Maternal Opioid-Related Diagnoses in Kansas, 2016-2021

The opioid prescription epidemic has impacted all age, race, sex, economic and social populations in the United States, including the most vulnerable population - pregnant women and their unborn children. Maternal opioid-related diagnoses (MODs)[1], which include opioid dependence, opioid abuse, long-term use of opioid medications and unspecified opioid use, are associated with severe maternal complications, including mortality. The distribution of MODs in Kansas is not yet known. Therefore, the purpose of the study was to assess the state trend of MODs over time and the demographic characteristics among delivery hospitalizations. Utilizing Kansas hospital discharge data from 2016 to 2021, it was found that 195,483 delivery hospitalizations occurred, among them were 850 women with MOD documented in their discharge records. Mean maternal age was 28.3 years. Although not statistically significant, Kansas' estimated MODs rate has increased from 2.9 per 1,000 delivery hospitalizations in 2016, to 3.4 in 2021. Mothers with opioid-related diagnoses were predominantly non-Hispanic White, insured by Medicaid, resided in the lowest quartile of median income, and resided in urban counties. Kansas MODs data would inform strategies and drive action to help prevent inappropriate opioid use and increase the early identification for and equitable access to treatment for pregnant women with opioid use disorder. This would help reduce the incidence of babies born with withdrawal symptoms (i.e., neonatal abstinence syndrome) and family disruption related to child welfare system involvement due to parental substance use, as well as improved maternal, infant, and family health outcomes.

Reference:
1. Reference: Hirai AH, Ko JY, Owens PL, Stocks C, Patrick SW. Neonatal abstinence syndrome and maternal opioid-related diagnoses in the US, 2010-2017. JAMA. 2021 Jan 12;325(2):146-155.