

Prevalence of Low Birth Weight and its Related Factors in Shahr-e-Kord

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Abstract

Introduction: Since a great number of neonatal mortality is related to low birth weight (LBW) and its prevalence of LBW is increasing in different populations, this study was carried out to identify the prevalence of LBW and some of its related factors at Hadjar Educational Hospital in Shahr-e-Kord, during 2006.

Materials and Methods: This cross sectional study was done on 5102 neonates. The data were collected by completing a form through physical examinations of the neonates by pediatricians and interview with their mothers.

Results: Out of 5102 neonates, 434 (8.5%) had low birth weight than 2500gr (CI=7.5%-9.5%). The odds ratio for low birth weight in multiples was 16.3 times greater than singletons ($P=0.0001$), 9.6 times greater in gestational ages before the 37th week than after it ($P=0.0001$), and 2.75 times greater in mothers under 20, than older ones ($P=0.04$). In addition, the odds ratio was 2.45 times greater in female versus male neonates ($P=0.04$), 3.69 times greater in primigravidas than multigravidas ($P=0.01$) and 1.22 times greater in mothers under high school diploma than those with higher education ($P=0.045$). No significant relationships were found between the mothers' residential areas and low birth weight.

Conclusion: The prevalence of LBW in Shahr-e-Kord was similar to other parts of Iran. Preventing preterm labor and holding educational programs for high-risk mothers, particularly under 20 mothers, primiparous women and those with lower educational attainments can play an effective role in the prevention of low birth weight.

Keywords: Low birth weight, Neonates, Pregnancy, Prenatal care, Preterm labor, Primiparous.

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