



Statistics Netherlands

Persbericht

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Higher infant mortality among immigrants

According to figures from Statistics Netherlands, about five out of every thousand babies die before their first birthday in the Netherlands. Infant mortality among foreigners of non-western descent is 30 percent higher than average. The weaker economic position of these non-western foreigners accounts for one third of this higher mortality. Babies of teenage mothers have a 60 percent higher risk of dying before their first birthday.

One thousand babies die in first year

Every year an average five out of every thousand babies die before they reach the age of one. This totals about one thousand babies a year. According to the scientific literature on infant mortality, congenital defects are often the cause of deaths in the first year of life. In addition the health of the mother during the pregnancy also plays a part. Health risks in the child's environment, such as parents who smoke, are also related to infant mortality. Also the extent to which parents make use of care facilities around the time of birth may be relevant.

Infant mortality higher among non-western immigrants

Among non-western immigrants, 6.4 out of every thousand live born children do not reach their first birthday. For people with a western background this mortality rate is 4.9 per thousand. Infant mortality is thus 30 percent higher among people of non-western descent living in the Netherlands. This difference results in the deaths of forty more babies per year of non-western parents.

Higher mortality related to lower prosperity

One third of the higher infant mortality among non-western immigrants is related to the lower levels of prosperity in this population group. Most children in the group of non-western descent live in the less economically prosperous areas. This is much less the case for children with parents of western descent. Babies born in less prosperous areas have a thirty percent higher chance of not reaching their first birthday.

Voor achtergrondinformatie en meer details over dit onderwerp kunt u contact opnemen met dhr. Jan Latten, **tel. (070) 337 52 32**.

Overige informatie kunt u verkrijgen bij de persdienst van het CBS.

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Statistics
Netherlands is a
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Higher mortality among babies with young and old mothers

The mortality rate in the first year for babies born to mothers aged between twenty and forty years is five per thousand. For teenage mothers the risk is sixty percent higher at eight per thousand. For older mothers (over forty), too, the rate is higher, namely seven per thousand.