Alcohol can cross the placenta to the foetus and can affect infant development.

Aims and Objectives

Aims: Identify gaps in knowledge about the effects of alcohol use in pregnancy

Objectives: Determine the sources and quality of information provided, as well as the influence of friends, family, and partners on pregnant women's drinking habits.

Background

A qualitative study involving focus groups.

Findings emphasize the need to provide accurate, comprehensive information about the effects of alcohol consumption on the developing baby, particularly with regard to the lack of evidence about safe quantities of alcohol, and the timing of the exposure.

To improve knowledge on the topic, messages should include clear and consistent advice, and provide alternative stress relief options.

Recommendations

Findings highlight the need for more thorough routine enquiry regarding alcohol consumption in pregnant women than currently occurs.

It is important to ensure ongoing health professional education regarding alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

CONCLUSIONS

METHODOLOGY

QUALITATIVE STUDY

Five focus groups: each with two to seven participants.

Data extracts derived from field notes, summaries, and verbatim transcripts.

Extracts of data were coded into logical concepts, and these codes were categorised, re-categorised and condensed to identify major themes.

The themes and sub-themes identified through the analysis were reviewed, named and defined.

Ethics approval (Protocol no. 000031358 and HREC/13/WCHN/121).

RESULTS

21 participants: 8 pregnant women, 9 newly delivered mothers, 4 partners

Age 23 - 40 years. 81% female, 95% Caucasian

7 major themes identified.

AIMS and OBJECTIVES

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REFERENCES