Protocol for a Scoping Review of Harm Reduction Approaches for Cannabis Use in the Perinatal Patient Population

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Objectives
Present the protocol for a scoping review on harm reduction approaches for cannabis use in the perinatal (prenatal and immediately postpartum) patient population.

Methods
Our protocol follows the established guidelines for conducting scoping reviews (Levac et al., 2010; Peters et al., 2020) which includes the following six stages: 1) identification of the research question, 2) identification of relevant studies, 3) study selection, 4) extraction of data from selected studies, 5) collating, summarizing, and reporting results, and 6) consultation. These stages will be undertaken by a team of individuals offering expertise in perinatal health, harm reduction for substance use, conducting scoping reviews, and library and information science. Our methods adhere to the 22-criteria of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) extension for scoping reviews (Tricco et al, 2018).

Results
We will present the details of our scoping review, including the search strategy, the inclusion criteria for the review, methods for conducting screening, and the procedure for data extraction. Additionally, we will discuss approaches taken to monitor bias and appraise quality throughout each stage of the project in accordance with the standard used for reporting a reproducible scoping review. Lastly, we will present preliminary results as available at the time of presentation.

Conclusions
Cannabis use is rapidly increasing throughout the population with rapid legalization including in perinatal populations (Volkow et al., 2019). Although there have been calls for the use of harm reduction approaches with this population (Dennis & Vigod, 2021), the application of harm reduction principles have been poorly defined and lack standardization across medical professional groups. As harm reduction for perinatal cannabis use is an area with emerging evidence, a scoping review is a well-matched approach for both determining the scope and coverage of published work on this topic as well as identifying key clinical research priorities in this area (Munn et al., 2018). This scoping review will create an agenda for the field with regard to harm reduction approaches to perinatal cannabis use, and will inform future work to further develop approaches that promote health for perinatal individuals who use cannabis.

Acknowledgements
None

Disclosures
None