

STATISTICAL SURVEY OF 2,458 NEW BORN INFANTS IN BOMBAY CITY

BY

H. V. TILAK, F.R.C.S. (Edin.),

Bombay.

Record of 2,458 infants, born consecutively in the year 1954 in the Maternity section of (1) Municipal General Hospital, Sion; (2) Bai Motlibai Hospital; (3) Cama and Allbless Hospitals; (4) Nowrosji Wadia Maternity Hospital and (5) Bai Yamunabai Nair Charitable Hospital, all from Bombay, are taken for this survey. Records of births occurring before the 36th week of pregnancy are not included as it was felt that measurements of premature infants weighing from 2½ to 4 lbs. may alter the average measurements of mature infants whose survey is mainly intended.

The average weight of infants whose mothers were suffering from toxæmia and anaemia are worked out separately. There are 24 cases of toxæmia and the average weight of their infants is 5 lbs. and ½ oz. only. There are 146 cases of anaemia. Average weight of their infants is 5 lbs. and 7½ oz. This shows that the growth of infants is not so much affected in anaemia as it is in cases of toxæmia. There are 698 infants born to mothers who had delivered four or more times before. The average weight of these infants is 6 lbs. The average weight of all infants is 5 lbs. 11.9 oz.

Paper read at the Eighth All-India Obstetric & Gynaecological Congress held at Bombay in March 1955.

Records of male and female infants are worked out separately with a view to see whether the findings are likely to throw any light on the statement, sometimes made, that labour is more difficult in the same mother when a male infant is born and that a female infant stands the trauma of labour better than a male infant, weight for weight.

The record of weights of infants are classified into groups of 4 to 5 lbs., 5 to 6 lbs., 6 to 7 lbs., 7 to 8 lbs., and 8 lbs. and above. Each group is subdivided into male and female infants. No difference is noticed in the length and cephalic circumference of male and female infants in the group 4 to 5 lbs., but in the groups 5 to 6 lbs. and 6 to 7 lbs., the cephalic circumference of male infants is greater by ¼ to ½ an inch than that of female infants. This shows that the head of a male infant is bigger than that of a female infant in these groups. Out of the total of 2,458 infants, 1,781 i.e. 72 per cent are in these two groups. This gives some justification for the belief that labour at the time of a male birth is more difficult. It may, however, be mentioned that the average weight of a male infant at birth in this survey is 5 lbs. 14.9 ozs. and of a female infant is 5 lbs. 9.8 ozs. Thus a female infant is on an aver-

Tabular Statement of 2,458 New Born Infants in Bombay Hospitals Regarding Weight, Sex, Length and Circumference of Head (at Occipito-frontal Diameter)

Number of weight groups	Percentage of the total number	Number of births		Average length	Average Circumference of Head
4 to 5 lbs.	13.8%	341	Male	155	17½"
			Female	186	17¾"
5 to 6 lbs.	36.7%	902	Male	454	18½"
			Female	448	18½"
6 to 7 lbs.	35.3%	879	Male	488	19¼"
			Female	391	19"
7 to 8 lbs.	12.2%	301	Male	197	20"
			Female	104	20½"
8 lbs. and above	1.4%	35	Male	22	20¼"
			Female	13	20"

age less in weight by 0.51 ozs. at birth. This however, does not go against the statement made above that in the same weight group the cephalic circumference of a male infant is greater by ¼ to ½ an inch than that of a female infant. This point, however, requires further study.

No difference is found in the cephalic circumference of male and female infants in the group of 7 to 8 lbs. but the female infant is found to be longer by ½ an inch. This difference, however, cannot affect the course of labour or trauma to the infant.

The percentage incidence of the number of male infants to female infants is not found to be constant in all weight groups. Thus in the group of 4 to 5 lbs. weight, which constitutes 13.8% of the infants in this survey, the females are slightly more, i.e. 180 and males 155. In the group of 5 to 6 lbs., the male infants exceed the

female infants slightly, the number being 454 and 448 respectively. In the group of 6 to 7 lbs. and above comprising about 49% of the infants in this survey, the male infants are 704 and female are 508 only. Thus male infants are 58% and the female 42%. The statistical information given in this survey is given below in a tabular form.

	lbs.	ozs.
Average weight of all infants	5	11.9
Average weight of male infants	5	14.9
Average weight of female infants	5	9.8
Average weight of infants of mothers suffering from anaemia	5	7.5
Average weight of infants of mothers suffering from toxæmia	5	5
Average weight of infants and mothers who are 5th or more para	6	