

Author's response to reviews

Title: WHO Global Survey on Maternal and Perinatal Health in Latin America: classifying caesarean sections

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Version: 2 **Date:** 12 October 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over

Point-by-point response to reviewers

Reviewer: Agustina Mazzoni

Regarding the Methods section, I believe the description is very good and detailed. Nevertheless, I found somewhat confusing the fourth sentence of the last paragraph, where the authors stated:

“We wanted to test whether the combination of certain obstetric characteristics as defined by the 10-group classification (e.g. parity, presentation, gestational age, type of labour initiation and previous mode of delivery) would be associated with selected social factors”.

It is not clear what they meant by “social factors”. Are the authors referring to educational level of women?

YES, WE REFER TO EDUCATIONAL LEVEL. TO MAKE IT CLEARER, WE HAVE ADDED IT AT THE END OF THE SENTENCE IN METHODS (PAGE 9).

Table 3: I think the heading of column 3 it would be clearer if it said: “Relative size of the group”. The headings of column 4, 5 and 6 would be clearer if they stated: Column 4: “Cesarean section rate”, Column 5: “Absolute contribution to cesarean section rate”, and Column 6: “Relative contribution to cesarean section rate”

WE FIND VERY PERTINENT THE SUGGESTIONS OF THE REVIEWER AND WE HAVE MADE THE CHANGES IN THE TABLE.

Reviewer: Michel Boulvain

The article is very interesting and well written. Just a very minor comment: in Table 1, the heading is "parameter", which has, in statistical language, a different meaning. I would recommend using words as "characteristic" or "variable".

WE HAVE MADE THE REQUIRED CHANGE IN TABLE 1.