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Difference of socioeconomic factors among mothers of preterm and full-term infant

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Trabalho apresentado à banca examinadora para conclusão do curso de Fonoaudiologia da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais.

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SUMMARY EXPANDED

Introduction: Approximately 15 million children are born prematurely annually around the world, accounting for 11.1% of all births. Newborns with a gestational age of less than 37 weeks are considered premature. Preterm birth is the leading cause of death in the neonatal period and the second leading cause of death in children under five years of age. More than one million babies die each year from complications of preterm birth, and survivors may face several life-long sequelae, including motor deficits, learning disabilities, visual and hearing problems, and increased risk of chronic diseases in adulthood. The fragility of the general health of the preterm infant implies public policy expenditures. **Objective:** The aim of this study was to analyze the difference of socioeconomic factors among mothers of preterm and full-term infants. **Methods:** A cross-sectional retrospective study was developed with 250 mothers of children aged three to five years. The sample was divided into two groups: 125 mothers of preterm infants from the referral center of a public hospital in the city of Belo Horizonte, Brazil and 125 mothers of children born full-term at a daycare center within the same city. A pre-tested questionnaire was used to collect socioeconomic data and type of breastfeeding. To verify if there was association between the dependent variable gestational age at birth and the independent variables, the chi-square test was used. A final model with multiple Poisson regression estimated prevalence ratio values for each independent variable was developed. **Results:** The final multiple regression model showed that mothers that have a low monthly income of up to USD 450.28 (PR = 1.979, 95% CI = 1.082–3.620), used drugs, cigarettes, or alcohol during their pregnancy (PR = 4.095, 95% CI = 2.422–6.921), and did not breastfeed (PR = 2.294, 95% CI = 1.205–4.369) were more likely to give birth to preterm infants. **Conclusions:** It was concluded that low monthly family income, use of drugs, alcohol, or smoking during pregnancy and absence of breastfeeding were more frequent on mothers of preterm infants.

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