

MEZZAVILLA, Raquel de Souza. *Intimate partner violence and low birth weight born*. 2010. 78 p. Dissertation (Master's degree on Food, Nutrition and Health) – Nutrition Institute, University of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, 2010. *Supervisor*: Maria Helena Hasselmann.

## Resumo

Children with low birth weight (LBW) have higher risk of illness and death throughout life. Recent studies on risk factors for LBW relates specifically to the role of maternal psychosocial factors such as stress, lack of social support and partner, a time for unity and conflict between the couple. Investigations on the association between intimate partner violence (IPV) and LBW are relatively scarce and reporting controversial results. The aim of this study is to investigate the association between IPV and the occurrence of LBW. This is a cross-sectional study with 626 infants born to women who attended the four health facilities in the municipality of Rio de Janeiro, between June 2005 and December 2009. Information regarding the VPI were obtained by the Portuguese version of the instrument CTS-1 (Conflict-tactics Scales Form R) (Hasselmann & REICHENHEIM, 2003) in the first month of life of the child. The IPV was analyzed as dichotomous and cumulative. Two outcomes were studied: low birth weight (weighing less than 2500 g) and term LBW (weight less than 2500 g born at 37 weeks gestation or more). Associations were verified via logistic regression models, using estimates of odds ratios (OR) and confidence intervals of 95% (95%). In multivariate analysis, associations between IPV and the outcomes of interest (LBW and term LBW) were adjusted by the covariates whose associations with the outcome had a significance level less than or equal to 10% in crude analysis ( $p\text{-value} \leq 0.1$ ). Low birth weight and LBW at term 7.2% and 4.8% of children respectively and 33.5% of the women studied were exposed to IPV. In multivariate analysis, the presence of physical violence between intimate partners was significantly associated with LBW [OR = 4.26; (95%) = 1.69 to 10.68] and term LBW [OR = 5.90 ; (95%) = 1.65 to 21.02]. It is noteworthy that as the severity of violence continues to grow, the chances of low birth weight [OR = 3.61; (95%) = 1.19 to 10.97] and [OR = 4.99 ; (95%) = 1.70 to 14.65], regardless of maternal age and education, smoking, parity, weight gain during pregnancy, hypertension, social networking, social support, environmental conditions and sex of the child As for low birth weight at term, although the association with cumulative violence is significant, did not show this behavior. Conclusion: These findings call attention to the consequences of intimate partner violence for child's health, and highlight the need to support pregnant women exposed to violence, as well as greater attention during prenatal care in order to reduce births low birth weight.

