

Table 4 Descriptive statistics of iron present in maternal blood ($n = 416$), cord blood ($n = 309$) and meconium ($n = 309$) for different Karachi areas

Location	Maternal blood ($n = 416$)	Cord Blood (ppm) ($n=309$)	Meconium (ppm) ($n = 309$)	<i>P</i>
	Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD	
Baldia Town	7.2 \pm 4.1	14 \pm 20.1	11.7 \pm 14	0.7132
Gadap Town	20.3 \pm 18.4	18.4 \pm 16.7	16.9 \pm 15.2	0.9698
Gulbarg Town	10.3 \pm 13.4	19.2 \pm 26	38 \pm 61.9	0.025 [^]
Gulshan-e-Iqbal Town	9.6 \pm 15.5	1.7 \pm 1.8	25.3 \pm 21.5	0.2391
Hyderabad	268.1 \pm 369	49.5 \pm 41.1	43.1 \pm 18.7	0.5583
Jamshed Town	1.4 \pm 2.4	1.5 \pm 1.7	21.8 \pm 33.4	0.388
Khairpur Town	0 \pm 0	0 \pm 0	0 \pm 0	-
Korangi Town	17.4 \pm 12	18.2 \pm 18.6	35.3 \pm 40.8	0.3864
Landhi Town	10.5 \pm 12.3	10.6 \pm 8.0	18.2 \pm 18.1	0.4316
Liaquatabad Town	12.3 \pm 26.9	8.0 \pm 12.8	38.6 \pm 57.7	0.0025 [^]
Lyari Town	17.0 \pm 14.9	24.7 \pm 20.8	18.8 \pm 28.4	0.7256
Malir town	6.6 \pm 6.1	33.6 \pm 58.6	75.7 \pm 150.8	0.2105
New Karachi Town	7.8 \pm 12.7	15.3 \pm 14.9	160.3 \pm 218.4	0.1421
North Nazimabad	11.3 \pm 17.3	23.3 \pm 51.8	35.1 \pm 95.5	0.2323
Not Mentioned	17.3 \pm 4.7	7.4 \pm 6.1	49.5 \pm 40.3	0.0776
Orangi Town	23.2 \pm 37.4	24 \pm 35	30.5 \pm 57.8	0.8115
Saddar Town	3.9 \pm 0	0 \pm 0	30.8 \pm 0	<0.0001 [^]
Shah Faisal Town	15.8 \pm 23.1	9.2 \pm 11	58.7 \pm 152.2	0.2801
Site Town	24.7 \pm 9.4	23.8 \pm 12	9.5 \pm 7.8	0.3592
Steel Town	0 \pm 0	0 \pm 0	109 \pm 0	<0.0001 [^]

Levels higher than the normal were indicated by: maternal blood ppm, Fe=1.272 \pm 0.0340 (21), while in meconium >100 μ /g dry wt was toxic (13).

[^]P-value shows that in Gulbarg town, Khairpur town, Liaquatabad town, Saddar and Steel Town are significantly different by location wise. P-value indicates that the observed result would be highly unlikely under the null hypothesis. In Khairpur, Saddar and Steel Town Fe was not detected.