

PROJECT BRIEF

Possible Complications of Infections during Pregnancy

Background

Preterm labor (PTL) is the leading cause of infant mortality in the industrialized world. In 2007, the Big Cities Health Inventory ranked Milwaukee 7th worst city for infant mortality among the 53 largest cities in the US. Approximately half of the infant deaths in Milwaukee are due to PTL, which is known to lead to numerous medical complications for the infant. Research has shown that infections can be closely connected to preterm labor. Mycoplasma is bacteria that can cause infections during pregnancy and has not yet been widely studied. Determining whether mycoplasma causes infection and subsequent preterm labor could lead to better prenatal care for women and fewer babies with the complications associated with PTL.

Objectives

The goals of this project are to:

- determine whether mycoplasma bacterium are related to preterm delivery of a fetus
- explore the prevalence of mycoplasma infections in women
- gather information about other factors that influence the rate of mycoplasma infections and subsequent pregnancy complications
- examine how the preterm delivery rate varies across different sites in Wisconsin

Timeline

June 2007 – Ongoing

Population

This project will be implemented at four locations around Wisconsin. Currently, there have been 143 participants enrolled at CUPH.

Funding Source

Wisconsin Network for Health Research
<http://www.cuph.org/projects/wihnr/>

Partners

*University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation
Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation
Aurora Health Care, CUPH*

Project Details

The role of CUPH is to:

- recruit participants in Milwaukee clinics
- administer health history questionnaire
- collect cervical swab and extract bacterial DNA from sample
- determine pregnancy outcome through a medical chart review

Local Investigators & Staff

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Center for Urban Population Health



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The Center for Urban Population Health is a partnership among the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Aurora Health Care, Inc. Our mission is advancing population health research and education to improve the health of urban communities.