



1 Objectives

To determine the prevalence of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in pregnant and recently pregnant women, and the proportion of those with symptoms of the disease.

2 Methods

Design: Living systematic review and meta-analysis.

Timeline

Weekly systematic searches from December 1 2020 to 27 April 2021

Databases

MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane, WHO COVID-19 Database, China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), and The Wanfang databases

Search Criteria

Cohort studies reporting rates of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in pregnant and postpartum women were included

Search Methods

At least two researchers independently screened studies weekly, extracted data, and assessed study quality, on a fortnightly basis

Analysis

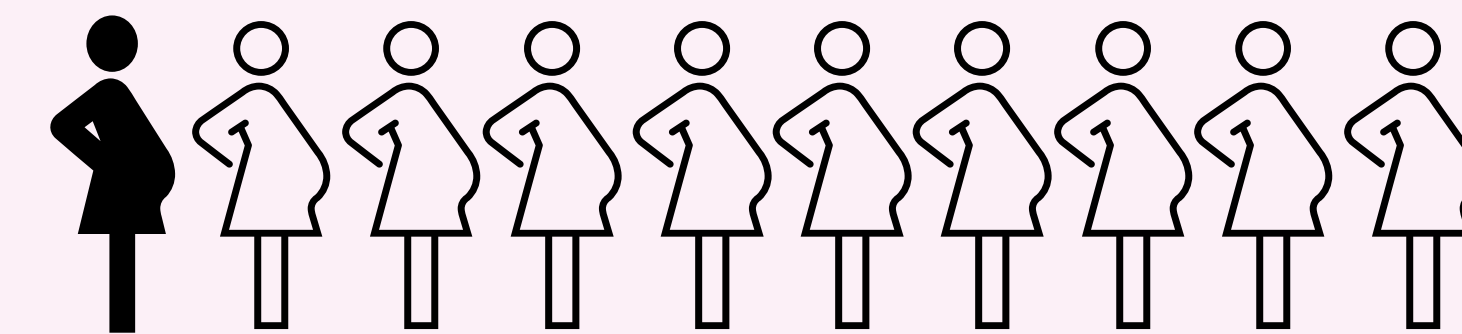
A random effects meta-analysis was performed every 2-4 months. The results are presented as proportions with 95% confidence intervals (CI). As a living review, these results will be updated by June 2022.

3 Results

149 studies with 926, 232 pregnant women reported prevalence data¹

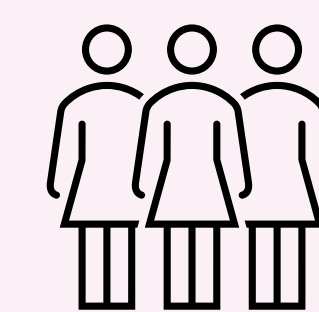
9% (95% CI 7-10%)

of pregnant and postpartum women attending hospital for any reason were diagnosed with suspected or confirmed COVID-19¹

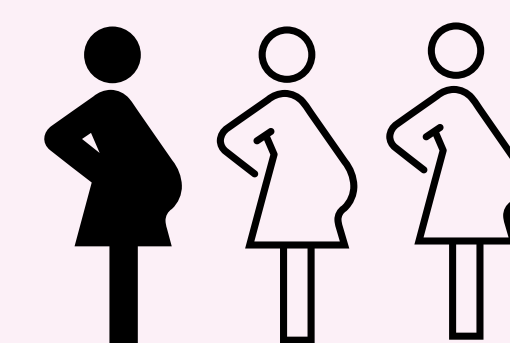
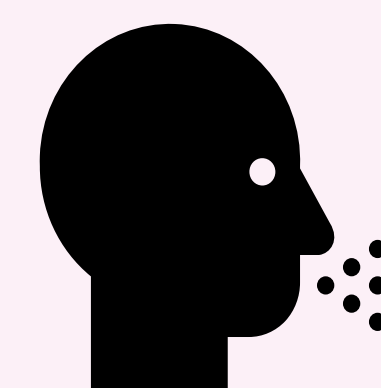


Most studies with a prevalence of COVID-19 in pregnancy greater than **15%** were from the United States¹

Universal screening reported a prevalence of **7% (95% CI 6-8%; 117 studies, 298,199 women)¹**



Two thirds **66% (66%, 95% CI 54-77%; 68 studies)** of the 11,945 pregnant women with COVID-19 in the universal testing population were asymptomatic.¹



Symptomatic Covid-19 screening reported a prevalence of **22% (95% CI 12-33%; 15 studies, 8,128 women)¹**

Fever (36%) and cough (36%) were common reported symptoms¹

Laboratory findings in pregnant women with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 commonly reported raised:

↑ **C-reactive protein levels (51%)**

↑ **Procalcitonin levels (32%)**

↑ **Leukocyte levels (28%)**

and reduced:

↓ **Lymphocyte levels (33%)¹**



4 Conclusions

- Approximately 1 in 10 of pregnant or peripartum women have a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis when attending hospital.
- The majority of pregnant women with COVID-19 are asymptomatic.
- In those with symptoms, fever and cough are the most common presentation.
- The prevalence of COVID-19 varied widely between studies, particularly due to differences in sampling and testing criteria.
- The true prevalence of COVID-19 in pregnancy is likely to be lower than the current estimate, if pregnant women not attending hospital are also included.

5 References

1. Allotey J, Fernandez S, Bonet M, Stallings E, Yap M, Kew T et al. Clinical manifestations, risk factors, and maternal and perinatal outcomes of coronavirus disease 2019 in pregnancy: living systematic review and meta-analysis. BMJ. 2020;;m3320.



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