


DISCUSSION

The initial data indicate that home births are more frequent. In urban areas such as the Municipality of São Paulo, the percentage of non-institutional births is roughly 90%. However, these results are similar to those reported by studies carried out in other countries. The authors of the present study conclude that home births are frequently excluded from studies of maternal mortality, perinatal mortality, and other measures of health status. The literature reviewed by Thaddeus & Maine, however, does not suggest that care must be taken when identifying the classifications of non-institutional births. The authors of the present study argue that one should consider the possibility that these observations may also be associated with negative reactions to care following delivery, and of most importance, with the mother's socio-economic status. Unlike the literature reviewed by Thaddeus & Maine, a direct association between these events and the mother's socio-economic status is found. The authors of the present study conclude that home births are associated with maternal mortality, perinatal mortality, and other measures of health status. The authors also suggest that further research is needed to understand the factors that influence the decision to deliver at home.