

Day care attendance: impact on acute lower respiratory disease in children under 2 years old Cuidado en sala cuna: impacto sobre la patología respiratoria aguda baja del menor de 2 años.

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AIM: To measure the impact of day care attendance on lower respiratory tract infections in children under two years old in two urban settings with different degrees of air pollution. SUBJECTS AND METHODS: A 26 week follow up, during fall and winter of 1991 and 1992, was performed to 98 children (48 attending day care and 50 controls) coming from Santiago, a city affected by severe air pollution and 95 children (46 attending day care and 49 controls) coming from San Felipe and Los Andes (villages with low air pollution). The incidence of lower respiratory infections was recorded by trained personnel and expressed as rates per 100 weeks of follow up. Day care settings in San Felipe and Los Andes were state funded whereas those from Santiago were private. All premises had wooden or plastic floors and smoking was forbidden. During the follow up years, no respiratory epidemics were recorded. RESULTS: The socioeconomic level of children from San Felipe and Los Angeles was better. Children fr