



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Incidence of low birth weight among newborns delivered in health facilities in the Volta Region, 2019-2023

Category:

Maternal and child health

Authors:

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Objectives:

Low birth weight (LBW) is a significant determinant of newborn survival, child health and development. There is limited information on the burden and geographical distribution of neonates with LBW in the Volta Region of Ghana. We determined the incidence and distribution of LBW in the region from 2019 to 2023.

Method:

: A review of institutional birth weights in the Volta Region from 2019 to 2023 was done using data abstracted from the District Health Information Management System. The variables abstracted were live births, birth weight, district and year. We performed descriptive statistics and presented results in table, graph and map.

Results:

A total of 190,385 live births were recorded with 15,960 LBW neonates, 8.4% [95% CI: 8.3 – 8.5]. The trend of LBWs ranged from 8.5% in 2019 to 8.2% in 2023 with the highest of 8.8% in 2022. Majority of LBW were recorded among multiparous mothers, 59.8% [95% CI: 59.1-60.6%]. LBW cases were recorded across all districts in the region with the highest rate, 12 per 100 in Ho, and South Dayi Districts and the lowest rate, 2 per 100 in Afadzato South District.

Conclusion:

The incidence of LBW in the Volta Region from 2019 to 2023 was 8.4%, with notable variations across districts. The highest rates were observed in Ho and South Dayi, while Afadzato South recorded the lowest. The findings provide basis for further studies to reduce the incidence of LBW in the Volta Region of Ghana.

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