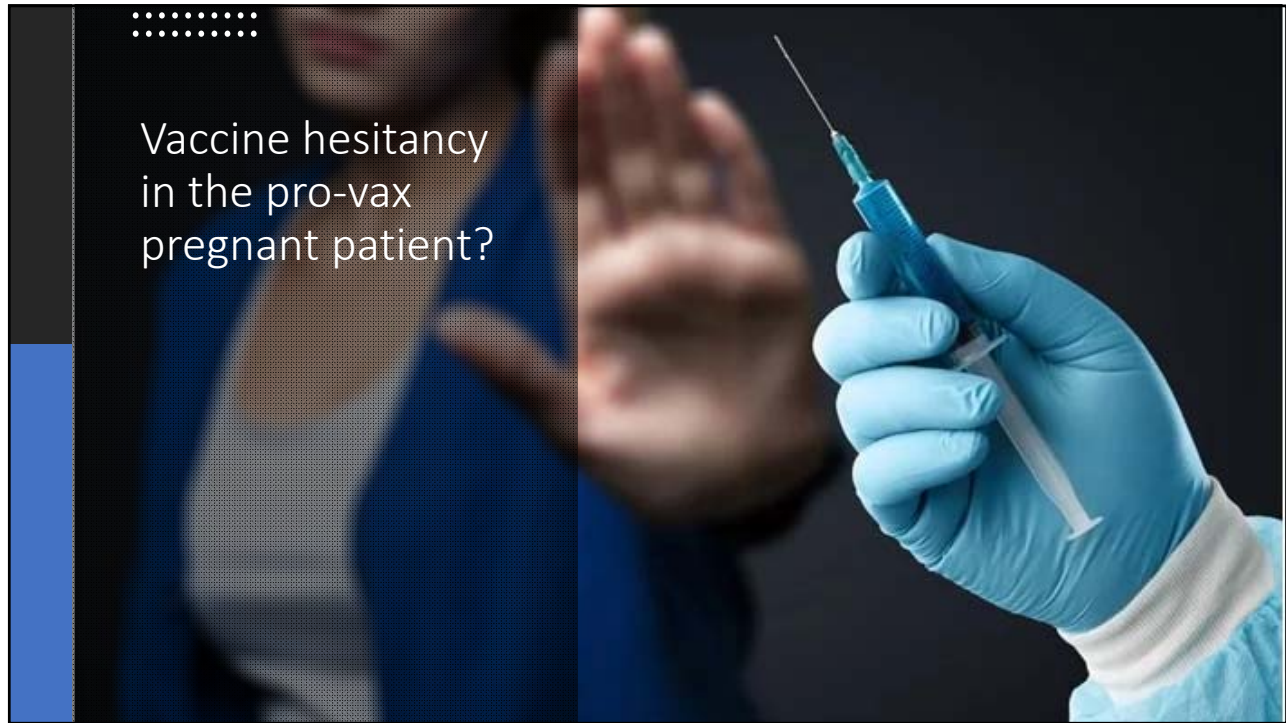
Compared with those who initiated COVID-19 vaccine series after pregnancy (comparison group 1)



COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy in Ontario: a province-wide evaluation



JAMA 2022



Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Effectiveness of Maternal Vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy Against COVID-19–Associated Hospitalization in Infants Aged <6 Months — 17 States, July 2021–January 2022

61% effective at preventing hospitalization for COVID in children < 6mos

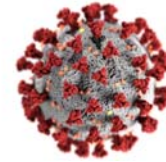
Timing of maternal vaccination during pregnancy [†]	No. vaccinated [¶] /Total (%)		Vaccine effectiveness,* % (95% CI)	Characteristic (no. unknown)	Total (N = 176)	Unvaccinated (n = 148)	Vaccinated (2-doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine) (n = 28)
	Case-infants	Control-infants					
Any time	28/176 (15.9)	65/203 (32.0)	61 (31 to 78)	Intensive care unit admission	43/176 (24.4)	38/148 (25.7)	5/28 (17.9)
Early (first 20 weeks)	17/165 (10.3)	26/164 (15.9)	32 (43 to 68)	Critically ill infants on life support (4)	25/172 (14.5)	21/144 (14.6)	4/28 (14.3)
Late (21 weeks' gestation through 14 days before delivery)	9/157 (5.7)	38/176 (21.6)	80 (55 to 91)				

Best effect if vaccinated in late T2 or T3

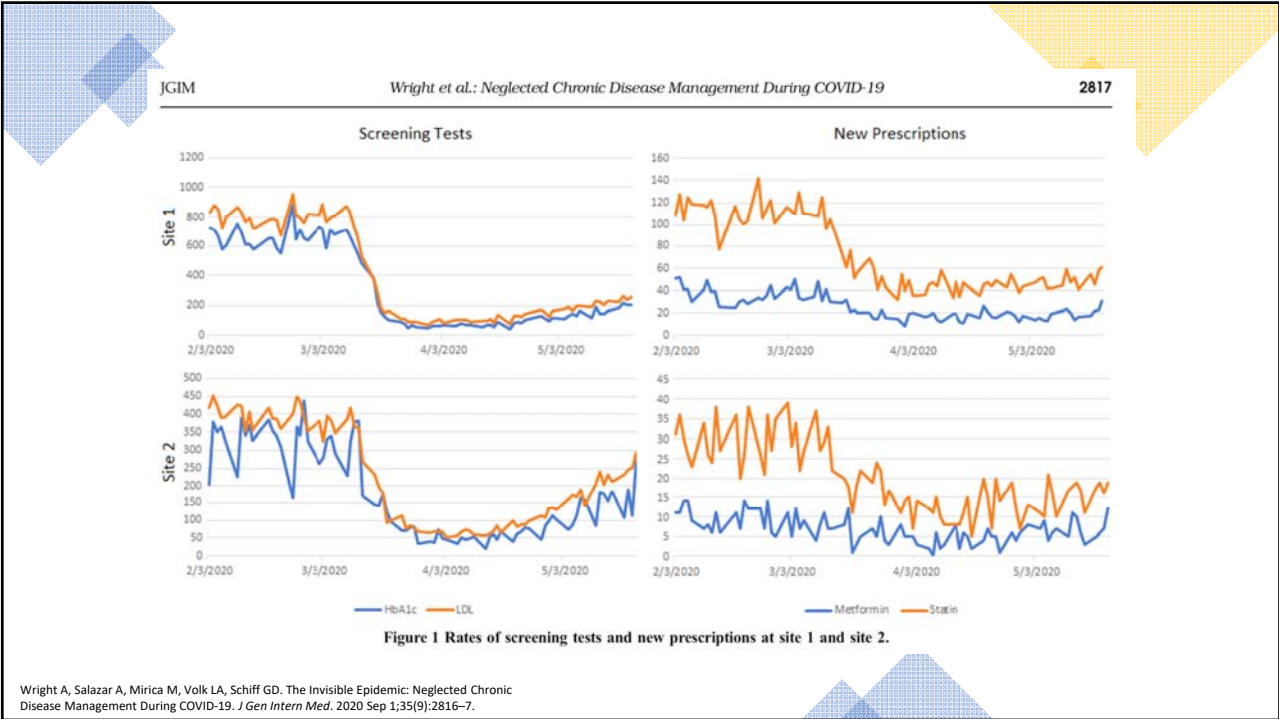
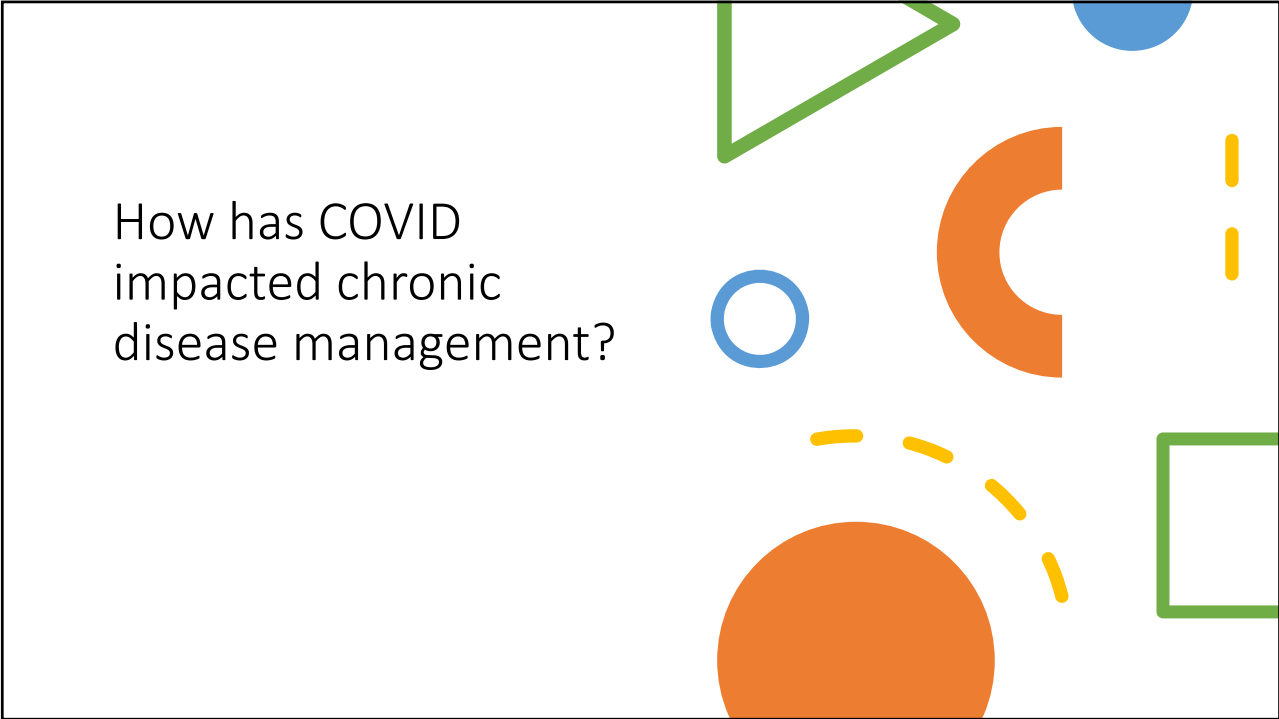
Reduced risk of NICU admission

CDC MMWR Feb 2022

Take-home points:



- The vaccine is **safe**
- The vaccine **prevents major complications** from COVID for mom and baby
- Some unanswered questions:
 - Current state of illness is different from when data emerged in 2020 and 2021
 - 80% of people reproductive age have had exposure to COVID
 - Vaccination rate are very high amongst this population
 - The vulnerable, elderly, immunocompromised, etc. population is still at high risk

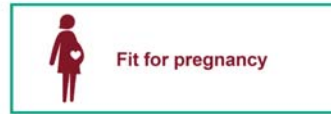


Preconception Health

Health before pregnancy – Improving outcomes for mothers and babies



Planning pregnancy



Fit for pregnancy



Healthy behaviours

Include: a healthy diet, folic acid supplements, regular physical activity, promoting emotional wellbeing and ensuring cervical screening, sexual health checks and immunisations are up to date



Risk factors

Include: smoking, alcohol, substance misuse, obesity, long-term physical and mental health conditions, previous pregnancy complications, genetic risks, maternal age, adverse childhood experiences, domestic abuse, migrant health factors



Wider determinants

Include: relationships and support, education, housing, employment, financial stability, environment, community safety and cohesiveness

Making the case for preconception care. *Public Health England*. 2018

CASE 1:

32 y.o. patient comes in and tells you she has a positive pregnancy test

- On review of the chart, you haven't seen her in a few years because she was living abroad and then COVID hit
- She's healthy but hasn't had a pap test since 2017, before she left. She thought she'd "wait it out" which is why she didn't present for screening in the past few years
- Should she have a pap? Should she be examined? Wait until postpartum?
- What are some other considerations?

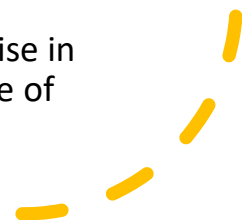
The state of cervical screening

- U.S. data showed **increasing rates** of eligible teens up-to-date on HPV vaccination (58.6% in 2020 compared to a target of 80%)
- At 80% vaccination rate, the chance of eliminating cervical cancer within a century becomes a reality



Then COVID Hits

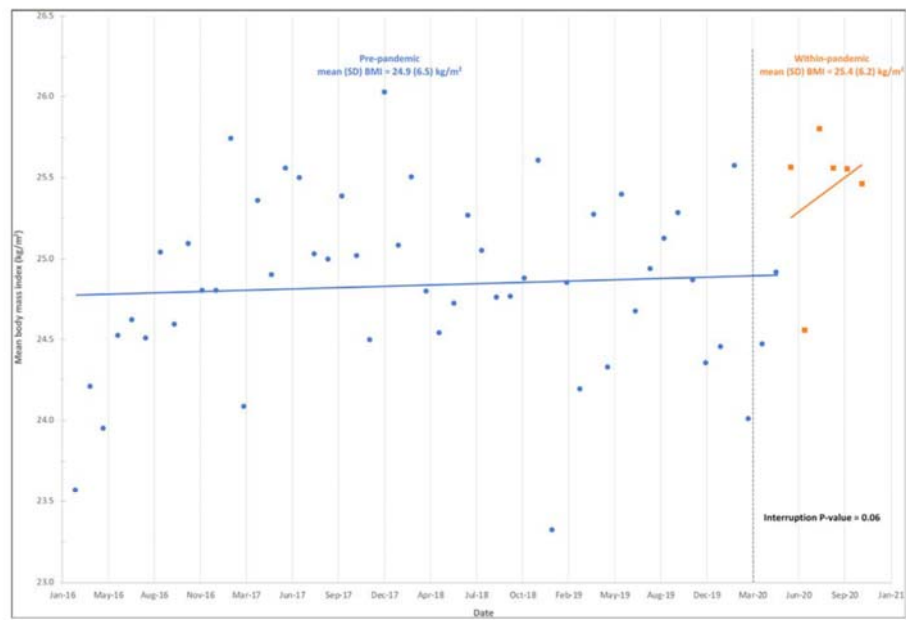
- Vaccination rates decline by >70% in March 2020
- Pap testing falls by 94% and remains 35% below pre-pandemic levels even *after* stay-at-home orders lifted
- Preventative healthcare **stopped in its tracks...** how long will it take to recover? Can we fully recover?
- It will take a few years to see a rise in cervical cancer as a consequence of decreased screening



Smith DL, Perkins RB. Low rates of HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening: Challenges and opportunities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Preventive Medicine. 2022 Jun 1;159:107070.



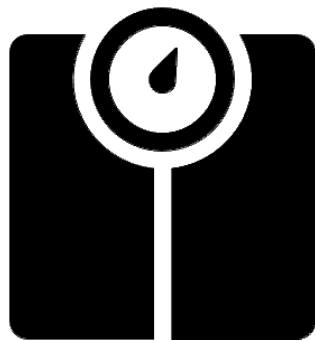
Figure. Monthly mean maternal pre-pregnancy body mass index among 9703 women with a singleton livebirth before (blue circles) and during (orange squares) the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic (vertical dashes line).



Butler EA, Cohen E, Berger H, Ray JG. Change in Pre-Pregnancy Body Mass Index in Relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic. J Obstet Gynaecol Can. 2022 Feb;44(2):131-2.

Increasing BMI

- Risk of gestational diabetes
- Risk of hypertensive disorders
- Risk of cesarean section
- And so on...



Diabetes in Pregnancy



Table 1. The distribution per year of the prevalence of GDM births according to the total number of tested patients per year.

Total Births Per Year at Tested Patients		Total Births with GDM Per Year	% of GDM Births
2017	433	12	2.77
2018	447	13	2.91
2019	352	25	7.10
2020	371	29	7.82
2021	507	43	8.48

GDM—gestational diabetes mellitus.

Chelu S, Bernad E, Craina M, Neamtu R, Mocanu AG, Vernic C, et al. Prevalence of Gestational Diabetes in preCOVID-19 and COVID-19 Years and Its Impact on Pregnancy: A 5-Year Retrospective Study. *Diagnostics*. 2022 May;12(5):1241.

Screening for
Gestational
Diabetes

50g GCT 24-28 weeks



HbA1c and random glucose (sensitivity 26%)



Perspectives in Practice

Temporary Alternative Screening Strategy for Gestational Diabetes Screening During the COVID-19 Pandemic—The Need for a Middle Ground



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Yamamoto JM, Donovan LE, Feig DS, Berger H. Temporary Alternative Screening Strategy for Gestational Diabetes Screening During the COVID-19 Pandemic—The Need for a Middle Ground. *Canadian Journal of Diabetes*. 2022 Mar 1;46(2):204–6.

It is probably most important to identify those with undiagnosed diabetes

Gestational Diabetes Mellitus

During Pregnancy

- Untreated gestational diabetes leads to increased maternal and perinatal morbidity. Treatment reduces these adverse pregnancy outcomes.
- **In women at high risk of undiagnosed type 2 diabetes, early screening (<20 weeks) with an A1C should be done to identify women with potentially overt diabetes** to guide fetal surveillance and early maternal treatment, including self-monitoring of blood glucose, interventions that promote healthy behaviours and healthy weight gain.
- The diagnostic criteria for gestational diabetes (GDM) remain controversial; however, these guidelines identify a “preferred” and an “alternate” screening approach. The preferred approach is an initial 50 g glucose challenge test, followed, if abnormal, with a 75 g oral glucose tolerance test. A diagnosis of GDM is made if one plasma glucose value is abnormal (i.e. fasting ≥ 5.3 mmol/L, 1 hour ≥ 10.6 mmol/L, 2 hours ≥ 9.0 mmol/L). The alternate approach is a 1-step approach of a 75 g oral glucose tolerance test. A diagnosis of GDM is made if one plasma glucose value is abnormal (i.e. fasting ≥ 5.1 mmol/L, 1 hour ≥ 10.0 mmol/L, 2 hours ≥ 8.5 mmol/L).
- First-line therapy consists of diet and physical activity. If glycemic targets are not met, insulin or metformin can then be used.

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Laboratory Requisition Requisitioning Clinician / Practitioner		Laboratory Use Only	
Name		Clinician/Practitioner's Contact Number for Urgent Results	
Address		Service Date	
Clinician/Practitioner Number	CPSO / Registration No.	Health Number	Western Sex Date of Birth
<input type="checkbox"/> OHP/Insured <input type="checkbox"/> Third Party / Uninsured <input type="checkbox"/> WSB		Practitioner's Personal Registration Number	Patient's Personal Registration Number
Additional Clinical Information (e.g. diagnosis)		Patient's Last Name (as per GHP Card)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy to Clinician/Practitioner		Patient's First & Middle Names (as per GHP Card)	
Last Name		Patient's Address (including Postal Code)	
Address			
Note: Separate requisitions are required for cytology, histology, pathology, ColonCancerCheck RFL test, and tests performed by Public Health Laboratory			
Biochemistry		Hematology	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glucose	<input type="checkbox"/> Random <input type="checkbox"/> Fasting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CBC	Acute Inflammation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HbA1C		<input type="checkbox"/> Prothrombin Time (PT)	Chronic Hepatitis
<input type="checkbox"/> Creatinine (GFR)		Immunology	Immune Status / Previous Exposure
<input type="checkbox"/> Uric Acid		<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy Test (hCG)	Serology <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis A
<input type="checkbox"/> Sodium		<input type="checkbox"/> Mononuclear Screen	<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B
<input type="checkbox"/> Potassium		<input type="checkbox"/> Malaria	<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis C
<input type="checkbox"/> ALT		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prenatal ABD. IND. Antibody Screen (Igg and IggG if positive)	or under individual hepatitis tests in the "Other Tests" section below
<input type="checkbox"/> Alk. Phosphatase		<input type="checkbox"/> Rheumatoid Arthritis	Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA)
<input type="checkbox"/> Bilirubin			<input type="checkbox"/> Total PSA
<input type="checkbox"/> Albumin			<input type="checkbox"/> Free PSA
		Microbiology ID & Sensitivities (if warranted)	Serify one below
<input type="checkbox"/> Lipid Assessment (includes Cholesterol, HDL-C, Triglycerides, calculated LDL-C, & Cholesterol-C ratio; includes test results they be included in the "Other Tests" section of this form)		<input type="checkbox"/> Cervical	<input type="checkbox"/> Insured - Meets OHP eligibility criteria
<input type="checkbox"/> Albumin / Creatinine Ratio, Urine		<input type="checkbox"/> Vaginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Uninsured - Billing. Patient responsible for payment
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Chemical)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vaginal / Rectal - Group B Streptococcus (Identify source): LRNS	Vitamin D (25-Hydroxy)
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Micro)		<input type="checkbox"/> Urine	<input type="checkbox"/> Insured - Meets OHP eligibility criteria
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Culture)		<input type="checkbox"/> Sputum	<input type="checkbox"/> Uninsured - Billing. Patient responsible for payment
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Special Studies)		<input type="checkbox"/> Throat	<input type="checkbox"/> Uninsured - Patient responsible for payment
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Special Studies)		<input type="checkbox"/> Wound (specify source):	Other Tests - one test per line
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Special Studies)		<input type="checkbox"/> Urine	ENT/ENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Special Studies)		<input type="checkbox"/> Stool Culture	Hep B surface antigen
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Special Studies)		<input type="checkbox"/> Stool DNA & Parasites	HIV Test
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Special Studies)		<input type="checkbox"/> Other Specimen: (Please specify source):	Syphilis Screen
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Special Studies)			Hemoglobin electrophoresis
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Special Studies)			TSH
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinalysis (Special Studies)			TW (Varicella)
<input type="checkbox"/> I hereby certify the tests ordered are not for registered or out-patients of a hospital.		Specimen Collection	
Clinician/Practitioner Signature		Time	
Date		Date	
		Laboratory Use Only	
4402-04 (01/19/20) © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2019		7530-0001	

Isolation affects mental health and wellbeing

- Increased rates of depression
- Increased rates of anxiety
- Decrease in amount of physical activity

Moms Are Not OK: COVID-19 and Maternal Mental Health

Margie H. Davenport^{1*}, Sarah Meyer¹, Victoria L. Meah¹, Morgan C. Strynadka¹ and Rshmi Khurana²

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With current health human resource struggles, who will provide the care?


CANADA

Canadians are getting a 988 mental-health crisis line. But who'll be picking up the phone?

Advocates question whether resources needed will be made available, after a similar project in the U.S. came with \$280 million (U.S.) in federal funding.



By **Jeremy Nuttall** Staff Reporter
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