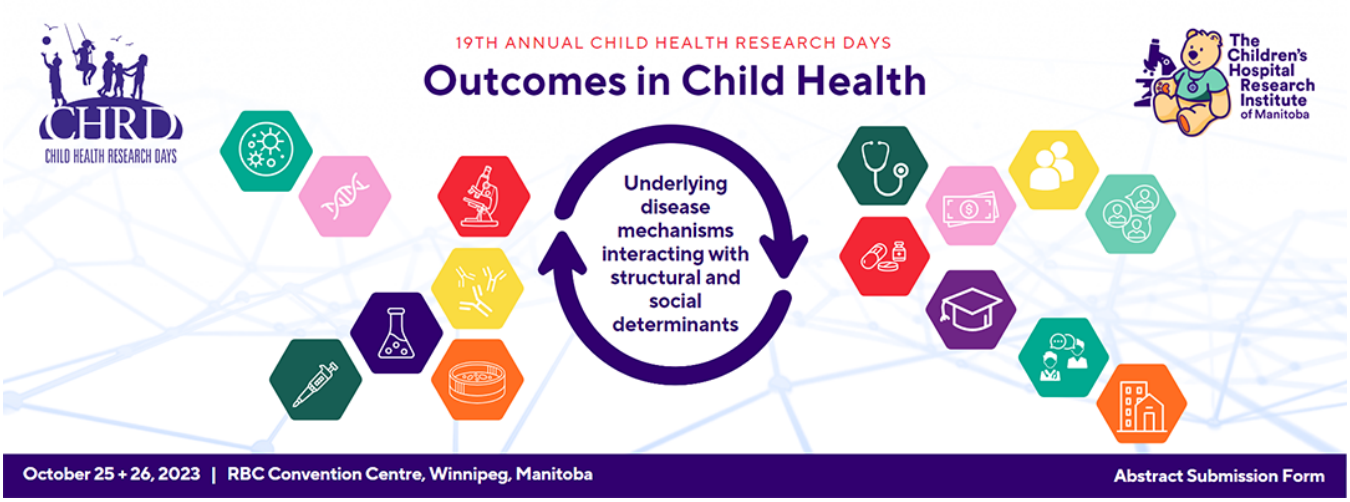

CHRD 2023: Abstract Submission Form

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Presenter Status
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Research Category
Clinical

Role in the project
Design
Analyze Data
Write Abstract

Title
Grade 12 School Performance of Children Born Preterm: A Retrospective Canadian Cohort Study

Background
Children born preterm are prone to educational challenges during their school years. However, data on their high school performance is scant.

Objective
Examine the association between preterm birth and grade 12 school performance in a population-based cohort of children.

Methods
In this retrospective cohort study, we built population-based cohorts of children as well as their term sibling cohorts born between 1986-2002 whose grade 12 school performance data was available in the provincial database. Using logistic regression models, we found Grade 12 graduation rates defined as completing a total of 30 course credits in grade 9-12 and finishing high school within 5 years of joining grade 9. Secondary outcomes include passing mathematics and language arts tests in grade 12, the need for school assistance and grade repetition in grades 8-12.

Results
Of 260,561 eligible children, 9846 preterm and 162,660 term children were included in the population cohort. Grade 12 graduation rates were similar between preterm and term children (<28 wks-84%, 28-33 wks-83%, 34-36 wks-83% and term-84%). In the population-based regression model, preterm birth was not associated with grade 12 graduation (<28 wks aOR: 1.10; 95% CI: 0.76-1.61; 28-33 wks aOR: 0.94; 95%

CI: 0.82-1.08; 34-36 wks aOR: 1.03; 95% CI: 0.96-1.11). Similarly, the rates of passing math tests were similar (77%, 75%, 75% vs. 76% for term) while the rates of passing language test were lower among <28 wks and 28-33 wks neonates (76%, 86% vs. 88% each for 34-36 weeks and term). In the sibling cohort, 83%, 79%, 82% of preterm children had high school graduation compared to 80% of term children (<34 wks aOR: 1.36; 1.03-1.79; 34-36 wks aOR: 1.18; 95% CI: 1.01-1.37).

Conclusion
Preterm birth was not associated with high school graduation in this population-based cohort. Preterm children caught up with the term peers by the time of their high school completion.

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