

Partners' influence
on mother and child
mental health
following climate
crisis: A missing link
in the MC2020
cohort

2020 Australian Bushfires and COVID-19

2019/2020 warmest, driest year:

-Bushfires: ACT, SE NSW worst affected

AIQ 3400-7700

-Average $PM_{2.5}$ **increase of $104.8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** : worse than Colorado and Amazon wildfires

Wildfire perinatal health risk:

-Preterm birth, abnormal birth weight, gestational diabetes, hypertension

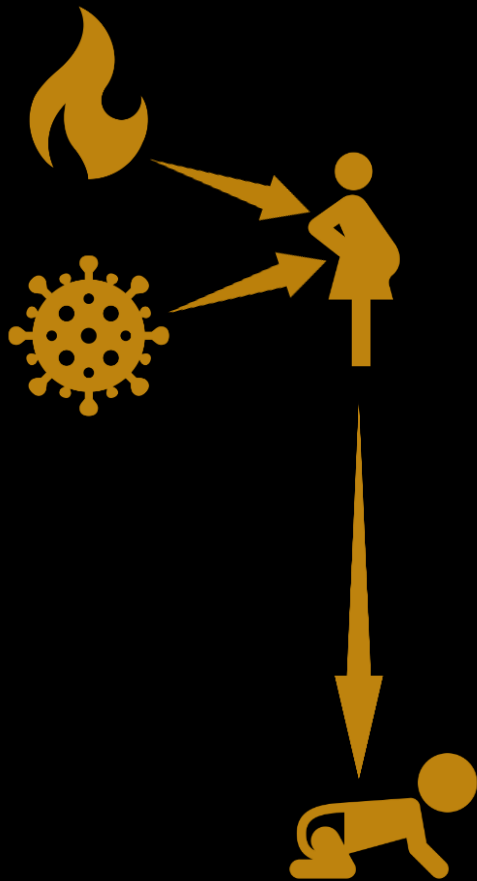
COVID-19:

-Synergistic effects

-Disproportionate impacts on women and children

- Disruption of maternity and perinatal health services, social cohesion, closure of schools and child care centers





Mother-only waves

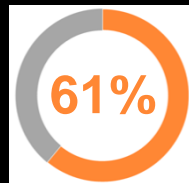
8/20-03/21: Wave 1 (bushfire) $N = 985$

9/20-07/21: Wave 1 (covid) = 869

8/20-08/21: Wave 1 (pregnancy) = 738

11/21-10/22: Wave 2 $N = 546$

“I had had the baby ... and we knew that one visitor could be in the hospital with us so that was my husband.”



of participants' partners were able to spend more time with their baby because of COVID-19 restrictions



Chief Investigators

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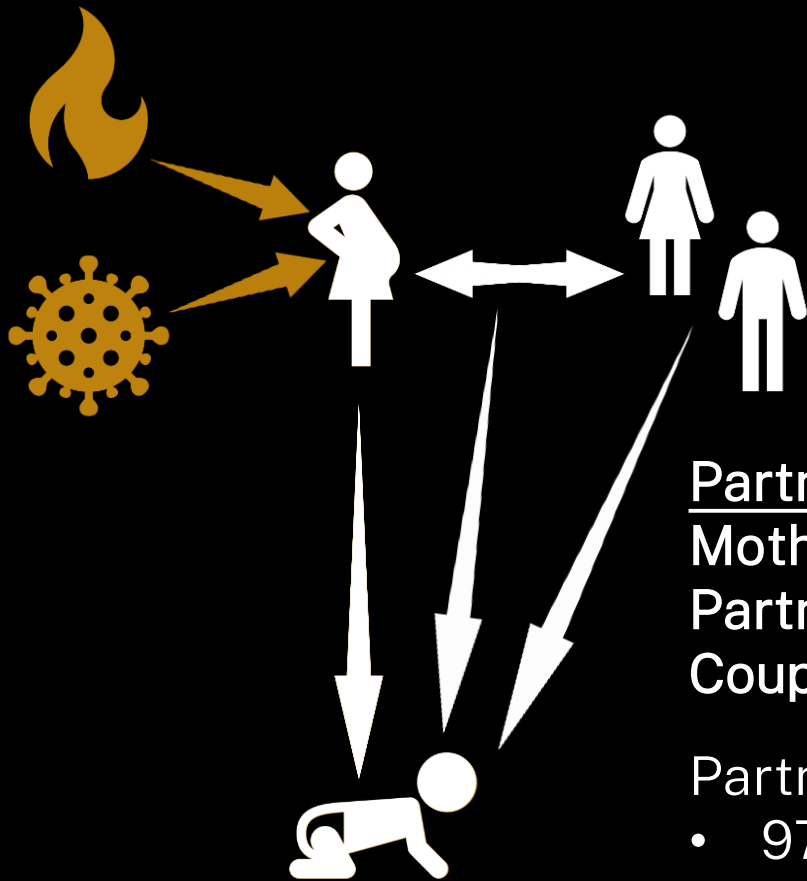


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Partners substudy:

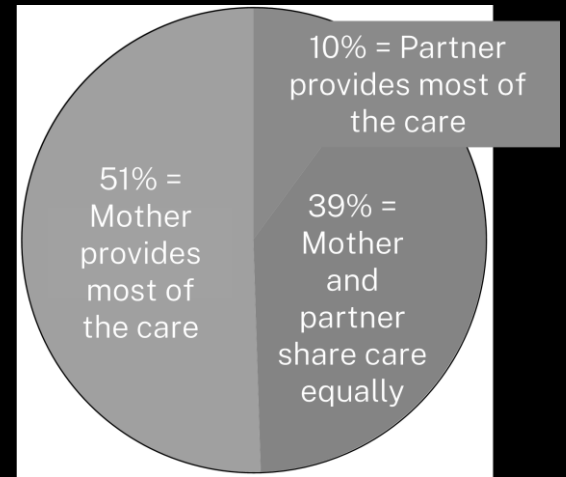
Mothers: $N = 374$

Partners: $N = 101$

Couples: $N = 96$

Partners:

- 97% male
- 97% bio parents



Next steps...

S1 2023: Data screening and scoring; syntax development; data linking

S2 2023: CIs each leading one manuscript, eg.

- “Contributions of couple dyadic coping and adjustment to child outcomes following community crisis”
- “Partner mental health, parenting quality, and child socioemotional wellbeing”

Community & government dissemination



Mother and Child 2020

Study website:

<https://Medicalschool.anu.edu.au/MC2020study>



Canberra Health
Services

