Author's response to reviews

Title: Low birth weight: comparison of two birth cohorts in Sao Luis, Northeastern Brazil, 1997/98 and 2010

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Dear Editor,


We would be grateful if you could consider this paper for publication in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. No part of the submitted work has been published or is under consideration for publication elsewhere (except in the form of abstract). All authors have seen and approved the study submitted.

In this paper we analyzed factors associated with low birth weight (LBW) in São Luís comparing two birth cohorts separated by an interval of 12 years. We analyzed 2,426 births in 1997/98 and 5,040 in 2010. Multiple logistic regression was performed to determine the association of independent variables with LBW. Data were also obtained from SINASC (Brazilian National Birth Registry) to analyze stillbirth rate and LBW historical series from 1996 to 2010. We concluded that the LBW rate stabilized in São Luís probably because the IUGR and preterm birth rates remained stable in spite of improvement in maternal education, prenatal care and delivery care. However, this apparent stability masks an increase during the period up to 2001 and a decrease thereafter. The rise and fall in the rate of LBW were parallel to the reduction of the stillbirth rate during the period, suggesting improvement in medical care.

Please find below suggestions for reviewers:

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