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Acta Medica Iranica

2009;47(4) : 319-324

Original Report

Under-5 Year Mortality: Result of In-Hospital Study, Tehran, Iran

Marzieh Nojomi*, Morteza Naserbakhat, Mojdeh Ramezany, and Khatereh Anbary

Department of Community Medicine, School of Medicine, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Corresponding Author:

Marzieh Nojomi

Department of Community Medicine. School of Medicine. Iran University of Medical Sciences . Crossroads of Hemmat and Chamran

Expressways :15875-6171 . Tehran, Iran

Tel : +98 21 88602225, Fax : +98 21 88602217, E-mail : drnojomi@iums.ac.ir

Received: June 3,2007

Accept : March 18,2008

Abstract:

In July 2003, the Bellagio Study Group on Child Survival estimated that the lives of 6 million children could be saved each year if 23 proven interventions were universally available in the 42 countries re-sponsible for 90% of child deaths in 2000. The aim of this study was to determine frequency of important causes of mortality among under-5 year old children in hospitals, Tehran, Iran. Information about Mortality data of under-5 year old children from 16 hospitals in the West of Tehran was collected. The study period was conducted from 1 October 2005 to 30 March 2006. Educated health personnel in each hospital interviewed parents of children who died in hospital and filled out a checklist. 142 under-5 year old children died over the course of study, of whom, 118 (83%) were neonates (under 28 days-old), 53.5% had low birth weights (< 2500 Kg), 62 (43%) were girls and 80 (57%) boys. The most common cause of under-5 year death was due to certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (ICD-10: P00-P96) (68%). Congenital abnormalities (12%) and pneumonia (5%) were the second and third most common causes respectively. Among 28-day to one-year old children, the leading cause of death was pneumonia (27.3%), while for children being 1 to 5 years of age, this included pneumonia and chronic hepatitis (about 30%). Overall, the most common causes of death were disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight. Therefore, achievement of the millennium development goal of reducing child mortality by two-thirds from 1990 rate will depend on renewed efforts to prevent and control low birth weight, preterm delivery, pneumonia, and infectious diseases in our setting.

Keywords:

[Under 5-year children](#) . [causes of death](#) . [hospital study](#)

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