

Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology (380.664)

Discussion Questions for Lecture 11 - Epidemiology of Low Birth Weight, Preterm Delivery and Intrauterine Growth Retardation II

Christian et al., 2003

1. Which factors contributed to losses to follow up in this study? How might they bias the results?
2. Which nutritional supplement groups had a significant impact on the incidence of low birth weight? What factors (in addition to the study's findings) would you consider to decide which supplement type should be used to have the greatest impact on LBW in this study population?

Fawzi et al., 1998

1. How were iron and folic acid included in the study? Does the manner of their inclusion allow us to draw any conclusions about the impact of iron and folic acid on pregnancy outcomes?
2. Were the multiple micronutrient supplements comparable in the two studies? Can their impact on LBW be compared?

Villar et al., 2001

1. What did the intervention and control models of antenatal care in this study include? Were there any aspects of these models that might have influenced the results?
2. The study authors suggest that the variability in the baseline antenatal care offered in the 4 trial countries provides the trial with good external validity. Do you agree? Why? If not, give your reasons.