

# **Factors associated with diarrhea in children under 12 years of age referred to Ostad Motahari hospital of Jahrom in 2020**

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## **Abstract**

**Background and Objective:** Despite the relatively high prevalence of diarrhea among children, clinical features and factors associated with the incidence of diarrhea in children have not been yet studied in Jahrom. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the factors associated with diarrhea in children under 12 years of age referred to Ostad Motahari Hospital of Jahrom, Iran, in 2020.

**Materials and Methods:** The present study was a descriptive cross-sectional study, in which 385 children under 12 years of age with diarrhea complaints were selected using the census sampling method. The checklist used to collect data included patient-related factors, maternal factors, family factors, type of diarrhea, and stool test.

**Results:** There was a significant relationship between the availability of proper hand-washing facilities, the use of water purifier, a history of antibiotic use, and the incidence season with a possible factor of diarrhea, type of diarrhea, the frequency of diarrhea per day, and pus cell outcome ( $P < 0.0001$ ). However, no statistically significant relationship was observed between the availability of safe drinking water, travel history of patients, and consumption of raw or undercooked foods with a possible factor of diarrhea and OB/OP results ( $P < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** Recognizing environmental risk factors to inform parents about preventing diarrhea in children can be an effective strategy to avoid imposing a heavy financial burden on the health system.

**Keywords:** Children, diarrhea, stool test, (Stool OP/OB)