

**Table 1 Characteristics of the participating mothers and their neonates from Tripoli and Ghadames**

Characteristics	Tripoli (N = 120)	Ghadames (N = 116)	P
	Median/IQR, mean (SD)	Median/ IQR, mean (SD)	
Age (yr)	33/28–38 <sup>a</sup> , 32.65 (6.31) <sup>b</sup>	29/26–35 <sup>a</sup> , 30.33 (5.79) <sup>b</sup>	0.007 <sup>c</sup>
BMI	24.85/23.54–26.37 <sup>a</sup> , 25.02 (2.4) <sup>b</sup>	26/24.55–26.81 <sup>a</sup> , 25.76 (1.90) <sup>b</sup>	0.004 <sup>c</sup>
No. of prior pregnancies	3/2–4 <sup>a</sup> , 2.90 (1.20) <sup>b</sup>	3/2–4 <sup>a</sup> , 2.70 (1.22)	0.231 <sup>c</sup>
Infants weight (kg)	3/2.35–3.02, 2.76 (0.53)	2.35/2.05–3.0, 2.50 (0.60)	< 0.001 <sup>c</sup>
	<b>N (%)</b>	<b>N (%)</b>	
<b>Maternal age, yr</b>			
20–30	44 (36.67)	67 (57.76)	
31–40	56 (46.67)	43 (37.07)	< 0.001 <sup>d</sup>
41–50	20 (16.67)	6 (5.17)	
Primiparity	17 (14.17)	24 (20.69)	0.19 <sup>d</sup>
Previous abortion	69 (57.50)	32 (27.59)	< 0.001 <sup>d</sup>
Caesarean delivery	57 (47.50)	26 (22.41)	< 0.001 <sup>d</sup>
<b>Maternal education</b>			
Higher education	87 (72.5)	58 (50.00)	
Secondary	5 (4.17)	31 (26.72)	< 0.001 <sup>d</sup>
Preparatory	28 (23.33%)	27 (23.28%)	
Mothers on supplements	71 (59.17%)	41 (35.34%)	< 0.001 <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Median/IQR; <sup>b</sup>median (SD); <sup>c</sup>Mann-Whitney U test; <sup>d</sup>χ<sup>2</sup> test. IQR = interquartile range; SD = standard deviation.