

SUMMARY

A Study of 3,317 live births at De Soysa Maternity Hospital, Colombo, Sri Lanka during a period of three months from 01 April 1991 to 30 June 1991 showed that the incidence of Low Birth Weight was 20.2%. This figure is higher than the figure calculated from hospital reports of De Soysa Maternity Hospital birth register which was 18.4%.

Among the Low Birth Weight babies delivered during the same period, there was a female sex preponderance.

A sample of 175 Low Birth Weight babies was analysed and compared with an equal number of normal weight babies to identify some of the variables which influence the birth weight.

Among the variables associated, the effects of sex and ethnicity had no significant impact.

The following variables had significant effect on birth weight. They are maternal age, maternal height, educational level of mother, family income of the mother, work done during pregnancy, first contact to antenatal clinic, number of clinic attendance, type of Health personnel conducting the antenatal clinic and the nutritional supplement received by the mother during clinic visits.

List of Teaching Hospitals with Maternity Units - Sri Lanka

1. De Soysa Maternity Hospital
2. Castle Street Hospital for Women
3. General Hospital Ragama
4. General Hospital Kandy
5. General Hospital Peradeniya
6. General Hospital Galle
7. General Hospital Jaffna