

ANTENATAL CARE ENGAGEMENT AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN WHO IDENTIFY METHAMPHETAMINE AS THE PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF CONCERN

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Introduction and Aims: There is evidence that women who use methamphetamine during pregnancy are more likely to present later and for fewer antenatal care appointments. This study aimed to examine antenatal care engagement among pregnant women who use methamphetamine.

Design and Methods: A retrospective medical record audit was conducted in 2021. Clients who attended the Substance Use in Pregnancy and Parenting Service from Jan 2010 to Dec 2020, identified methamphetamine as their primary drug of concern and aged 18 years or older when pregnant were included in the audit.

Results: 101 clients and their 111 pregnancies were included in the analysis. At booking for antenatal care, clients' mean age was 28.7 years old. Of the 111 pregnancies, only 12.6% (14) had antenatal care booked in or before gestation week 12, 55.0% (61) had bookings made between 13-26 weeks, 22.5% (25) between 27-37 weeks and 9.9% (11) with no booking. The number of appointments booked per pregnancy ranged from 1 to 25 with an average of 9.1 (standard deviation=4.5). The number of appointments attended per pregnancy ranged from 1 to 21 with an average of 7.4 (standard deviation=4.5). 33.3% (37) of the pregnancies had full attendance to the booked appointments, 18.9% (21) had an attendance rate between 80%-99% and 12.6% (14) had an attendance rate between 60%-79%.

Discussions and Conclusions: Most women had booked in for antenatal care by the 26th week of pregnancy and more than half of the women attended at least 80% of antenatal care appointments.

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