

Trend in Marijuana Exposure in Newborns Before and After Recreational Legalization

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Disclosures

- ▶ I have nothing to disclose

Background - Timeline

2008

- Medical use of marijuana is legal

2018

- Recreational legalization

2019

- Shops able to sell for recreation

2020

- Recreational sales outperform medical

Use in Pregnancy

- ACOG recommends against the use of marijuana in pregnancy
- In utero exposure is linked with abnormal neurodevelopment.
- Long term deficiencies with problem solving, memory formation, impulsivity, sleep disorders

**MYTH:
IT'S NATURAL,
SO IT'S SAFE
FOR BABY.**

Fact: The chemicals in marijuana may be harmful for baby.



Our Study

Aim

- Investigate incidence of THC exposure in years leading up to legalization to a year after

Our Center

- Large tertiary care hospital
- >9,000 Births per year
- Level 4 NICU - one of the nations top 10 largest neonatal centers

Design

- Retrospective chart review
- All births at our hospital with a positive Meconium for THC

Data Collected

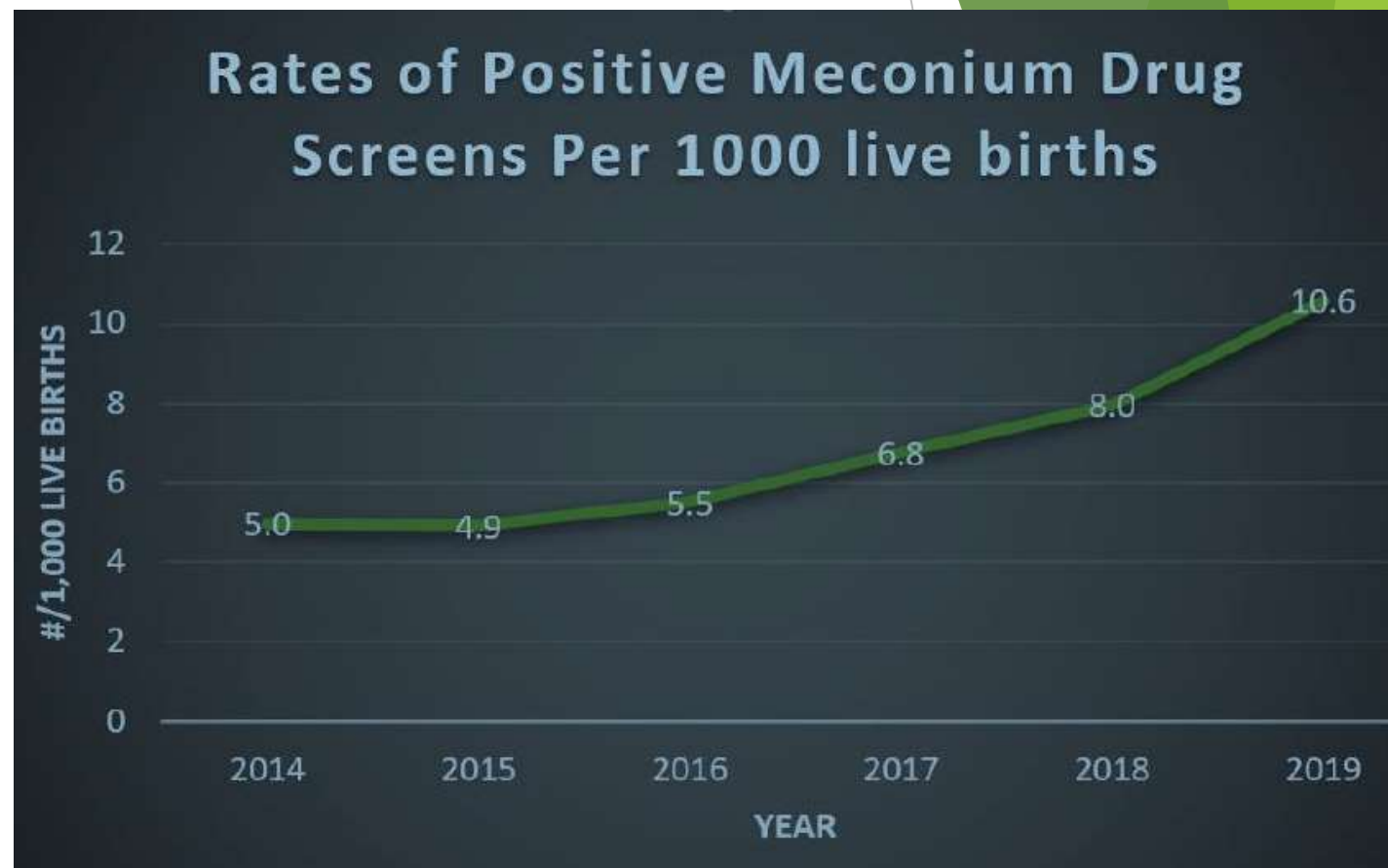
- Meconium Drug screen results
- Sex
- Race
- If social work was consulted
- Associated Diagnoses codes

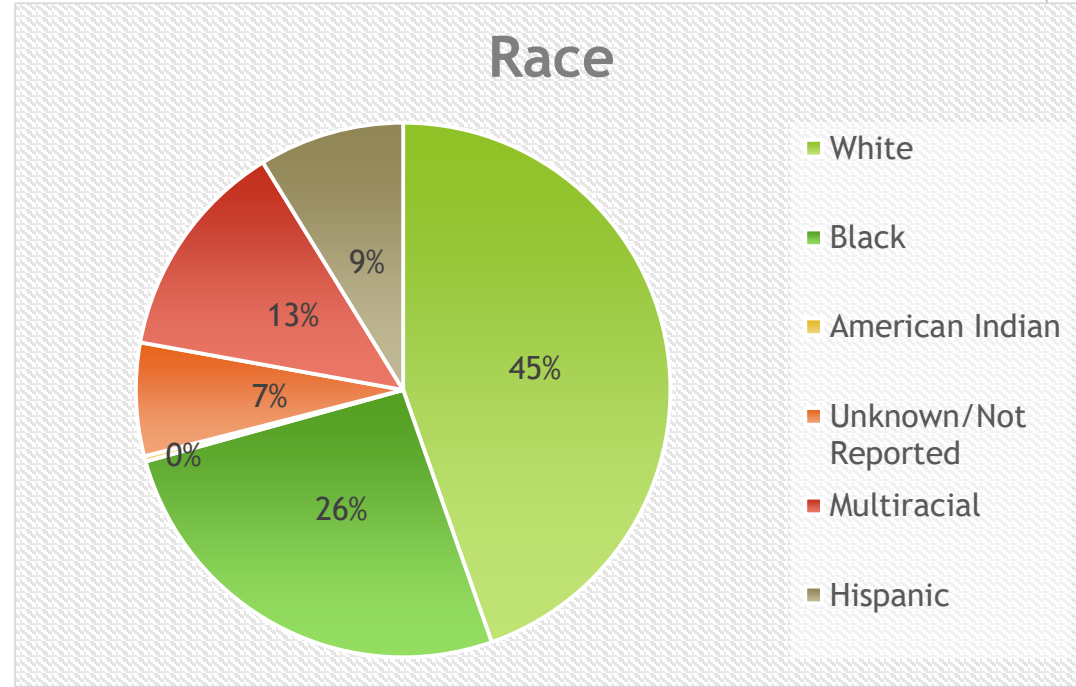
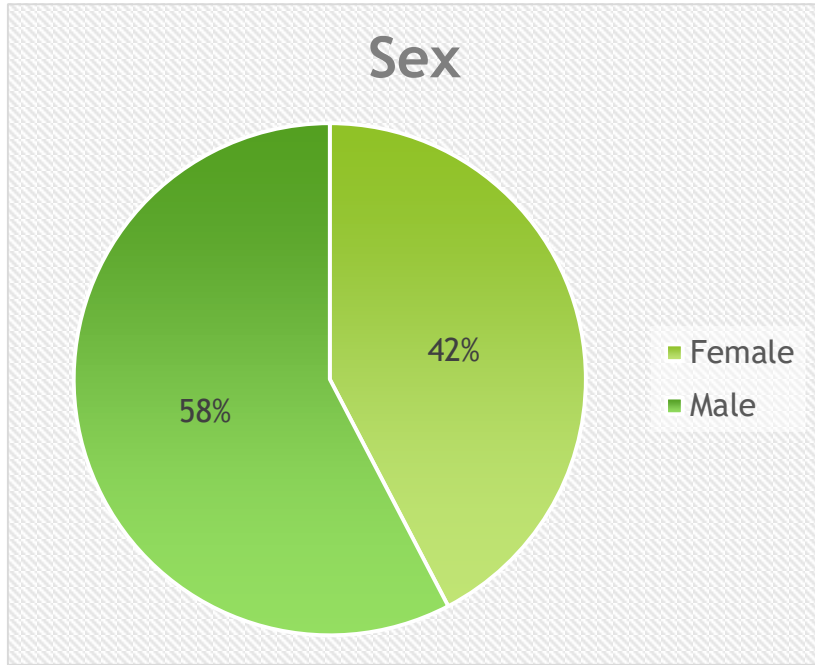
Statistics

- Rates of THC positive births
- Z score calculated with significance set at 0.05

Results

- Total of 320 infants tested positive for meconium during the study time period
- Rates were steady from 2014-2016 and started to increase in 2017.
- Largest increase was seen from 2018-2019
- Co-exposures:
 - Opioids 15%
 - Codeine Metabolite 9%
 - Methadone 5%
 - Oxycodone 1%
 - Amphetamines 4%



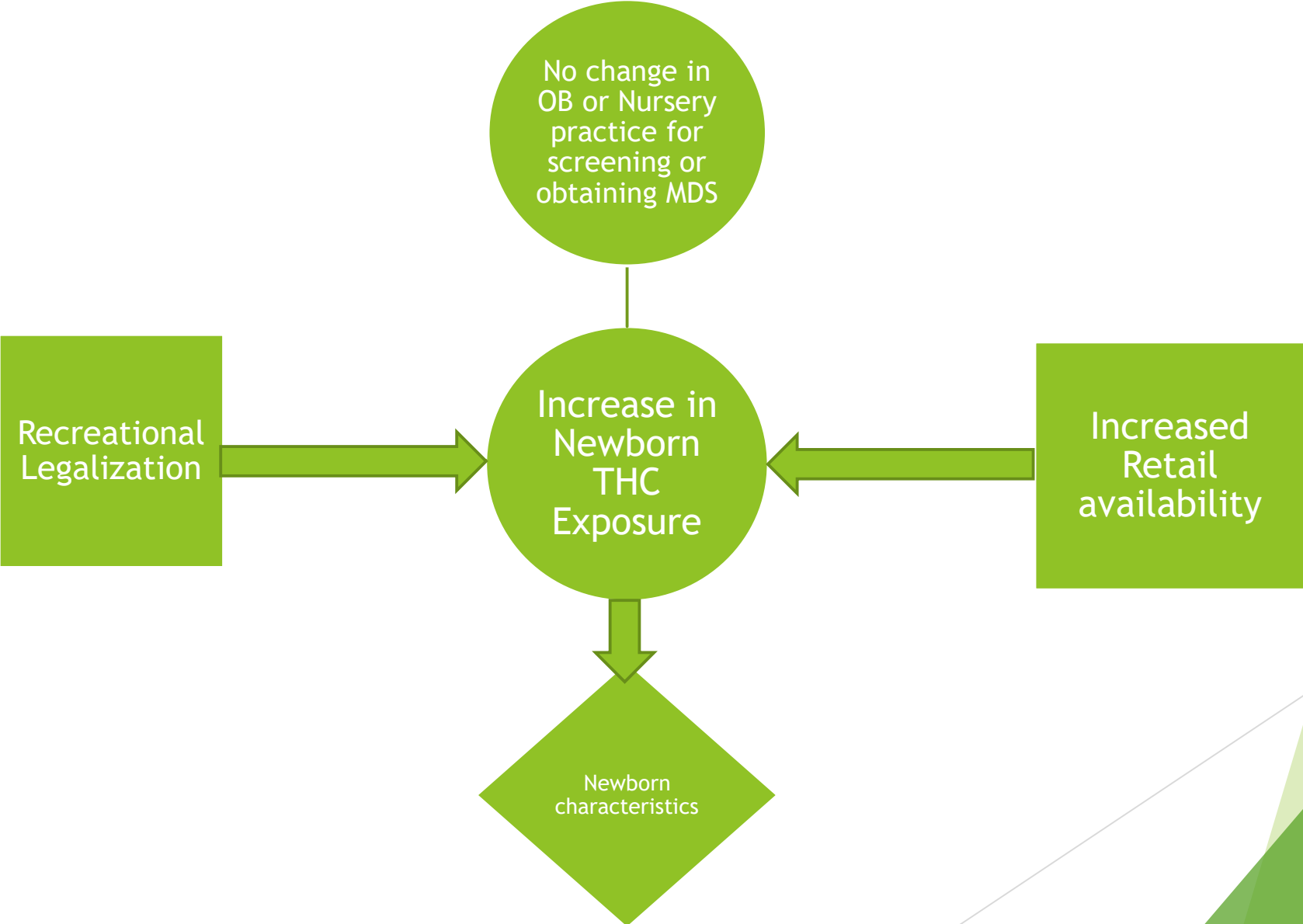


Demographics

Statistics

Year	Rate	Compared to Previous year		Compared to 2014	
		Z score	P value	Z score	P value
2014	5				
2015	4.9	0.044	0.96	0.044	0.96
2016	5.5	-0.45	0.65	-0.4	0.69
2017	6.8	-1.05	0.29	-1.42	0.68
2018	8	-0.86	0.39	-2.24	0.02
2019	10.6	-1.69	0.09	-3.82	<0.001

Discussion



Future Work

- ▶ With known long-term complications of prenatal exposure and a cultural shift to acceptance of use , it is more important than ever to warn of the risks of marijuana use during pregnancy
- ▶ Investigating outcomes of THC use in pregnancy are warranted
- ▶ Investigation of outcomes of CBD use are also warranted



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Thank you!

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