

THE SAFE PASSAGE STUDY: IDEAL PLATFORM TO STUDY DOHaD

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Research Question: It is still uncertain to what extent exposure to alcohol and cigarette smoke during pregnancy contribute to diseases in later life.

Methods: The Safe Passage Study is a prospective, multidisciplinary study designed to: 1) investigate the association between pregnancy alcohol exposure, sudden infant death syndrome and stillbirth; and 2) determine the biological basis of the spectrum of phenotypic outcomes associated with exposure, as modified by environmental and genetic factors. The main study protocol was implemented for 12,086 pregnant women enrolled in the study from two clinical sites, one spread over North and South Dakota (5024) and the other at the Bishop Lavis and Belhar residential areas of Tygerberg in Cape Town (7062). A concurrent embedded study collected even more in-depth information (such as fetal ECG, biometry and movement, Doppler flow velocity waveforms and placental histology). Fetal assessments were done at 20-24, 28-32 and 34-38 weeks of gestation. Outcome was captured at delivery and at one and twelve months.

Results: Not yet available.

Conclusion: Detailed information has been collected. Follow up of this cohort, will provide unique information on the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol and cigarette smoke on early indicators of adult disease.

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