

Thesis Title	Maternal Risk Factors For Low Birth Weight Infants At Prapokklao Regional Hospital Chantaburi Province, Thailand
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ABSTRACT

A hospital based cross-sectional (retrospective) study was conducted during a period of March 1st to 10th, 1997 at Prapokklao Regional Hospital.

The purpose of the study was to determine maternal risk factors responsible for low birth weight.

This study was mainly focused on the socio-economic factors, biological factors, pregnancy risk factors and fetal factors. Data was collected from delivery and patients medical records of the hospital. There were 329 cases of low birth weight infants out of 4860 total deliveries resulting in a 6.76% of low birth weight

incidence. 329 cases of normal birth weight infants were also picked up during a period of January 1st to December 31st, 1996. Frequencies of exposure factors were compared and other analysis included odds ratio, 95 % CI and Chi-square.

The result of this study showed the factors significantly associated with LBW infants were as follow: maternal occupation ($p=0.0063$), maternal birth interval <12 month ($p=0.0074$), age of gestation <37 weeks ($p=.000$), maternal weight gain during pregnancy < 12 Kg ($p=.000$), antenatal care less than four visits ($p<.0001$), hematocrit level <33 volume % ($p=.000$) and women with complication of pregnancy ($p=0.0257$), toxemia ($p=0.0054$), intra uterine growth retardation ($p=.000$), premature labor ($p=.000$).

Maternal age, maternal weight before pregnancy, maternal parity, number of abortions and medical condition did not significantly correlate with LBW even though they were the risk factors for LBW.

All of maternal risk factors might be reduced by improving antenatal care practice and improving the effectiveness of existing maternal nutrition programs and services to improve nutritional status of mothers, as well as family planning for birth spacing.