

Prevalence and Causes of Neonatal Mortality in Hormozgan Province, Southern Iran

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Dear Editor-in-chief,

Infant health care should be one of the first and most important tasks of every nation and one of the main programs of any government, because children, as a vulnerable group, have a special place in health services (1); and the rate of neonatal mortality is one of the important indicators of development and health in the countries (2). Approximately, out of 130 million children born each year, about 4 million had died in the first 28 days of life worldwide, around 75% of death occurs in the first seven days of life, and 25% occurs in the first 24 hours of life (3). It is necessary to identify the causes of mortality in each country or regions of a country in order to minimize the problems of these plans (4-6). Hormozgan province is located in the southern Iran (5) (**Figure.1**).

This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted by census method, and in this study, all cases of neonatal deaths and births were evaluated based on the vital horoscope in health centers in Hormozgan province between 2014 and 2015. The required information was manually extracted and collected from the vital horoscope and was analyzed using percentages and rates.

Based on the findings, the number of live births in 2014 and 2015 was 39,627 and 41,575, respectively. The number of neonatal deaths in 2014 was 12.5%, while it was 10.5% in 2015. According to the neonatal mortality rate, from 437 neonatal deaths in 2015, the highest neonatal mortality rate occurred in urban population (49.7%), and main rural (39.8%); also the most deaths occurred in the hospital (93.8%), which was about 4% less than neonatal deaths out of the hospital.

Key Words: Children, Iran, Mortality Rate Neonate, Prevalence.

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Fig.1: Location of Hormozgan Province, Iran.

The most common causes of neonatal mortality in 2014 and 2015 were premature birth defects, congenital anomalies, and respiratory infections, respectively which were similar to previous years. It should be noted that prematurity was increasing during the years 2012 to 2014, but it was decreased in 2015, while the neonatal mortality in 2015 was increasing compared to 2014 due to congenital anomalies, respiratory infections and accidents.

Of course, it should be noted that the most accidents occurred in neonates was due to aspiration of breast milk; therefore, it is very important to increase the awareness of mothers in the above field. Other causes, such as death due to complications such as weight loss, birth defects, diarrhea and vomiting, preventable diseases with vaccine, etc. was decreased in 2015 compared to 2014. Considering the high rate of neonatal mortality in Hormozgan province, it seems that the desirable establishment of perinatal services rating

in cities and provision of hospital equipment reduce mortality and the resulting neonatal complications (7). It is necessary to identify the preventable factors in neonatal mortality and design the necessary interventions to reduce infant mortality.

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