Obesity in pregnancy is associated with various adverse events. This study aimed to define the prevalence of obesity among pregnant women presenting for care at the university college hospital, Ibadan.

Over a 28 month period, the weight and height of 4144 women who presented for the first antenatal clinic were recorded. The mean age, weight and height of these women was (31.3 years ± 5.0; 71.78 kg ± 14.96; 1.89m ± .16) respectively.

When the definition of obesity in pregnancy of weight >90kg was applied, 475 of 4144 women (11.5%) were found to be obese. When the definition of BMI >30kg/m2 was used, 910 of 3857 (23.6%) were found to be obese.

Factors associated with obesity included increasing parity (12.7% in para 0 vs 19.5% in the para 4, p value 0.00) increasing age (4.9% in the age grp 20-24years vs 16.9% in the 35-39 years age group). Level of education of the woman had no effect on the proportion of women classified as being obese.

Conclusion - the burden of obesity in this group of women is not negligible despite it being a low resource setting. Given the adverse obstetric outcomes associated with obesity, it is necessary for care providers to institute programs that will address the problem in a robust manner.