

MATERNAL HEIGHT ASSOCIATED WITH CESAREAN SECTION. A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY USING THE 2014–2015 NATIONAL MATERNAL-CHILD HEALTH SURVEY IN GUATEMALA

RESUMEN

Background: Socioeconomic status is associated with cesarean section (CS). Maternal height, however, may be another related factor to CS. In Guatemala, a quarter of women between 15 and 49 years of age are shorter than 145 cm. Therefore, this study aims to examine the association of maternal height with cesarean section in Guatemala.

Methods: We carried out a secondary analysis study using data from the 2014–15 Guatemalan national maternal and child health survey—9542 mothers aged 15–49 and 12,426 live births were analyzed. We obtained the prevalence ratio of the association between maternal height and CS based on three Poisson regression models. One model included all live births, another the first live birth, and a third model the last live birth. For each model, we accounted for covariates and sampling design.

Results: The national prevalence of CS was 26.3% (95%CI: 25.0, 27.7). The adjusted prevalence ratio of CS, including all live births, was 1.63 (95%CI: 1.37, 1.94) more likely in mothers shorter than 145 cm compared with those equal or greater than 170 cm. This figure was 1.45 (95%CI: 1.19, 1.76) in the model with the first live birth. In the model with the last birth, maternal height was not associated with CS after accounting for previous CS as one of the covariates.

Conclusions: Prevalence of CS in this setting was high and above international recommendations. Further, very short mothers were more likely to experience CS compared to taller mothers after accounting for covariates, except when a previous CS was present. Maternal height should be included in clinical assessments during prenatal care.

Palabras clave:

Body height, Mothers, Cesarean section, Health surveys, Guatemala

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