

1 **Introduction**

2 **Interpersonal trauma**

3 Trauma is defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th
4 Edition) (DSM-5) as exposure to actual or threatened death, serious injury or sexual
5 violence in one or more of four ways: a) by directly experiencing the event; b) from
6 witnessing, in person, the event occurring to others; c) by learning that such an event
7 happened to a close family member or friend; and d) through experiencing repeated
8 or extreme exposure to aversive details of such events (American Psychiatric
9 Association (APA), 2013a). Interpersonal trauma (IPT) is therefore recognised as
10 resulting from a variety of experiences including childhood maltreatment, sexual
11 assault, physical assault, intimate partner violence (IPV), war, bereavement and crime.

12 Experiences of trauma are commonplace and remain embedded within global culture
13 and economics, particularly amongst women and children. It is estimated that 1 in 4
14 adults worldwide have experienced physical abuse as children and many report
15 having experienced neglect and emotional abuse (WHO, 2016). Exposure to a
16 spectrum of violence may be also be commonplace (Finkelhorn et al. 2005).

17 Furthermore, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 13 men report surviving childhood sexual abuse
18 (CSA) (WHO, 2016). CSA however, rarely occurs in isolation and is commonly
19 interrelated with other childhood adversities such as physical and emotional abuse
20 (Draucker et al. 2011, Felitti et al. 1998, Gilson et al. 2008, Guthrie, 2004, Hillis et al.
21 2000, Leeners et al. 2010, Lukasse et al. 2001, Prentice, 2002, Van Der Kolk, 2014).

22 With regards to experiences of trauma in adulthood, 30% of women in England and
23 Wales are reported to have experienced interpersonal abuse since the age of 16

24 (Office for National Statistics, 2014). Within Scotland, the number of reported
25 incidents of violence against women has continued to increase since 1999. For
26 example, there were 58,439 reported incidents in 2013-2014, which rose to 59,882 in
27 2014-2015 (The Scottish Government, 2016). Additionally, these incidents are not
28 isolated events as 5% of those experiencing partner abuse in the previous twelve
29 months, said it had happened too many times to count (The Scottish Government,
30 2010/11), yet just over half of these incidents are recorded as a crime or offence
31 (Scottish Government, 2016). It therefore seems that despite the increase in
32 reporting, acts of violence against women remains a mostly hidden crime in this
33 country (The Scottish Government, 2012/13).

34 **Interpersonal trauma and psychological wellbeing**

35 Interpersonal trauma (IPT) is widely recognized as leaving an imprint on the mental
36 and physical wellbeing of survivors and may impact on many aspects of a survivors'
37 life, including their relationships, feelings, identity, thoughts and behaviours (Felitti,
38 2002, Van Der Kolk, 2014). Survivors' responses to IPT may be so significant, that
39 their emotional and physical equilibrium is impacted (Van Der Kolk, 2014) adversely
40 affecting many systems, functions and responses within the body (Felitti, 2002, Van
41 Der Kolk, 2014).

42 Exposure to traumatic experiences in early life has been found to alter brain structure
43 (Vythilingam et al. 2002) and is associated with an alteration in neurocognitive
44 functioning. This is significant as the part of the brain affected, the hippocampus, is
45 part of a group of structures that play an essential part in memory, spatial awareness,
46 experiencing emotions such as anger and fear as well as learning and motivation
47 (Gould et al. 2012, Luener and Gould, 2010, Tamminga, 2005, Tull, 2016).

48 Changes in the neuroendocrine system increase the likelihood of developing post-
49 traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Pervanidou et al. 2012), which is the clinical
50 manifestation of posttraumatic stress (APA, 2000). PTSD can significantly harm the
51 health and wellbeing of survivors of trauma (Holditch-Davis, Bartlett, Blickman, &
52 Shandor Miles, 2003) as they live with intrusive memories of traumatic experiences,
53 disturbing flashbacks, nightmares and dissociative episodes (Newport et al. 2003, Van
54 Der Kolk, 2014). Subsequent problems with self-protection, self-regulation and
55 agency may be experienced, but many survivors never receive a diagnosis of PTSD
56 (Seng, 2002).

57 More recent developments recognise that multiple or repeated experiences of IPT may
58 lead to complex trauma (Mooren and Stofsel, 2015), whereupon survivors experience
59 a gamut of reactions and symptoms which develop beyond PTSD symptomatology
60 (Courtois, 2004).

61 **Interpersonal trauma and substance use**

62 There is a strong body of evidence supporting associations between IPT and
63 substance use, although research to date has tended to focus on the impact of
64 childhood trauma. Nonetheless, quantitative studies show significant and consistent
65 associations between sexual abuse (Asberg et al. 2012, Freeman et al. 2002, Mullen
66 et al. 1999, Ompad et al. 2005, Ullman et al. 2013), multiple forms of abuse (Afifi et al.
67 2012, Ahmad et al. 2013, Dube et al. 2003, Garland et al. 2013, Medrano et al. 1999),
68 family history of violence/physical abuse (Chermack et al. 2000, Fergusson et al. 1998,
69 Gutierrez et al. 2006, Lansford et al. 2010) and substance misuse.

70 Associations between childhood experiences of physical and sexual abuse (Brems et
71 al. 2002, Tripodi et al. 2013), physical abuse and parental drug/alcohol use (Nyamathi

72 et al. 2001), emotional abuse and maternal substance use (McLaughlin et al. 2012)
73 and substance misuse have also been revealed. Furthermore, qualitative enquiry by
74 Erdman et al. (2008), Clum et al. (2009), Hall, (1999) and Hall, (2000) describe and
75 explore complex abuse histories and women's trajectories of life following childhood
76 abuse. Issues around teenage pregnancy (Erdman et al. 2008), substance misuse
77 from adolescence onwards as a means to cope (Clum et al. 2009), feelings of loss of
78 childhood (Hall, 1999) and marginalization (Hall, 2000) are revealed. Garland et al.
79 (2013) surmise a "feedback loop between substance misuse and psychological
80 distress" (page 1) however, the complex mechanisms underpinning this have not, as
81 yet, been fully investigated.

82 A smaller number of studies examine associations between IPT in adulthood and
83 substance use. These suggest significant and consistent associations between IPT
84 in adulthood and substance misuse amongst different populations of women
85 (Guitierres, 2006, McCauley, 2009, Poole et al. 2008, Rees et al. 2011, Shannon et
86 al. 2008, Simoni et al. 2004, Sullivan et al. 2012). Whilst some of the participants in a
87 Scottish based survey by Dolev and Associates, (2008) were already using
88 substances prior to the onset of intimate partner violence, most participants felt that
89 there was a link between their use of substances and domestic abuse. Over half of
90 the participants reported that their substance use had increased during the time they
91 were experiencing abuse, some felt that it had stayed the same, but none reported
92 that it had decreased. Women were cited as using substances in order to dull the
93 physical and emotional pain they were experiencing as a result of IPV and in order to
94 escape the reality of the situations they were living in. Lifetime experiences of IPT
95 are also positively associated with substance misuse with a cumulative effect
96 suggested by Ullman, (2013) and Hedtre et al. (2008).

97 **Substance misuse in pregnancy**

98 Neonatal and obstetric outcomes are poorer amongst pregnant women with
99 problematic substance use and the effects of substance use during pregnancy are well
100 documented (Bandstra et al.2010, Day et al. 2005, Maguire et al 2016, Narkowicz et
101 al. 2013, Oyelese and Cande, 2006, Pinto et al. 2010, Scottish Executive, 2006,
102 Simmat-Durrand et al. 2014, Singer et al. 2016, Wright et al. 2007, Zhao et al. 2017).

103 The use and misuse of substances are known to be harmful to fetal and maternal
104 wellbeing and are associated with ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, placental
105 insufficiency, reduced fetal growth, low birth weight and preterm birth (Keegan et al.
106 2010, Kutlu, 2008). Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) may result in lasting
107 learning and development difficulties, fetal alcohol disorder (FAD), which results in
108 distinctive facial features, restricted growth and learning and developmental difficulties
109 (Alcohol Focus Scotland, 2017), earlier birth, lower birth weight and withdrawal
110 symptoms in the new-born baby (Bauer et al. 2005).

111 Additionally, long term morbidity and mortality are found to be significantly increased
112 amongst women who have misused substances during pregnancy (Kahila et al 2010,
113 Minnes et al 2012) and substance misuse is associated with 11% of maternal deaths
114 in the UK (Maternal, Newborn and Infant Clinical Outcome Review Programme
115 (MBRACE-UK), 2015). Furthermore, PWMS face additional challenges including
116 social deprivation, fear of involvement of multiple agencies and guilt around drug use
117 as well as feeling distressed, stigmatized, vulnerable, marginalized and judged by
118 staff as a result of their substance use (Banwell et al. 2006, Chandler et al. 2013,
119 Cleveland et al. 2013, Hardesty and Black 1999, Howell et al. 1999, NHS, 2012,

120 National Institute Clinical Excellence, (NICE), 2010, Reid et al. 2008, Scottish
121 Government, 2011, Stadnyk et al. 2007, Walsh, 2011).

122 Nonetheless, pregnancy has been found to be a time of positive change in studies by
123 Daley et al. (1998), Jessup et al. (2005) and Radcliffe, (2011). Motherhood, too can
124 be a time of self-reflection as Chandler, (2013), McLelland et al. (2008), Mosedale et
125 al. (2009) and Reid et al. (2008) reveal that mothers in these studies are very aware
126 of the detrimental impact substance misuse had on their children's lives and were
127 found to develop strategies to try to keep their children safe. Furthermore, Hardesty
128 and Black (1999) found that motherhood provided a lifeline for Latina women. Within
129 the UK, Chandler et al. (2013) and McLelland et al. (2008) explored these mothers
130 struggle with substance misuse and mothering. Within the context of parenting, they
131 revealed a number of issues including ideas around not fitting in with society's notions
132 of ideal parenthood, a desire to try to protect their children from their drug use and
133 on-going stigma. Additionally, Radcliffe (2011) found that they longed to be normal
134 mums.

135 **The review**

136 **Search methods**

137 An explicit and comprehensive search of relevant electronic databases was
138 conducted following consultation with the subject librarian. The following databases
139 were searched: MEDLINE, AMED - The Allied and Complementary Medicine
140 Database, CINAHL (Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature) Plus
141 with Full Text, Psychology and Behavioural Sciences Collection and PsychINFO. The
142 following search terms were used: substance-related disorders OR alcoholism OR
143 substance misuse OR substance abuse OR drug abuse OR drug misuse OR alcohol

144 abuse OR alcohol drinking and combined with pregnancy OR pregnant women.
145 These search terms were then combined with: sex offenses OR incest OR physical
146 abuse OR child abuse OR adult survivors of child adverse events OR emotional abuse
147 OR psychological trauma OR stress disorders, post-traumatic. The following inclusion
148 criteria were employed in order to assess relevance:

- 149 - Explore possible relationship between IPT and substance misuse amongst
150 pregnant women (self-report or patient/government records).
- 151 - Include pregnant women aged 18+. This was in order to focus on the
152 experience of adult women.
- 153 - Published in English.
- 154 - Published 1990-2017. This was in order to capture a larger amount of data as
155 a previous search with a more recent timeframe produced limited results,
156 therefore a paucity of research was anticipated.
- 157 - Primary and secondary research.
- 158 - Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods studies.

159 Relevant articles cited in reference lists and bibliographies of the literature were also
160 explored. The search was undertaken in July 2017 as part of a PhD study.

161 **Search outcome**

162 A total of 134 papers were identified (Table 1). Duplicates and commentaries were
163 removed. Studies which did not meet the inclusion criteria were excluded, leaving a
164 total of 15 papers (Table 2). These studies were then categorised into three themes
165 which emerged from the literature – lifetime experiences of IPV/IPT and substance

166 use; IPV/IPT during pregnancy and substance use; childhood abuse and substance
167 misuse (Table 3).

168 **Quality appraisal**

169 The following categories were used to critically appraise the trustworthiness,
170 relevance and results of the remaining papers, in a structured, systematic way; aim,
171 methodology, design, sample, findings and relevance (Bryman, 2012, Critical
172 Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP), (2013), Coughlan et al. 2007, Jack et al. 2010,
173 Long et al. 2002). A detailed review of each study is presented in Table 4.

174 **Results**

175 **Lifetime experiences of interpersonal trauma and substance use/misuse in** 176 **pregnant women**

177 Potential associations between pregnant women's experiences of IPT during their
178 lifetime and their use of substances were explored in five quantitative studies by
179 Kvigne et al. (1998), Martin et al. (1996), Martin et al. (2003), Salomon et al. (2002)
180 and Tuten et al. (2003). All of these studies were conducted within the US. No UK
181 based studies were found. These studies identified positive associations between
182 lifetime experiences of trauma and problematic substance use amongst pregnant
183 women, however, a number of limitations were evident.

184 Women of low income were recruited in the studies by Kvigne et al. (1998), Martin et
185 al. (1996) and Martin et al. (2003). Martin et al. (1996) and Martin et al. (2003)
186 explored poly-substance misuse in pregnancy, whereas Kvigne et al. (1998)
187 concentrated on alcohol use only. Strong positive associations between violence and
188 alcohol use were found in all three studies. Reporting of alcohol use during pregnancy

189 however, may be perceived as more socially acceptable than other substances,
190 therefore the findings may not be an accurate reflection of participants' use of other
191 substances.

192 Participants' use of substances in relation to exposure of IPT were explored in the
193 study by Martin et al. (1996) and Martin et al. (2003) (n=85), whereas Kvigne et al.
194 (1998) collected data regarding trauma exposure in order to examine demographic
195 patterns of substance use amongst women (n=177) who did and did not consume
196 alcohol during pregnancy. Martin et al. (1996) and Martin et al. (2003) found that
197 participants who had experienced violence were much more likely to drink alcohol, to
198 smoke and to use illicit drugs prior to and during pregnancy. They were also more
199 likely to use more substances prior to and during pregnancy. Moreover, those who
200 had experienced all types of violence demonstrated more substance use disorder
201 symptoms (Martin et al. 2003). However, although all these studies recruited women
202 of low income, none of the studies used samples that were ethnically diverse, thereby
203 limiting transferability and generalisability of findings. This is particularly so for Kvigne
204 et al. (1998), who recruited Northern Plains Indian women, therefore caution needs to
205 be taken in applying the findings from this study more generally to women out-with this
206 ethnic group and country.

207 Domiciled and homeless women's use of addictive substances in relation to their
208 experiences of IPT, PTSD and partners' use of substance use were explored by
209 Salomon et al. (2002), whereas domiciled and homeless women's initial psychosocial
210 functioning and treatment outcomes were compared by Tuten et al. (2003). Salomon
211 et al. (2002) found an interaction between CSA, PTSD and drug use, however, it is
212 unclear how many of the participants were pregnant and how many were already
213 mothers. This is of particular relevance as the time around pregnancy, birth and the

214 postnatal period are times of major social and psychological change for women during
215 which time, adaptations are required that may affect women's physical and mental
216 wellbeing (Royal College of Midwives (RCM), 2012) and therefore may impact upon
217 their use of substances. Salomon et al. (2002) explored poly-substance use whereas
218 Tuten et al. (2003) limited the substances used to cocaine, heroin and alcohol.
219 Salomon et al. (2002) found that women with a history of IPV were more likely to report
220 PTSD and the use of drugs and alcohol by their partner. The mechanisms and
221 directionality between these findings however, were not explored. Homeless
222 participants in the study by Tuten et al. (2003) were found to face additional challenges
223 and have poorer outcomes than domiciled women. Homeless women reported more
224 mental ill-health including major depression, higher rates of suicide attempts, suicide
225 ideation and reported more experiences of abuse. Furthermore, they were shown to
226 have poorer social networks and use and spend more on illicit drugs and alcohol
227 (Tuten et al. 2003). However, clinical treatment bills were used to compare treatment
228 outcome variables between the two groups of women in the study by Tuten et al.
229 (2003). Finances may be implicated in whether or not medical treatment is available
230 or undertaken for any length of time in the US. It is therefore not possible to determine
231 from the evidence provided, if treatment bills provide a true reflection of women's
232 motivation with regards to treatment for substance misuse.

233 Moreover, transferability and generalisability of the findings by Salomon et al. (2002)
234 and Tuten et al. (2003) are limited out-with the areas or country studied. For example,
235 Salomon et al. (2002) recruited homeless mothers and pregnant women randomly
236 enrolled from one area of Massachusetts, where at the time of data collection,
237 approximately 15% of residents were known to live below the poverty level. Almost
238 83% of the sample recruited by Tuten et al. (2003) were African-American, over 80%

239 of whom were found to be unemployed. Neither study, therefore, used samples that
240 were wholly representative of the US, as they were not socially, culturally or ethnically
241 diverse. In addition, it is worth considering the possible difference between being poor
242 and homeless and poor and housed and whether these two groups can be used for
243 comparison. For example, some of the ongoing psychological problems experienced
244 by these very specific groups of women may have been compounded by their financial
245 or residential status.

246 **Interpersonal trauma in adulthood and substance use/misuse in pregnant** 247 **women**

248 Potential associations between women's experience of IPT during pregnancy and
249 substance use were explored in three quantitative studies (Connelly et al. 2013,
250 Curry, 1998 and Eaton et al. 2011). Two of these studies took place within the US
251 (Curry, 1998 and Connelly et al. 2013), whilst one study took place in South Africa
252 (Eaton et al. 2011). No UK based studies were found. All three studies identified
253 positive associations between experiences of trauma during pregnancy and
254 substance use.

255 Pregnancy status, alcohol intake and experience of IPT were assessed by Eaton et
256 al. (2011). IPV was found to be associated with alcohol use amongst most
257 participants. Furthermore, 61% of the pregnant women attending the Shebeen at the
258 time of data collection were drinking alcohol. Additionally, binge drinking was reported
259 twice as often amongst pregnant women that non-pregnant women. However, the
260 majority of participants in this study were male (n=1210). Only 13.3% of the female
261 participants (n=910) were pregnant. What is more, participants were recruited from
262 unlicensed drinking establishments, known as Shebeens, which are unique to

263 townships in South Africa. The reported figures may not therefore be an accurate
264 reflection of IPT and substance misuse out-with South Africa.

265 The study by Connelly et al. (2013) examined the co-occurrence of IPT, poly-
266 substance use problems and depressive symptoms in the perinatal period, whereas
267 the study by Curry, (1998) examined the relationship between IPT and alcohol and
268 tobacco use. Psychosocial issues were reported in both these studies, as were the
269 use of substances and IPT. Both studies found associations between abuse by male
270 partners and the use of substances, however, both involved women known to be of
271 low income therefore generalisability and transferability of the finding from these
272 studies is limited. Furthermore, participants in the study by Connelly et al. (2013) who
273 were born out-with the US, reported lower rates of IPT and substance use. This
274 represented more than half of the sample (n=1868), some of whom were not pregnant.
275 The reported figures may not therefore be an accurate reflection of IPT and substance
276 misuse out-with the study settings or the US population. The authors however,
277 suggest that cultural attitudes regarding issues such as IPT and substance use,
278 particularly amongst Latina women, may explain the low reported rates of these
279 amongst this group of participants.

280 **Interpersonal trauma in childhood and substance use/misuse in pregnant** 281 **women**

282 Potential associations between abuse in childhood and substance misuse during
283 pregnancy were explored in seven quantitative studies. Associations between
284 childhood experiences of different forms of abuse and substance misuse were
285 examined by Brems et al. (2002), El Marroun et al. (2008), Frankenberger et al. (2015)
286 and Haller and Miles, (2003) whilst Fogel et al. (2001), Horrigan et al. (2000) and

287 Nelson et al. (2010) explored associations between childhood experiences of
288 physical/sexual abuse and substance misuse. Five out of the seven of these studies
289 took place within the US (Fogel et al. 2001, Frankenberger et al. 2015, Haller and
290 Miles, 2003, Horrigan et al. 2000, Nelson et al. 2010), whereas the study by Brems et
291 al. (2002) was undertaken in Alaska and El Marroun et al. (2008) in the Netherlands.
292 No UK based studies were found.

293 The findings of these studies suggest associations between childhood trauma,
294 ongoing psychological distress and the use of substances. Women in the studies by
295 Brems et al. (2002), Fogel et al. (2001), Haller and Miles, (2003), Horrigan et al. (2000)
296 and Nelson et al. (2010) were found to use a variety of substances including cannabis,
297 alcohol, tobacco and cocaine. Cannabis use was the focus of the study by El Marroun
298 et al. (2008), whilst Frankenberger et al. (2015) concentrated on alcohol and tobacco
299 use.

300 Whilst the women in these studies appeared to display elevated psychological
301 symptoms, only the women in the studies by El Marroun et al. (2008), Haller and Miles,
302 (2003) and Nelson et al. (2010) had these clinically assessed, whereupon psychiatric
303 comorbidity was found to be common. Furthermore, it is unclear if Horrigan et al.
304 (2000) were exploring a causal relationship between abuse in either childhood or
305 adulthood or the potential cumulative effect of these.

306 The majority of these studies took place in the nineties (Brems et al. 2002, El Marroun
307 et al. 2008, Fogel et al. 2001, Horrigan et al. 2000, Nelson et al. 2010) during a period
308 of significant social change. The research evidence has developed and practice
309 evolved since these studies were undertaken. Furthermore, although perhaps
310 representative of the areas the studies took place in, all of the studies involved women

311 known to be of low income. In addition, samples in the studies by Haller and Miles,
312 (2003), Horrigan et al. (2000) and Nelson et al. (2010) do not reflect ethnic diversity.
313 For example, the majority of the participants (n=77) in the study by Haller and Miles,
314 (2003) were described as comprising mainly poor women of colour. Moreover,
315 although the majority (66%) of the participants in this study were pregnant, their results
316 were based on the finding from a sample of n=77. It is therefore necessary to exercise
317 caution in the interpretation and use of these findings to inform practice.

318 Finally, participants in the study by El Marroun et al. (2008) were not representative of
319 the region where the study took place and Fogel et al. (2001) findings were based on
320 a sample of n=63. Fogel et al. (2001) did however, recruit from a unique population,
321 that is, participants who were pregnant and incarcerated, so perhaps this size of
322 sample is a reflection of focussing on a population that may be difficult to recruit.
323 Generalisability and transferability of the findings from these studies is nonetheless,
324 limited.

325 **Discussion**

326 A narrative literature review was undertaken which aimed to identify the extant
327 literature regarding possible associations between IPT and substance misuse
328 amongst pregnant women. Fifteen studies were identified which suggest associations
329 between negative life events and substance misuse in pregnant women/new mothers.
330 Whilst a link between IPT and substance misuse is suggested, this review has
331 highlighted a number of important gaps in the literature which require further
332 investigation.

333 Problematic substance use is a worldwide problem (WHO, 2016) yet twelve out of the
334 fifteen studies identified took place within the United States (Connelly et al. 2013,

335 Curry, 1998, Fogel et al. 2001, FrankenBerger et al. 2015, Haller and Miles, 2003,
336 Horrigan et al. 2000, Kvigne et al. 1998, Martin et al. 1996, Martin et al. 2003, Nelson
337 et al. 2010, Salomon et al. 2002, Tuten et al. 2003). No studies were identified that
338 have been undertaken with a UK based population of pregnant women. This is
339 important as there may be differences in the experiences or perceptions of IPT and
340 the use of substances amongst a UK based population where ethnicity and cultural
341 attitudes may vary. Pregnant women who use/misuse substances are a group of
342 vulnerable women who may have potentially complex health and social care
343 requirements, yet little appears to be known about them in the UK. This is an
344 important gap in the literature as UK midwives' education and practice is unique.
345 Midwifery practice within the UK is embedded in the primary health care system where
346 midwives are recognised as autonomous practitioners (RCM, 2012). Midwives'
347 educational requirements meet International Confederation of Midwifery (ICM)
348 standards (ICM, 2011, RCM, 2012), thereby the maternity care that women in the UK
349 receive is arguably different from the countries studied to date.

350 Despite strong evidence regarding potential cumulative effects of lifetime IPT, studies
351 to date have focussed mostly on the impact of childhood trauma, CSA in particular.
352 Whilst understanding the impact of CSA on the health and wellbeing of women is
353 important, IPT may continue throughout women's lives, therefore research regarding
354 the cumulative effects of ongoing traumatization is also vital. Furthermore, none of
355 the studies to date aim to fully explore possible associations between IPT and
356 substance use amongst pregnant women, therefore it is difficult to determine to what
357 extent IPT affects the initiation and use of substances in this particular group.

358 Moreover, research to date has employed quantitative methodology. This may be for
359 a number of reasons; firstly, the collection of quantitative data may be less intrusive
360 for participants than face to face interviews particularly when discussing sensitive
361 topics such as IPT and substance use. However, this could have an impact on
362 engagement and accuracy of information. Secondly, collection of quantitative data
363 may prove less time consuming for both participant and researcher, particularly if data
364 is collected from patient clinical records as in the studies by Martin et al. (1996) and
365 Nelson et al. (2002) or gathered routinely during admission/assessment for
366 treatment/services such as in the studies by Brems et al. (2002), Haller and Miles,
367 (2003) and Tuten et al, (2003). However, although these methods of data collection
368 provide valuable information regarding the prevalence of trauma and the use of
369 substances, they fail to fully capture information regarding experiences or provide
370 understanding or depth to the women's stories. As such, they may not fully
371 encapsulate the range of traumatic experiences and events pregnant women have
372 survived. Additionally, none of these studies used a method which would help
373 participants re-call the chronological order, detail and significance of life events. This
374 would help address a number of important issues such as potential concerns regarding
375 possible recall bias of complex life events and self-report in retrospective studies.

376 Polysubstance use was explored by Brems et al. (2002), Connelly et al. (2013), Fogel
377 et al. (2001), Frankenberger et al. (2015), Haller and Miles, (2003), Horrigan et al.
378 (2000), Martin et al. (1996), Martin et al. (2003), Nelson et al. (2010) and Salomon et
379 al. (2002) whereas Eaton et al. (2012) and Kvirine et al. (1998) concentrated on the
380 use of alcohol. Curry, (1998) and Frankenberger et al. (2015) considered alcohol and
381 tobacco use, El Marroun et al. (2008) examined cannabis use and Tuten et al. (2003)
382 concentrated on cocaine, heroin and alcohol use. The substances enquired about in

383 the aforementioned studies may reflect the drug of choice/availability in the countries
384 were the studies were undertaken or reflect the time the studies took place.

385 Furthermore, samples in studies to date are not generally representative, as they
386 mostly involve women who live in areas of deprivation or face additional challenges
387 such as homelessness. This makes it difficult to establish if some of the ongoing
388 psychological problems experienced by these very specific groups of women are
389 compounded by their current financial or residential status. Generalizability or
390 transferability of findings from these studies is subsequently limited. Besides, studies
391 to date mostly concentrate on acts of physical and/or sexual violence and do not
392 enquire about other acts of coercion that may have long term implications for the
393 physical and mental wellbeing of survivors (Stark, 2009) and consequently, do not
394 reflect the growing awareness that IPT may not be related only to isolated acts of
395 physical and/or sexual assault (Brewin et al. 2000, Cromer and Smyth, 2010, Nilsson
396 et al. 2010). This may, however, reflect previous knowledge and awareness of what
397 constitutes abuse and reflect the time these studies were undertaken. Finally, the
398 majority of the studies identified may be considered outdated.

399 **Conclusion**

400 The relationship between IPT and substance use/misuse during pregnancy is complex
401 and multifactorial, however, a paucity of UK based studies has been identified in this
402 comprehensive, narrative literature review. Studies to date have used quantitative
403 methodology and no qualitative studies were identified involving pregnant women who
404 misuse substances (PWMS). PWMS in the UK appear therefore appear to be a group
405 of vulnerable women, about whom, relatively little is known. This is with regards to
406 their life histories, their use of substances and their experiences of pregnancy and

407 motherhood. Research is therefore required which sheds light on this group of
408 vulnerable women within the UK. The significance of trauma may be unique during
409 pregnancy, as this is a time when women may reflect and rethink important
410 relationships in order to "make room" (page 1) for their relationship with the baby
411 (Huth-Bocks et al. 2013). New knowledge would help create understanding of their
412 experiences and perceptions of pregnancy and motherhood.

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