

Trends in Mortality and Life Expectancy

Sources: United Nations Population Division, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

EarthTrends Data Tables:
Population,
Health, and
Human Well-being



	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	Under-5 Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)			Life Expectancy at Birth (years)				
		2000	1960	1990	2000	Female		Male	
						1955- 1960	1995- 2000	1955- 1960	1995- 2000
WORLD	55	198	93	83	51	67	48	63	
ASIA (EXCL. MIDDLE EAST)	51	46	68	45	65	
Armenia	15	48	31	30	70	75	64	69	
Azerbaijan	29	..	105	105	67	74	59	67	
Bangladesh	67	248	144	82	37	58	40	58	
Bhutan	54	300	166	100	38	62	37	60	
Cambodia	73	..	115	135	43	59	40	54	
China (a)	37	225	49	40	46	72	43	68	
Georgia	18	70	29	29	67	77	60	69	
India	65	242	123	96	42	63	44	62	
Indonesia	40	216	91	48	41	67	39	63	
Japan	3	40	6	4	69	84	64	77	
Kazakhstan	42	..	67	75	64	70	54	59	
Korea, Dem People's Rep	39	120	35	30	55	66	53	61	
Korea, Rep	7	127	9	5	54	78	51	71	
Kyrgyzstan	37	180	83	63	62	71	53	63	
Lao People's Dem Rep	88	235	163	105	42	54	39	51	
Malaysia	10	105	21	9	54	75	51	70	
Monqolia	58	..	107	78	47	64	44	60	
Myanmar	87	252	130	110	44	58	41	54	
Nepal	71	315	145	100	37	57	38	58	
Pakistan	87	227	128	110	42	59	44	59	
Philippines	29	110	66	40	53	71	50	67	
Singapore	5	40	8	4	65	79	62	75	
Sri Lanka	20	133	23	19	58	75	59	69	
Tajikistan	53	140	78	73	60	70	55	64	
Thailand	21	148	40	29	57	73	52	67	
Turkmenistan	49	150	76	70	59	69	52	62	
Uzbekistan	37	..	62	67	62	71	55	65	
Viet Nam	34	219	50	39	45	70	41	65	
EUROPE	10	71	78	65	69	
Albania	25	151	45	31	60	76	59	70	
Austria	5	43	9	5	71	81	65	74	
Belarus	12	47	21	20	72	74	63	63	
Belgium	4	35	9	6	73	81	67	75	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	14	160	22	18	60	76	57	71	
Bulgaria	15	70	16	16	69	75	65	67	
Croatia	8	98	13	9	67	77	62	69	
Czech Rep	5	25	11	5	73	78	67	71	
Denmark	5	25	9	5	74	78	70	73	
Estonia	10	52	22	21	71	76	64	64	
Finland	4	28	7	5	71	81	65	73	
France	5	34	9	5	73	82	67	74	
Germany	5	40	9	5	72	80	67	74	
Greece	6	64	11	6	70	81	66	75	
Hungary	9	57	16	9	69	75	65	66	
Iceland	5	22	5	4	75	81	71	77	
Ireland	6	36	9	6	71	79	67	74	
Italy	5	50	10	6	71	81	66	75	
Latvia	14	44	20	21	72	75	65	64	
Lithuania	9	70	21	21	71	77	65	66	
Macedonia, FYR	16	177	41	26	59	75	59	71	
Moldova, Rep	20	88	37	33	65	70	57	63	
Netherlands	5	22	8	5	75	81	71	75	
Norway	5	23	9	4	76	81	71	75	
Poland	9	70	19	10	69	77	63	69	
Portugal	6	112	15	6	65	79	60	72	
Romania	22	82	32	22	66	73	62	67	
Russian Federation	17	64	26	22	70	73	63	60	
Serbia and Montenegro	13	120	30	20	63	75	61	70	
Slovakia	8	40	15	9	71	77	66	69	
Slovenia	6	45	9	5	71	79	65	71	
Spain	5	57	9	5	70	82	65	75	
Sweden	3	20	6	4	75	82	71	77	
Switzerland	5	27	8	4	73	82	68	75	
Ukraine	15	53	22	21	72	74	65	63	
United Kingdom	5	27	9	6	73	80	68	75	
MIDDLE EAST & N. AFRICA	52	250	80	64	46	68	45	65	
Afghanistan	161	360	260	257	33	43	34	42	
Algeria	43	280	53	65	47	70	45	68	
Egypt	40	282	104	43	46	68	44	65	
Iran, Islamic Rep	36	281	72	44	46	69	46	67	
Iraq	64	171	50	130	48	60	46	57	
Israel	6	39	12	6	69	80	66	76	
Jordan	23	139	43	34	47	71	45	68	
Kuwait	11	128	16	10	60	78	57	74	
Lebanon	17	85	37	32	60	74	57	71	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	25	270	42	20	47	72	44	68	
Morocco	42	211	85	46	47	69	44	65	
Oman	23	280	30	14	40	72	38	69	
Saudi Arabia	21	250	44	29	44	72	42	70	
Syrian Arab Rep	22	201	44	29	50	72	47	69	
Tunisia	26	254	52	28	48	71	47	68	
Turkey	39	219	78	45	50	72	47	67	
United Arab Emirates	11	223	14	9	53	78	50	73	
Yemen	62	340	142	117	35	60	34	58	



	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	Under-5 Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)			Life Expectancy at Birth (years)				
		2000	1960	1990	2000	Female		Male	
						1955- 1960	1995- 2000	1955- 1960	1995- 2000
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	89	254	181	175	40	50	38	48	
Angola	118	345	283	295	33	46	31	43	
Benin	81	300	185	154	38	55	35	52	
Botswana	67	173	58	101	47	45	44	44	
Burkina Faso	87	315	210	198	34	46	31	44	
Burundi	111	250	190	190	42	42	39	40	
Cameroon	79	255	139	154	39	51	36	49	
Central African Rep	93	327	180	180	40	46	35	43	
Chad	116	325	198	198	36	46	33	44	
Congo	66	220	110	108	43	53	38	49	
Congo, Dem Rep	77	302	207	207	42	52	39	49	
Côte d'Ivoire	81	290	155	173	40	48	37	47	
Equatorial Guinea	99	316	206	156	38	52	35	48	
Eritrea	82	..	155	114	40	53	37	50	
Ethiopia	106	269	193	174	36	45	33	44	
Gabon	80	..	90	90	42	54	38	51	
Gambia	115	364	154	128	33	47	30	44	
Ghana	62	215	126	102	46	58	42	55	
Guinea	114	380	240	175	33	47	32	46	
Guinea-Bissau	121	..	253	215	35	46	32	43	
Kenya	59	205	97	120	45	53	41	51	
Lesotho	111	203	148	133	44	52	39	51	
Liberia	79	288	235	235	41	49	38	47	
Madagascar	91	186	168	139	39	53	38	51	
Malawi	130	361	241	188	38	41	37	41	
Mali	120	517	254	233	38	52	35	50	
Mauritania	97	310	183	183	39	52	36	49	
Mozambique	128	313	235	200	38	42	34	39	
Namibia	65	206	84	69	42	45	40	45	
Niger	126	354	320	270	34	44	33	44	
Nigeria	79	207	190	184	39	52	37	51	
Rwanda	119	206	178	187	43	40	40	39	
Senegal	57	300	148	139	39	54	36	51	
Sierra Leone	146	390	323	316	32	39	30	36	
Somalia	113	..	225	225	37	49	34	45	
South Africa	59	130	60	70	50	60	47	54	
Sudan	78	208	123	108	40	56	37	54	
Tanzania, United Rep	73	241	163	165	41	52	38	50	
Togo	75	267	152	142	40	53	36	50	
Uganda	94	224	165	127	44	43	40	41	
Zambia	80	213	192	202	42	40	39	41	
Zimbabwe	55	159	80	117	51	43	48	43	
NORTH AMERICA	7	73	80	67	74	
Canada	5	33	9	6	73	81	68	76	
United States	7	30	10	8	73	79	67	74	
C. AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	31	153	53	37	56	74	53	68	
Belize	30	104	49	41	61	75	60	72	
Costa Rica	11	112	16	12	62	79	59	74	
Cuba	7	54	13	9	64	78	61	74	
Dominican Rep	36	149	65	48	51	70	49	65	
El Salvador	26	191	60	40	50	73	47	67	
Guatemala	41	202	82	59	45	67	44	61	
Haiti	61	253	150	125	42	55	39	49	
Honduras	33	204	61	40	46	69	43	63	
Jamaica	20	74	20	20	64	77	61	73	
Mexico	28	134	46	30	57	75	53	70	
Nicaragua	36	193	66	45	47	70	44	66	
Panama	19	88	34	26	60	76	58	72	
Trinidad and Tobago	13	73	24	20	64	76	60	72	
SOUTH AMERICA	33	153	53	37	57	73	53	66	
Argentina	20	72	28	21	67	77	62	70	
Bolivia	56	255	122	80	44	63	40	60	
Brazil	38	177	60	38	55	71	52	64	
Chile	12	138	20	12	59	78	54	72	
Colombia	26	122	35	30	57	74	53	67	
Ecuador	41	178	57	32	53	72	50	67	
Guyana	52	126	90	74	56	68	53	60	
Paraguay	37	90	37	31	65	72	61	67	
Peru	37	234	75	50	48	71	45	66	
Suriname	26	98	44	33	61	73	57	68	
Uruguay	13	56	24	17	70	78	64	70	
Venezuela	19	75	27	23	60	76	57	70	
OCEANIA	24	68	77	63	72	
Australia	5	24	10	6	74	82	68	76	
Fiji	17	97	31	22	57	70	53	67	
New Zealand	6	26	11	6	73	80	68	75	
Papua New Guinea	62	204	112	112	38	57	36	55	
Solomon Islands	21	185	36	25	49	69	47	66	
DEVELOPED	15	70	78	65	71	
DEVELOPING	59	223	103	91	45	66	44	63	

a. For statistical purposes, the data for China do not include Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.

Technical Notes

VARIABLE DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Infant Mortality Rate is the probability of a child dying between birth and one year of age expressed per 1,000 live births. The indicator is used as a measure of children's well-being and the level of effort being made to maintain child health--over three-quarters of child deaths in the developing world are caused by diseases that can be prevented or cured by low-cost interventions such as immunization, oral rehydration therapy (ORT), and antibiotics.

Under-Five Mortality Rate is the probability of a child dying between birth and age five expressed per 1,000 live births. The data is reported by countries from their national civil registration systems. Some are estimates prepared by national and international statistical services from population surveys. The completeness and accuracy of the data which these systems produce vary from one country or area to another.

Life Expectancy at Birth is the average number of years that a newborn baby is expected to live if the age-specific mortality rates effective at the year of birth apply throughout his or her lifetime. The Population Division of the UN Secretariat prepares estimates and projections based on data from national statistical sources. When needed, other sources, mainly population censuses and demographic surveys, are consulted. In countries highly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, estimates of the impact of the disease are made explicitly by projecting the yearly incidence of HIV infection.

Information on the methodologies used to collect these data can be found in the technical notes for each variable in the EarthTrends searchable database, at <http://www.earthtrends.org>.

FREQUENCY OF UPDATE BY DATA PROVIDERS:

Mortality: Data for infant mortality are available every 10 years from 1960 to 2000, plus 1995. Data for under-5 mortality exist for 1960, 1990 and 2000.

Life Expectancy: This data set contains estimates for every five years for all countries from 1950 to 2050. The UN Population Division updates this information every two years.

DATA RELIABILITY AND CAUTIONARY NOTES:

Mortality: The data on mortality of children after infancy is typically obtained from civil registration records on deaths of young children and population census information on the size of the population of children under one year of age. In many developing countries, however, the registration of deaths is less complete than the registration of births. Sample surveys collect birth histories to fill gaps in knowledge and avoid underestimating mortality.

These data are the result of an intensive effort on the part of UNICEF and its partners to develop a methodology producing the most consistent estimates possible for infant and under-5 mortality. The data are based on a careful process of fitting curves to existing data. Nevertheless, comparisons between countries should still be made with caution, because the amount, timeliness, and quality of available information vary widely by country. Some countries have numerous sources of data covering the same period, allowing for cross-references while other estimates are derived from many fewer sources of poor quality. For information on the underlying data for each country's regressions, refer to the country estimates and new country data available at <http://www.childinfo.org/cmr/kh98meth.html>.

Life Expectancy: The United Nations applies age- and sex-specific mortality rates to the base-year population to determine the number of survivors at the end of each 5-year period. Original demographic models are based on surveys and censuses with well-understood qualities, which make these data fairly reliable, although accuracy varies. Data are adjusted for overenumeration and underenumeration of certain age and sex groups (e.g., infants, female children, and young males), misreporting of age and sex distributions, and changes in definitions, when necessary. These adjustments incorporate data from civil

registrations, population surveys, earlier censuses, and, when necessary, population models based on information from socioeconomically similar countries. Historical data are used when deemed accurate, also with adjustments and scaling. However, accurate historical data do not exist for many developing countries. In such cases, the UN Population Division uses available information and demographic models to estimate the main demographic parameters.

SOURCES:

Mortality: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). 2003. *Progress Since the World Summit for Children: The ChildInfo Statistical Database*. New York: UNICEF. Available on-line at: <http://www.childinfo.org/cmr/revis/db1.htm>.

Life Expectancy: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. 2002. *World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision. Dataset on CD-ROM*. New York: United Nations.