Immigration and assistance during pregnancy and birth in Tuscany

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The background

Foreign deliveries in Tuscany...

In the period 2008-2011, on the total of foreign women, the nationalities mostly represented are...

Source: The delivery assistance database of Tuscany
Socio-demographic characteristics

Maternal age at birth (mean)

Qualification:
Foreign women present a lower (less than 8 years of schooling) educational level (5.6% vs 19.7)
The access to pregnancy assistance

Referral centre during pregnancy (%)

83.3% of foreign women perform the free test provided in the regional protocol vs 97.4% of Italian women

No visit during pregnancy (%)

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Regional protocol for pregnancy assistance in Tuscany recommends the first visit in pregnancy before the 3rd month of pregnancy and 3 ultrasound examinations during pregnancy.
Caesarean sections

Proportion of caesarean sections is 28.5% among Italian women and is 22.4% among the foreigners.

**Women under 30 years**
Foreign vs Italy: Adjusted OR 0.89 (CI 95%: 0.84-1.94)

**Women over 30 years**
Foreign vs Italy: Adjusted OR 1.02 (CI 95%: 0.97-1.07)

Estimate of the relative risk of cesarean section for women under 30 years

- Albania: 0.8
- China: 0.7
- Romania: 0.8
- Morocco: 0.8
- Poland: 1.3
- Peru: 2.2
- Philippines: 3.9
- Senegal: 4.1
- Bangladesh/India: 4.5

OR (CI 95%) adjusted by age, educational level, previous childern, twin births, BMI (body mass index), previous abortions, hospital; Referral group “Italy”
Premature births

Proportion of premature births (gestational age <37 weeks):
7.1% among Italian women - 7.4% among foreign women

Estimate of the relative risk of premature birth

Albania
China
Romania
Morocco
Poland
Peru
Philippines
Nigeria
Senegal
Bangladesh/ India

Foreign vs Italy:
Adjusted OR 1.29
(CI 95%: 1.20-1.39)

OR (CI 95%) adjusted by age, educational level, previous children, twin births, BMI (body mass index), smoke;
Referral group “Italy”
Low weight births

Proportion of low weight (<2500 gr) births:

7.1% among Italian women - 6.1% among foreign women

Estimate of the relative risk of having a low weight birth

Foreign vs Italy:
Adjusted OR 0.96
(CI 95%: 0.88-1.04)

OR (CI 95%) adjusted by age, educational level, previous children, twin births, BMI (body mass index), smoke, premature births;
Referral group “Italy”
Difficulties

Person in the delivery room at birth (%)

Antenatal classes:
A survey to mothers of 2005 indicate a higher participation in courses by Italian women compared to foreign women (67% vs 28%). The majority of foreign women don’t attend them for lack of information.
IN CONCLUSION.....

• Today Tuscany offers a good assistance to foreign women.
• Significant improvements have been made in the last ten years
• Nevertheless some barriers need to be overcome, in order to allow them a full usage of our services.