

DESCRIPTION OF MATERNAL AGE, PARITY, AND BIRTH SPACING, IN INFANTS WITH LOW BIRTHWEIGHT IN KARAWANG, WEST JAVA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Low birth weight (LBW) is a major public health problem in low income countries. LBW is associated with a range of both short and long term consequences. Maternal and fetal factors may determine the risk of LBW. This study aimed to describe the maternal age, parity, and birth spacing, in infants with LBW, in Karawang, West Java.

Subjects and Method: This was a descriptive cross-sectional study conducted at Citra Sari Husada hospital, Karawang, West Java. A sample of 70 infants with low birth weight was selected by simple random sampling. The study variables were age, parity, birth spacing, and history of delivery of previous LBW babies. The data were taken from medical records. The data of each variable were described in percent.

Results: The cumulative incidence of LBW infants in 2014 was 386 cases (20.29%) of the 1902 mothers who gave birth at Citra Sari Husada hospital, Karawang, West Java. Mothers who gave birth to LBW were mostly 20-35 years old (61.42%), 74.28% 2-3 parity, 81.42% ≥ 2 years birth spacing, and 92% had history of LBW baby in previous pregnancy.

Conclusion: The incidence of LBW has been described by maternal age, parity, birth spacing, and history of LBW in previous pregnancy.

Keywords: maternal age, parity, birth spacing, low birthweight

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