

Evolving Information on the Safety of Substance Use in Lactation

In this session, **Christina Chambers, PhD, MPH, a perinatal epidemiologist from UC San Diego and Principal Investigator of MotherToBaby Pregnancy Studies**, reviews what is known and what still requires further study on the use of alcohol, cannabis and other substances by breastfeeding women, and how this translates to clinical practice. Participants should leave this session with a better understanding of the potential effects of substance use on infant growth and development, how knowledge gaps in this area are being addressed, and how to translate current knowledge into clinical situations in midwife practice.

Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the potential short- and long-term impacts of maternal substance use on infants and learn how ongoing research is addressing current knowledge gaps. The session will also focus on translating this evidence into practical clinical guidance, including strategies for counseling breastfeeding women, supporting informed decision-making, and integrating risk assessment into midwifery care.

This webinar is designed to enhance the knowledge and clinical skills of midwives and other healthcare providers involved in maternal-child health.

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Continuing Education (CE) credits are available for ACNM members and non-members who view this session via the ACNM Online Learning Center.

Questions? Call 866.626.6847 | Text 855.999.3525 | Email or Chat at [MotherToBaby.org](https://www.MotherToBaby.org).

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Each year, about 1 in 33 babies in the United States is born with a structural birth defect. In recognition of World Birth Defects Day, this special webinar explores key discoveries and ongoing challenges in understanding birth defects. **Sura Alwan, MSc, PhD, from the University of Washington and Co-Director of the Teratogen Information System (TERIS)**, presents insights gained over decades of research in the field of teratology.

This webinar is ideal for healthcare professionals, researchers, public health advocates, students, and anyone interested in maternal and child health. Attendees will learn about the most common types of structural birth defects, how certain exposures during pregnancy may increase risks, and the evolving science behind birth defect prevention and education.

Whether you're a seasoned professional or new to the topic, this session provides valuable information to better understand the science—and the stories—behind birth defects.



The graphic features a teal background with the OTIS logo (Organization of Teratology Information Specialists) in the top left, a portrait of Sura Alwan on the right, and the 'world birth defects day' logo in the bottom right. The central text reads: 'Pregnancy Exposures and Birth Defects: What Have We Learned?' followed by 'A Special Presentation for World Birth Defects Day' and 'Sura Alwan, M.Sc, Ph.D. Co-Director | TERIS - Teratogen Information System University of Washington'.

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