Table S1**.** Characteristics of study participants by IPI status

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristics** | **Inter pregnancy intervals** | *P-value*  |
| *< 6 months*  | *6-11 months*  |  12-17 months |  18-23 months | 24-35 months | *> 36 months*  |
| Maternal age, mean (SD)  | 29.2 (4.59) | 28.6 (4.38) | 29.3 (3.97) | 29.5 (3.96) | 29.7 (3.91)  | 31.1 (4.27) | < 0.01 |
| Paternal age, mean (SD) | 31.5 (5.22) | 31.6 (5.92) | 32.0 (5.40) | 32.2 (5.15) | 32.4 (4.65) | 33.6 (5.76) | < 0.01 |
| Material status (Married) | 376 (86.0) | 453 (86.6) | 590 (90.6) | 497 (90.5) | 609 (90.6) | 605 (80.7) | < 0.01 |
| Maternal education status (Degree) | 64 (14.7) | 89 (17.0) | 133 (20.4) | 84 (15.3) | 110 (16.4) | 86 (11.5) | < 0.01 |
| Parity ( 3+) | 21 (4.8) | 37 (7.1) | 44 (6.7) | 33 (6.0) | 33 (6.4) | 86 (11.6) | < 0.01 |
| Alcohol use during pregnancy (Yes) | 55 (12.6) | 84 (16.1) | 107 (16.4) | 83 (15.1) | 90 (13.4) | 123 (16.4) | 0.312 |
| Smoking during pregnancy (Yes)  | 75 (17.2) | 89 (17.0) | 97 (14.9) | 72 (13.1) | 94 (14.0) | 169 (22.5) | < 0.01 |
| Pregnancy diabetes status (Yes) | 17 (3.9) | 20 (3.8) | 19 (2.9) | 16 (2.9) | 27 (4.0) | 24 (3.2) | 0.807 |
| UTI during pregnancy (Yes) | 26 (6.0) | 24 (4.6) | 29 (4.5) | 25 (4.6) | 37 (5.5) | 30 (4.0) | 0.646 |
| Pregnancy hypertension (Yes) | 65 (14.9) | 68 (13) | 58 (8.9) | 60 (10.9) | 83 (12.4) | 104 (13.9) | 0.028 |
| Antenatal anxiety (Yes) | 93 (21.3) | 111 (21.2) | 126 (19.4) | 103 (18.8) | 129 (19.2) | 163 (21.7) | 0.676 |
| Antenatal depression (Yes) | 74 (16.9) | 92 (17.6) | 107 (16.4) | 99 (18.0) | 106 (15.8) | 137 (18.3) | 0.825 |
| Folic acid supplementation (Yes)  | 43 (9.8) | 52 (9.9)  | 51 (7.8) | 50 (9.1) | 68 (10.1) | 68 (9.1) | 0.750 |
| Iron supplementation (Yes) | 93 (21.3) | 113 (21.6) | 125 (20.6) | 113 (20.1) | 135 (20.0) | 144 (19.2) | 0.865 |
| Descriptive statistics of the characteristics were reported in frequency (percentage) or mean ± standard deviations. P-values correspond to Pearson's chi-square test for categorical variables and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) for numerical variables. % reference to column percentages.  |