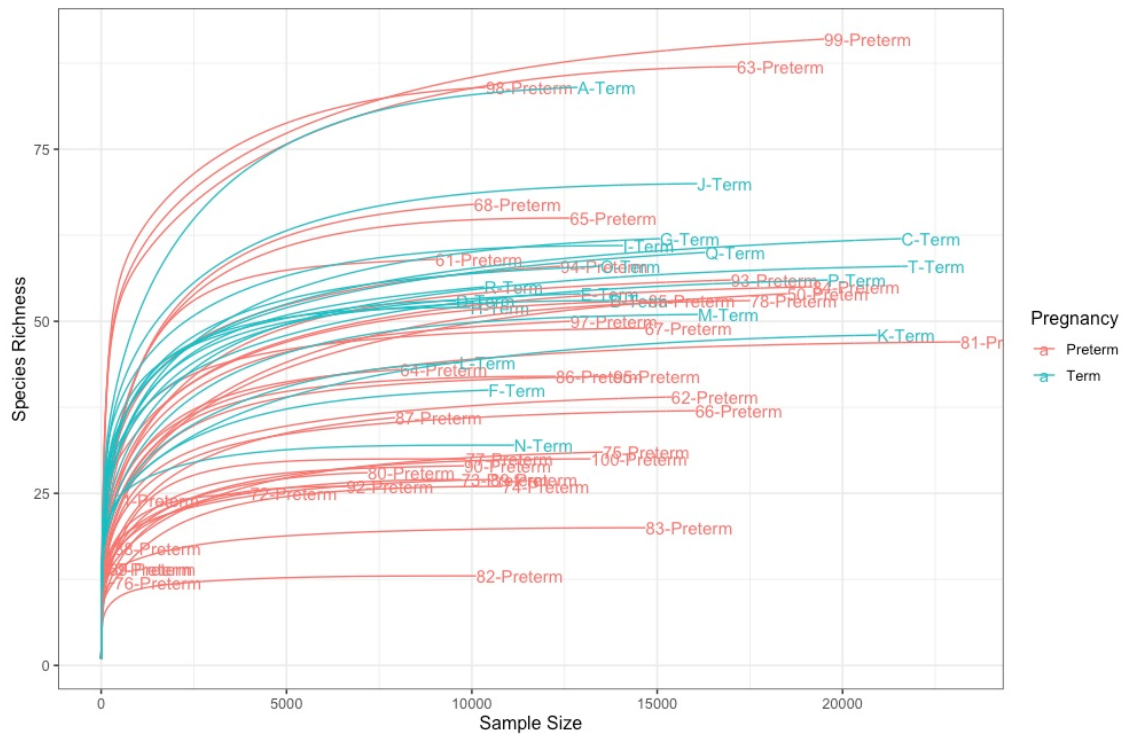
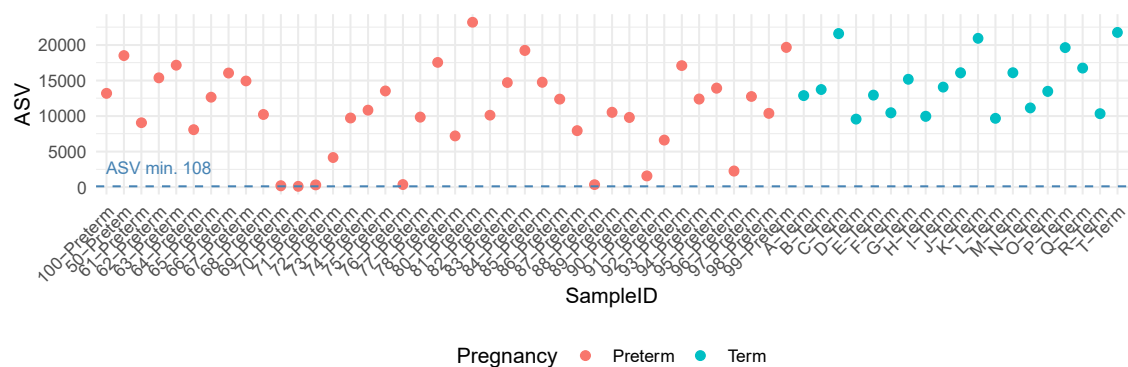


## Figure captions – Supplementary figures



**Figure S1a:** Rarefaction curves showing accumulation of the unique species found in each sample with increasing sequencing depth. Overall, the asymptotic curves suggest a sufficient sequencing depth confirmed by the convergence of the asymptotes for most of the samples.



**Figure S2:** ASV counts observed across samples. Horizontal line shows minimum number of ASVs in a sample.

**Table S1:** Sample metadata and read counts of term and pre-term birth placental samples analysed in this study. Read counts represent reads only sequences classified as bacterial after quality control. \*Only ASVs classified to genus level were counted. CS = C-Section; NVD = Normal Vaginal Delivery; RDS = respiratory distress; CAM = chorioamnionitis; MVM = Maternal vascular malperfusion; AP =; abruptio placenta