Since 1999 a perinatal health commission was set in Belo Horizonte to establish a policy framework to reduce maternal and infant mortality. A comprehensive audit of maternity care was made and in 2000 an integrated system was organised, from prenatal to birth care and the continuum of care after maternity discharge. Nine hospitals providing inadequate care were closed, in a total of 16 maternity-hospitals public services. Surveillance of maternal deaths (since 1997) and infant and perinatal (since 2002) process audit feedback the staff in order to avoid other preventable deaths. Hospital and health clinics charts are evaluated and family interviews provide information about the circumstances of maternal and infant deaths. Since 2006 an observational system to monitor quality of care process was established within the maternities: auditors evaluate hospital charts and interview 5% of all women in labour and women after birth. Important changes were registered: in 1999, only 20% of women in labour were monitored with partography, whereas in 2006, 80% had an adequate or complete partograph. Infant mortality was reduced by 65% and maternal mortality by 25% between 1994 and 2009. There was a 3.1 reduction in the risk of death of intrapartum causes, one of the most prevalent and preventable causes of infant deaths: in 1999, 9.9 perinatal deaths/1000 births (birthweight ≥1500 g) occurred, of which 4.2/1000 births were from intrapartum causes, whereas in 2007 4.2 perinatal deaths/1000 births occurred, of which 1.3/1000 births were from intrapartum causes.

**Introduction and Aims of the Study**

Teachers constitute professional category with high occurrence of voice disorders due to this occupation’s intense vocal demand and to unfavourable work environments. To identify job’s factors associated to voice disorders in teachers of the public school of the city of São Paulo.  

**Methods**

This is matched case-control study. The case group was teachers with vocal quality deviations and vocal fold lesion or intranasal problems. The control group had higher levels of job stress, while 69.3% of the case group are located at high (OR=2.5, 95% CI 1.95 to 3.37), moderate (OR=1.9, 95% CI 1.2 to 2.9), adjusted for sex and absolute income, despite a consistent association with non-medical mortality in both periods (IRR 1.11, 95% CI 1.06 to 1.17 and 1.29, 1.21 to 1.37). In the later period Gini was associated with mortality from cardiovascular diseases, including ischaemic heart disease (IHD), and respiratory diseases, but not with mortality from cancer.

**Conclusion**

The impact of income inequality on cardio-respiratory mortality emerged over a period of economic development. Whether there is any additional benefit beyond those provided by material conditions from re-distributing income is unclear and may be confined to some specific causes of death, such as non-medical mortality and IHD, for which specific interventions could be designed.

**Methods**

We used negative binomial regression to examine the association of neighbourhood level Gini, adjusted for age, sex and income, with all-cause and cause specific mortality rates in Hong Kong for an earlier (1976, 1981 and 1986) and later (1991, 1995, 2001 and 2006) period.

**Results**

Neighbourhood Gini was not associated with all-cause mortality in the earlier period (incident rate ratio (IRR) 0.96, 95% CI 0.93 to 1.00 per 0.1 change in Gini) but was in the later period (IRR 1.28, 95% CI 1.20 to 1.29), adjusted for age, sex and absolute income, despite a consistent association with non-medical mortality in both periods (IRR 1.11, 95% CI 1.06 to 1.17 and 1.29, 1.21 to 1.37). In the later period Gini was associated with mortality from cardiovascular diseases, including ischaemic heart disease (IHD), and respiratory diseases, but not with mortality from cancer.

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