

## Annotated Bibliography

MacDuffie, K. E., Kleinhans, N. M., Stout, K., & Wilfond, B. S. (2020a). Protection versus progress: The challenge of research on cannabis use during pregnancy. *Pediatrics*, *146*(Supplement\_1). <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2020-0818r>

Katherine E. MacDuffie and co-authors discuss the ethical challenges of conducting research on cannabis use during pregnancy in the article "Protection Versus Progress: The Challenge of Research on Cannabis Use During Pregnancy". It highlights the increasing prevalence of cannabis as a treatment for nausea in pregnant women, despite the fact that very little research has ever been done to find its efficacy. These authors mention historical contexts that raised ethical questions for research with pregnant women and controlled substances. The article's credibility is strong, supported by its publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Pediatrics*. The authors of the article are professionals in the field of pediatric ethics and radiology and therefore have good qualifications to be a speaker on the topic. Their affiliations with institutions like the University of Washington and Seattle Children's Hospital further the article's authority. The article is current (2020) and relevant to ongoing debates about cannabis legalization and its medical use. The article is interesting and would make a good reference source for health and policymakers because it provokes thoughts on ethical considerations before moving to research. This article will be in my paper to further explain that using cannabis during pregnancy is debatable still due to the lack of ethically available research opportunities. (207)

Roncero, C., Valriberas-Herrero, I., Mezzatesta-Gava, M., Villegas, J. L., Aguilar, L., &

Grau-López, L. (2020). Cannabis use during pregnancy and its relationship with fetal developmental outcomes and psychiatric disorders. A systematic review. *Reproductive Health, 17*(1), 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12978-020-0880-9>

This systematic review article talks about the intricate relationship between prenatal cannabis exposure and its impact on fetal development and the onset of psychiatric disorders in offspring. This comprehensive analysis sheds light on the increasingly common yet insufficiently studied practice of cannabis consumption among pregnant women, drawing attention to its potential links with affective symptoms such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children exposed to cannabis in the uterus. The review stands out for its methodological thoroughness, providing a sturdy foundation for its findings by offering a thorough and systematic overview of the existing studies. It only uses evidence from 66 out of 491 adequate studies, making it very carefully peer-reviewed. It's published in a well-regarded journal, also making the review's credibility go up. However, it also highlights critical gaps in the literature that future research could aim to fill. This review is useful for researchers, clinicians, and policymakers who are navigating the complex relationship between cannabis use during pregnancy and its long-term effects on children. I'm using this article and its findings to further support the argument that the effects of marijuana on babies in the womb are far more harmful than any benefits it might bring to the mother. (202 words)

Ryan, S. A., Ammerman, S. D., O'Connor, M. E., Gonzalez, L., Patrick, S. W., Quigley, J.,

Walker, L. R., Meek, J. Y., Johnston, M., Stellwagen, L., Thomas, J., & Ware, J. (2018).

Marijuana use during pregnancy and breastfeeding: Implications for neonatal and childhood outcomes. *Pediatrics*, 142(3), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-1889>

The review article outlines the clinical guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding marijuana use during pregnancy and breastfeeding. It discusses the widespread use of marijuana among pregnant women in the U.S. and highlights emerging concerns about its effects on fetal and neonatal development, as well as on childhood outcomes. The report details statistics on marijuana use during pregnancy as of 2018 and reveals that up to 5% of women reported using marijuana during pregnancy at that time. The authors also discuss the pharmacokinetics of cannabinoids and review the available evidence on the adverse effects of marijuana exposure on prenatal development, neonatal outcomes, and long-term neurodevelopmental and behavioral outcomes in children such as decreased attention and academic ability. It also covers marijuana use for breastfeeding mothers, including the transfer of THC into human milk and its potential effects on breastfed infants. The report concludes with recommendations for clinicians, emphasizing a need for more screening, education, and counseling to discourage marijuana use among pregnant and breastfeeding women due to the lack of evidence supporting its safety compared to the potential for harm. The peer review process and the authors' affiliations with academic institutions further validate the article's reliability and relevance to health professionals and researchers. This evidence will support my project's aim to inform healthcare professionals and policymakers about the risks associated with marijuana use during these critical periods, while also highlighting the need for further research in some areas. (235 words)

Swenson, K. (2023). Cannabis for morning sickness: Areas for intervention to decrease cannabis

consumption during pregnancy. *Journal of Cannabis Research*, 5(1).

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s42238-023-00184-x>

The review article, published in the *Journal of Cannabis Research* in 2023, examines the trend of using cannabis to relieve morning sickness among pregnant women, despite potential risks to fetal development. Swenson's comprehensive analysis involves a critical synthesis of the existing literature, highlighting the need for educational and policy interventions from healthcare providers, researchers, and policymakers to reduce cannabis use during pregnancy. The credibility of Swenson's work is shown through her connection with the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and the publication's peer review. The review notes the gaps in data regarding cannabis use in pregnancy, emphasizing the necessity for further research. Despite these gaps, Swenson advocates for a holistic approach to reducing prenatal cannabis exposure risks, which is well-supported by the current understanding of its dangers. This article is a useful resource for those concerned with maternal and child health, summarizing the dangers of prenatal cannabis use and offering practical recommendations for reducing it. It underscores the importance of developing educational and policy frameworks to address the public health challenge posed by the increased acceptance and accessibility of cannabis. This article will support my project's aim to inform healthcare professionals and policymakers about the risks associated with marijuana use during these critical periods, while also highlighting the need for further research in some areas. (216)

Thompson, R., DeJong, K., & Lo, J. (2019). Marijuana use in pregnancy: A review. *Obstetrical and Gynecological Survey*, 74(7), 415–428.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/ogx.0000000000000685>

This review article explains how weed affects pregnancy, focusing on what it means for the baby's growth and the mom's overall health. The authors published their findings in a medical journal touching on how THC, the stuff in weed that gets you high, can cross from mom to baby during both pregnancy and through breastmilk and can increase risks of fetal growth restriction and adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes. The guidelines discussed in the article highlight the recommendation to avoid marijuana use during pregnancy and breastfeeding due to insufficient evidence of its safety or benefits. These authors are from the well-known Oregon Health & Science University and used their medical resources to sift through all the public research on smoking pot while pregnant. The research they looked at wasn't completely accurate because people had to remember and say how much weed they used and it was all just observation. They claim we need better research because more moms-to-be are using weed and the rules around smoking it are changing. This review is useful because it's trying to gather as much of the information we have access to so far, and pointing out we need solid studies to guide doctors and policies. This piece is relevant to my project because I'm writing about the effects of marijuana use during pregnancy. It comes from authors with solid credentials, making it reliable. This review will be useful in my project because it was aimed at an audience of researchers and policymakers trying to solidify the implications of weed and pregnancy. (254 words)