

Prevalence of cleft lip and palate and risk indicators: Study of the reference population of Felix Bulnes University Hospital, Santiago de Chile Prevalencia de fisura labiopalatina e indicadores de riesgo: Estudio de la población atendida en el Hospital C

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Introduction. The study of the prevalence of cleft lip and palate and the identification of risk groups helps to improve the treatment of this condition. Occurrence may be prevented by improving environmental conditions during pregnancy and ensuring early diagnosis, thus lessening the emotional impact on the family and reinforcing the early mother-child bond. The aim of this study was to improve prevention levels and thus enhance health resources. Material and Method. The frequency of cleft lip and palate and its association with risk factors was studied in live births of the Felix Bulnes University Hospital in Santiago between January 1998 and June 2005. Maternal conditions and exposure to environmental agents associated with cleft lip and/or palate were examined. Results. Out of a total of 36,041 births, 51 cases of cleft lip and palate were found, which yielded a rate of 1.42 x 1000 births. Conclusions. Analysis of risk indicators identified: mothers under the age of 20 years, usual