

What is Child Mortality?

The Child Mortality indicator represents the probability of death between a child's first and fifth birthdays. In this period, causes of death are strongly influenced by environmental factors, including household air pollution and lack of access to clean drinking water.

Basic Needs

More than one billion children are severely deprived of at least one of the essential goods and services they require to survive, grow and develop. These include nutrition, water, sanitation facilities, access to basic healthcare services, adequate shelter, education and information.



Nutrition



Water



Sanitation Facilities



HealthCare Services



Adequate Shelter



Education & Information

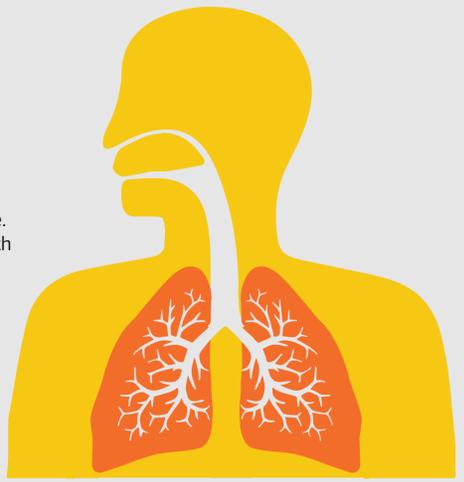


As a result, **6.6 million** children under five die every year.

Leading Causes

1 PNEUMONIA

Pneumonia is the leading cause of child mortality worldwide. It is exacerbated by household and outdoor air pollution, both of which are environmental impacts measured by the 2014 EPI.



2 DIARRHEA

Diarrhea is the second leading cause, and it is almost always caused by poor sanitation and lack of access to clean drinking water. Whether a country effectively treats its water, how that water is distributed, and the level of access to healthcare or sanitary environmental conditions are reflected in diarrhea-related deaths.

3 MALARIA

Malaria is the third leading cause of child mortality. Strategies for fighting malaria by controlling mosquito exposure include reducing deforestation in vulnerable areas, modernized irrigation and agricultural strategies, and other land use considerations. In many cases, intervention at the environmental and biological levels has been shown to be as effective or even more effective at reducing rates of malaria than the use of insecticides.



How do we know?

Most deaths of children under the age of one are tied to maternal health and neonatal complications, but many more deaths of children between the ages of one and five are related to environmental factors.



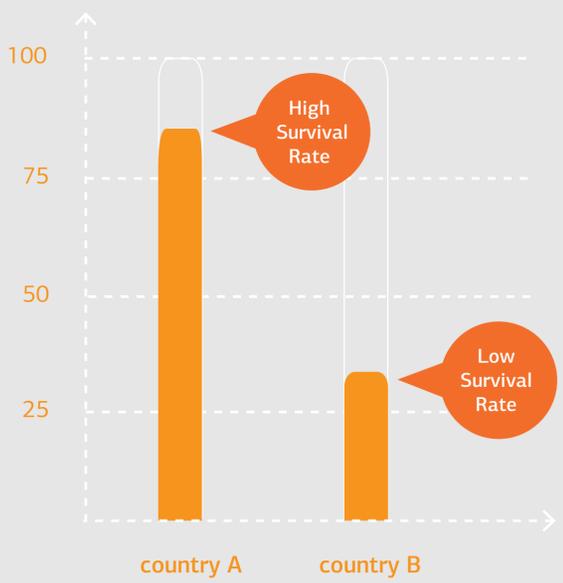
Not used for EPI analysis

Deaths related to maternal health and neonatal complications

Used for EPI analysis

Deaths related to environmental factors

SCORE



Probability Score

Child mortality data from the United Nations Population Division is divided by 1,000 to estimate the probability of a child dying between his or her 1st and 5th birthday. Based on this probability, a score is given to each country out of 100, with 100 being the best performing.

Why does it matter?

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for Child Mortality

Reducing child mortality was declared the fourth Millennium Development Goal by the UN in 2000. The goal is to reduce the global rate of child mortality by two thirds before 2015, starting with the child mortality rate in 1990. Achieving this goal requires great improvements to environmental performance.



12 million + children died in 1990

currently **6.6 million** die/yr

goal for **2015**

2/3 reduction

1/3 reduction of today's total

Improving Environmental Conditions

Approximately 70% of these early child deaths are due to conditions that can be prevented or treated with access to simple, affordable interventions.

References

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