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TITLE: Neonatal Mortality Rate in Home and Hospitals Deliveries in Laoag City.
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Abstract: This study investigated the relationship of mother-related factors to neonatal mortality rate in home and hospitals deliveries in Laoag City covering the period from January 1994 to December 1997.

The researcher made use of the descriptive survey in gathering data. The questionnaire/checklist was administered to one hundred forty eight mothers whose babies died after birth up to one month, informal interview was used to a limited extent for supplementary information and extensive analysis on personal profile of the mother respondents and other relevant data. The data gathered were coded, tabulated, analyzed and statistically tested through the use of frequency distribution and percentage, correlation coefficient, chi-square analysis test of goodness of fit and chi-square analysis of independence.

Among the respondents 27.03% belong to the age 35 and above mothers and 22.97% of the respondents were those 15 to 19 years of age. About 27.41% finished only eight years in school, 23.65% were high school graduates, and only a few college graduates with 18.24%. Forty eight and sixty five hundreds percent were plain housewife, while 38.51% were engaged in blue collar jobs. Only 12.84% held positions in the white collar jobs. These respondents of 58.11% were living in the poverty line, only a few of 68% live comfortably. It is a relief to note that 39.87% has average nutrition while 21.62% has good nutrition and 38.51% were of low nutrition level.

In spite of their being high risk, the respondents who gave birth in the homes were 60.16% and 37.84% delivered in the hospitals.

Computed correlation coefficient revealed that the influence of mother related factors on high risk pregnancy indicators are significant at one percent and at five percent level.
Age as a mother-related factors is very significant at one percent level to health status, nutrition and illicit drug use.

Educational attainment as a mother-related factor is very significant at one percent level to nutrition and culture; and significant at five percent level to health status and alcohol use.

Occupation as a mother-related factor is very significant at one percent level to culture, and significantly at five percent level to school and illicit drug use.

Income as a mother-related factor is very significant at one percent level to health status, nutrition, smoking and alcohol use.

Computed chi-square analysis test of goodness of fit to the relationship between high risk pregnancy and neonatal mortality rate at a particular age level is very significant; while using the chi-square analysis test of independence, neonatal death at any particular age level is not significant. Neonatal death is indicated only in the age 35 and above.

**Conclusions**

The larger proportion of the mother respondents of the different barangays of Laoag City who were high risk at the time of their delivery were elderly “primiparas” and that a smaller proportion were the adolescent mothers. Among them were high school level and high school graduates, only a few were college graduates. A large proportion of these mothers were plain housewives, others were engaged in blue collar and white collar jobs. More than one half of the respondents live in poverty line while a smaller group belong to the low income and only a handful lived in luxury. Nutritional supplementation are more of the average level followed by those that belong to the poor or low nutrition, and only a handful were of good nutrition.

A greater proportion in spite of their condition f high risk delivered in the homes than in the hospitals.

Correlation between mother-related factors and high risk pregnancy are significantly related.

Relationship between high risk pregnancy to neonatal mortality rate at a particular age level is significant at age 35 and above.

**Recommendations**

The Department of Health should formulate a better dissemination program for mothers and would-be mothers especially in the far flung barangays to be better informed of the
health and life of the unborn child is dependent on the health condition and status of the mother before and during pregnancy.

That proposed action program (App. I) enclosed in this study should be implemented by the Department of Health and other government ad non-government health agencies.

Preventive measures should immediately be undertaken by the local government to the existing and alarming neonatal mortality rate in Laoag City.

A parallel study should be conducted by masteral students in nursing and other health related fields regarding neonatal factors in relation to neonatal mortality.