

Lay summary - Does cannabis increase the risk of neurodevelopmental delay via altered brain connectivity?

Catherine Lebel (PI): University of Calgary

Kathleen Chaput and Carly McMorris (co-PIs): University of Calgary

Using cannabis in pregnancy can affect the fetus' brain and result in developmental conditions in children. We think this may be due to brain changes caused by the cannabis exposure. In this study, we will use magnetic resonance imaging and parent questionnaires to study brain development in infants exposed to cannabis in pregnancy compared to those that were unexposed. We will look at whether brain changes are a potential mechanism via which cannabis in pregnancy leads to developmental conditions in children. Our findings will help provide valuable insights to inform policies and guide future research.