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Emerging Social Issues Division

Social Policy and Population Section

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Article **Perinatal Mortality in Viet Nam**

Author *Tran Thi Trung Chien, Trinh Huu Vach, Robert Hanenberg, Luong Xuan Hien and Bui Huu Chuan*

Abstract The rate of perinatal mortality, as an index of the care a women receives before, during and just after childbirth, is useful for measuring the quality of health services for pregnant women. This article presents the results of an investigation into perinatal mortality in Viet Nam. It reports the results of a survey conducted in seven provinces in the period July 1997 to June 1999. The rate of perinatal mortality was 23 per thousand. This compares with 53 per thousand for the world as a whole, 11 per thousand in developed countries and 57 per thousand in developing countries. In Viet Nam there was considerable variation by province, however. The country's goal is to reduce perinatal mortality to 18 per thousand by 2010. Two sets of factors, one having to do with family planning and the other with the quality of care given to pregnant women, were found to be associated with perinatal mortality, and subject to government interventions.

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