



Identification and Trends of Common Pregnancy Complications in California from 1999-2007: Implications for the Postpartum Visit

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BACKGROUND

- Healthy People 2010 and Health California 2010 stress the importance of the well-being of mothers, infants and children as a public health goal as their health predicts the health of the next generation; an important objective to reach this goal is the reduction of maternal illness and complications due to pregnancy.^{1,2}
- Over 500,000 births occur annually in California to a large and diverse population of women who experience pregnancy-related complications due to a variety of risk factors.²
- Maternal health surveillance to identify common pregnancy complications has the potential to reduce the risks of future adverse pregnancy outcomes by providing the evidence-based data to allow for intervention during the interconception period.

METHODS

- Hospital discharge data of the annual sums of discharges for ICD-9-CM codes 630.xx to 677.xx occurring as a primary or secondary diagnosis from 1999 to 2007 was obtained from the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.
- Pregnancy-related diagnoses were analyzed individually and then grouped into categories of related complications (e.g., hypertensive disorders complicating pregnancy). The rate of the complication was calculated as a percent of all births per year.
- The rates and trends from 1999 to 2007 were summarized using descriptive statistics.

RESULTS

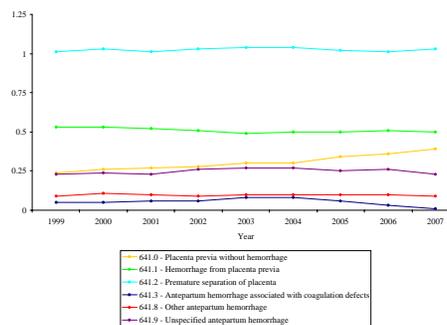
Table 1: Common Pregnancy Complications based on California Hospital Discharge Data from 1999-2007

Pregnancy Complication	1999-2007	1999-2007 % Births
Obstetric hospitalizations	19437	15.38
Births assisted	412532	9.64
Hypertensive disorder	382736	8.94
Gestational diabetes mellitus	322124	7.52
Preeclampsia	300560	7.02
Infectious pregnancy	268244	6.27
Neonatal conditions	127191	2.97
Thyroidism	58939	1.38
Tobacco use	20645	0.48
Drugs	1693	0.15

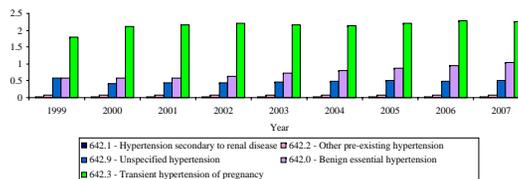
‡ 2006-2007 only

RESULTS continued

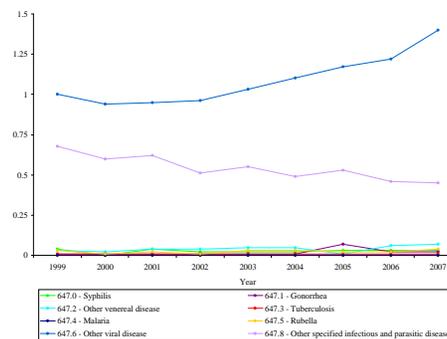
Graph 1: Antepartum Hemorrhage, Abruptio Placentae and Placenta Previa: Complication Rates as a Percent of Births, 1999-2007



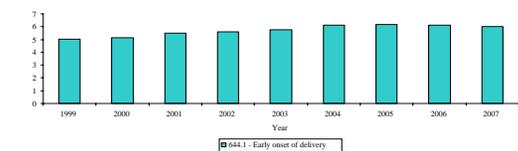
Graph 2: Hypertension Complicating Pregnancy: Complication Rates as a Percent of Births, 1999-2007



Graph 3: Infectious Complications of Pregnancy: Complication Rates as a Percent of Births, 1999-2007

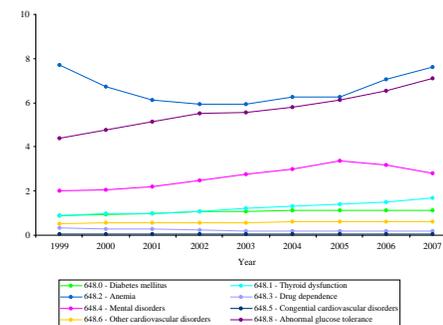


Graph 4: Early Onset of Delivery: Complication Rate as a Percent of Births, 1999-2007



RESULTS continued

Graph 5: Current Conditions Complicating Pregnancy: Complication Rates as a Percent of Births, 1999-2007



SUMMARY & DISCUSSION

- The most common pregnancy complications consist of preexisting medical conditions that can complicate health of both mother and baby during a pregnancy and of conditions arising during pregnancy that can put the mother at risk for the development of chronic medical conditions.
- While research suggests that clinical recommendations based on previous pregnancy outcome can reduce future adverse outcomes for both a mother and her future children,³ currently most postpartum visits do not focus on identifying and addressing risk factors of poor pregnancy outcomes that could be mitigated during the interconception period.
- The postpartum visit can play a critical role in improving the interconception care of California's woman by addressing prior pregnancy complications and risk factors that may complicate a future pregnancy, and through improved interconception care, the risk of pregnancy and birth complications in California's 500,000 births each year can be greatly reduced.^{4,5}

REFERENCES

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