

**BABIES^{POST}
STARVED^{21.1.81}
BEFORE
BIRTH**

WASHINGTON. -- Fat women and thin women both tend to give birth to small, underweight babies, according to a scientific survey.

Low birth weight leads to a higher toll of illness and death and is related to such problems as a greater incidence of impaired brain development and learning disabilities later in life.

Barbara Luke and Roy Petrie of the Sloane Hospital for Women in New York found in their study of 294 healthy women with normal, full-term pregnancies that babies born to mothers who were either very fat or very thin were smaller than those born to women of normal weight.

The investigators suggested in their report published in the "American Journal of Clinical Nutrition" that more of the food eaten by the women who were either fat or thin was used up by their own bodies rather than by the unborn baby.

They concluded that, to ensure optimal growth of the unborn child, thin women should gain weight and fat women should lose it before they become pregnant. — NZPA-Reuter.