

MAPHM Symposium 2017

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Abstract Title:

Trends in the substance misusing pregnant population: 2000-2016

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Abstract

Aims: This is a retrospective study comparing Maltese pregnant substance misusing mothers (SMM) with those in the general maternity population between 2000 and 2016.

Design: The National Obstetric Information System (NOIS) Register provided data about the general Maltese maternity population. All pregnant women who attended the Substance Misuse Outpatients Unit (SMOPU) in Malta run by the National Drug Treatment Agency: Sedqa and who gave birth during this time were included in this study.

Participants: Substance misusing pregnant women attending Sedqa, were included in the study and were compared to women from the general maternity population.

Methods: The socio-biological characteristics of the women attending Sedqa were compared with those randomly selected from the general population. SPSS was used to compare and analyse the data.

Findings: Substance Misusing Mothers (SMM) were: significantly younger, most likely to be single, had more children and continued to smoke cigarettes. SSM booked their pregnancy later than the general Maltese population mothers. Neonates of the SMM weighed less and had smaller head circumferences.

Conclusions: SSM have significantly different socio-biological characteristics from mothers in the general Maltese population which seem to impact on neonatal outcomes.