

Association between preterm birth and its subtypes and maternal sociodemographic characteristics during the post-transitional phase in a developing country with a very high human development index

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© 2017 The Royal Society for Public Health Objectives Chile is a post-transitional country evolving towards a stationary population pyramid, which may be associated with increasing preterm birth (PTB) rates. This study aimed to compare maternal sociodemographic characteristics between the start of the post-transition phase (1994) and an established stage (2013) and to evaluate associations between these characteristics and PTB. Study design An observational analytic design was conducted using national birth records (n = 4,956,311). Methods Variables analysed in the 20 birth cohorts from 1994 to 2013 were: length of gestation (preterm <37 weeks) subdivided by gestational age (extreme, moderate/severe and late); maternal age (<19, 20-35 and >35 years); education level (<8, 8-12 and >12 years of education); employment; marital status; area of residence; and type of birth (singleton, twins, and triplets or higher order). The prevalence of PTB was expressed as a percentage, and associations