Abstract

Objective. To identify factors related to cases of low birth weight among a sample of Mexican women. Material and Methods. The present analysis utilizes data from a post partum survey of 565 women implemented in eight different social security hospitals in western Mexico during 2001. Women giving birth to low weight infants (2.5 kgs) were oversampled and make up half of the sample. Results. A series of logistic regression equations are presented that estimate the risk of low birth weight. Study findings indicate that, although behavioral factors appear to be highly significant in predicting the odds of low birth weight, socioeconomic and sociodemographic factors were found to be important in determining utilization of prenatal care. Conclusions. The key role of behavioral characteristics in determining low birth weight risk and the role of socioeconomic and sociodemographic factors in determining prenatal care usage highlights the need to improve prenatal care utilization by disadvantaged populations. The English version of this paper is available too at: http://www.insp.mx/salud/ index.html

Keywords

low birth weight; infant mortality; infant health; perinatal care; Mexico