Perinatal mortality in a first generation immigrant population and its relation to unemployment in The Netherlands

Sir – In the introduction of the above article1 we stated in error that a previous study by Doornbos and Nordbeck of the same population2 showed an odds ratio of 1.50 for perinatal mortality for infants of Surinam origin and of 1.42 for infants of other non-Dutch origin. In fact, these authors reported crude odds ratios of 1.23 and 1.22 for the two groups. The error resulted from a mireadong of data provided by these authors.

Our re-analysis of the role of various factors associated with perinatal mortality and ethnic origin therefore confirms the similar Doornbos/Nordbeck analysis with respect to the marginal role of infant origin itself. The main finding of our report regarding the important role of parental employment status as a predictor of perinatal mortality is not affected.

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J Epidemiol Community Health 1996 50: 228
doi: 10.1136/jech.50.2.228-a

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