

Description of data on birth weights

Background

Infant mortality is higher for low birth-weight babies. A number of factors during pregnancy can greatly alter the probability of a woman carrying her baby to term and, consequently, delivering a baby of normal birth weight.

Data on 189 births were collected at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, Mass. during 1986. The dataset contains an indicator of low infant birth weight as a response and several risk factors associated with low birth weight. The actual birth weight is also included in the dataset.

Data description The dataset consists of the following 10 variables:

low:	indicator of birth weight less than 2.5kg
age:	mother's age in years
lwt:	mother's weight in pounds at last menstrual period
race:	mothers race ("white", "black", "other")
smoke:	smoking status during pregnancy
ht:	history of hypertension
ui:	presence of uterine irritability
ftv:	number of physician visits during the first trimester
ptl:	number of previous premature labours
bwt:	birth weight in grams

References

Hosmer, D.W. and Lemeshow, S. (1989) Applied Logistic Regression. New York: Wiley.
Venables, W.N. and Ripley, B.D. (1997) Modern Applied Statistics with S-Plus. New York: Springer.