

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 4, JULY 2023, SUPPLEMENT 4.2

INFANT MENTAL HEALTH JOURNAL

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2023
CONGRESS OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH - SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS

Dublin, Ireland
15-19 July 2023

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

WILEY



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Detection of Psychosocial Perinatal Risk Situations

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INTRODUCTION

Perinatal Psychology is a specific area of psychology that works with the beginning of life and its related problematic situations. Early detection of psychosocial factors that indicate potential risk situations for the dyad at the time of birth, allow to implement specific interventions in perinatal mental health.

AIM of the study

The aim of the study is the detection of Psychosocial-Perinatal-Risk situations at the time of birth; and to present the results of its application in a maternity Hospital in Buenos Aires, Argentina; allowing to deepen our understanding of the specific characteristics of these psychosocial risk factors during the perinatal period.

MATERIAL and METHODS

The sample is composed of 3000 mother-baby dyads of the hospital “Mi pueblo” in F. Varela, Buenos Aires, Argentina, who were interviewed administrating the Perinatal Psychological Interview (PPI) between May 2011 and January 2022: 871 dyads (29%) from the maternity department; 1971 dyads (65.7%) in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, 103 (3.4%) from OB/GYN.

The PPI was administrated to examine psychosocial factors that allow the early detention of Psychosocial-Perinatal-Risk situations.

RESULTS/CONCLUSIONS

34% of the sample was detected as psychosocial perinatal risk (1020/3000 dyads). Different types of risk situations were identified and categorized in 10 Psychosocial-Perinatal-Risk situations: risk related to Non-nesting 15.3 %; Social risk 10.2%; Grief 11.3%; Adolescent risk 16.4%, Psychological risk 12%; risk related to Absence of support by their partner 13%; Family related 4.5%; Denial of pregnancy 4.8%; Institutional 4% and Physical risk 8.2%.

These findings demonstrate the importance of considering factors regarding emotional safety of women during the perinatal period, emphasizing the relevance of including Psychosocial-Perinatal-Risk situations that allow early detection and specific interventions in perinatal mental health.