

ISA 95826

Country Health Profile

LAOS

Health Situation & Statistics Report 1994



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Country Health Profile

This is one of a series of Country Health Profiles produced by the Center for International Health Information (CIHI). Each profile contains descriptive information and tables on the country's health and demographic characteristics, health indicators and trends, and when available, the health care system. Profile information is compiled from CIHI's databases and reference library, as well as through research and analysis of other data sources and reports.

The profiles are intended to provide current and trend data in a concise format for policy and decision-making, planning and evaluation, and monitoring of health status for use by individuals and organizations. Contact CIHI at the address on the preceding page for information on the availability of other health profiles and standard reports.

This profile contains national level health and demographic statistics available in CIHI's databases as of the date noted in each section. In order to enable CIHI to report the most current health and demographic statistics, please provide any more recent or more accurate data by contacting the center at the address on the previous page or through USAID, Office of Health and Nutrition, Center for Population, Health and Nutrition, Bureau for Global Programs, Field Support and Research.

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* Sources in this profile are referred to by a seven-digit code. Generally, the first three letters refer to an organization, agency, etc., and the first two numbers indicate the year of the publication or other source document. A complete list of sources appears at the end of the profile.

I: HEALTH & DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

Current Demographic and Health Indicators

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Demographic Indicators			
INDICATOR	VALUE	YEAR	SOURCE
Total Population	4,610,000	1993	UNP9200
Urban Population	948,800	1993	UNP9200
Women Ages 15-49	1,081,000	1993	UNP9200
Infant Mortality	104	1993	BUC9300
Under 5 Mortality	158	1993	BUC9300
Maternal Mortality	NA		
Life Expectancy At Birth	51	1993	UNP9200
Number of Births	208,039	1993	UNP9200
Annual Infant Deaths	21,513	1993	CALXX01
Total Fertility Rate	6.6	1993	UNP9200

Child Survival Indicators			
INDICATOR	PERCENT	YEAR	SOURCE
Vaccination Coverage			
BCG	32	1992	WHE9401
DPT 3	22	1992	WHE9401
Measles	44	1992	WHE9401
Polio 3	24	1992	WHE9401
Tetanus 2	21	1992	WHE9401
DPT Drop Out	NA		
Oral Rehydration Therapy			
ORS Access Rate	85	1993	WHD9401
ORS and/or RHF Use	55	1993	WHD9401
Contraceptive Prevalence			
Modern Methods (15-44)	NA		
All Methods (15-44)	NA		
Nutrition			
Adequate Nutritional Status	NA		
Appropriate Infant Feeding	NA		
A) Exclusive Breastfeeding	NA		
B) Complementary Feeding	NA		
Continued Breastfeeding	NA		

Other Health Indicators			
INDICATOR	PERCENT	YEAR	SOURCE
HIV-1 Seroprevalence			
Urban	0	1991	BUC9103
Rural	NA		
Access to Improved Water			
Urban	54	1991	JMP9301
Rural	33	1991	JMP9301
Access to Sanitation			
Urban	87	1991	JMP9301
Rural	8	1991	JMP9301
Deliveries/Trained Attendants	NA		

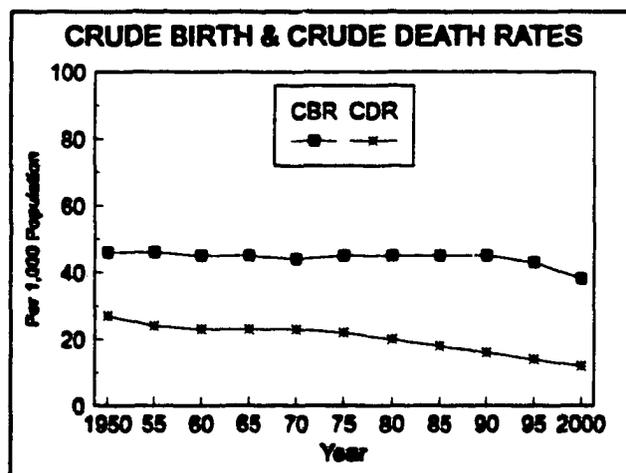
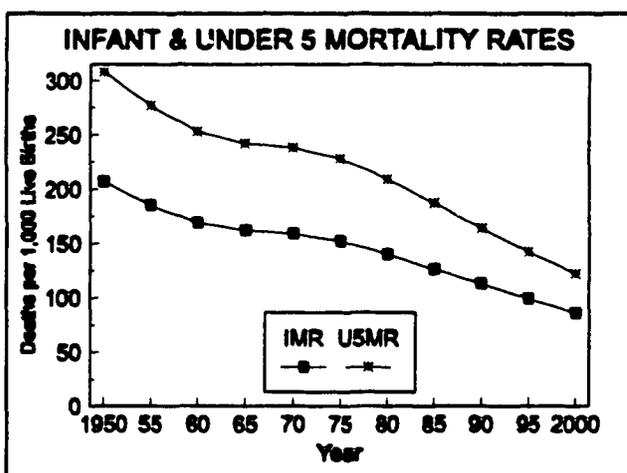
NA = Not available



Trends in Selected Demographic and Health Indicators

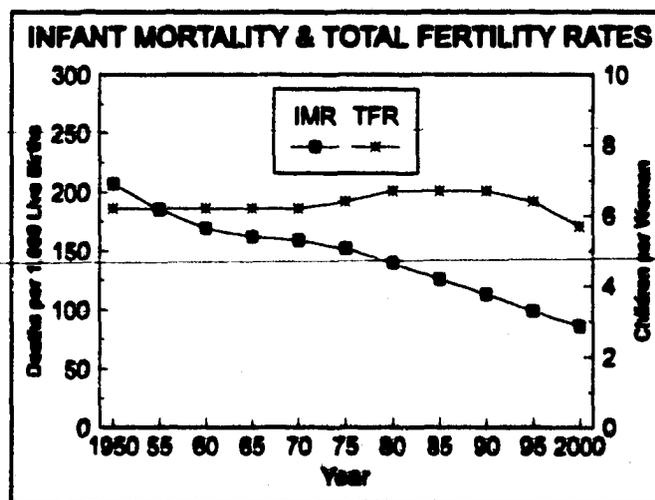
JULY 1994

INDICATOR	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	SOURCE
Infant Mortality	207	185	169	162	159	152	140	128	113	99	86	BUC9302
Under Five Mortality	308	277	253	242	238	228	209	187	164	142	122	BUC9302
Crude Birth Rate	46	46	45	45	44	45	45	45	45	43	38	UNP9200
Crude Death Rate	27	24	23	23	23	22	20	18	16	14	12	UNP9200
Avg. Annual Growth Rate	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	UNP9200
Total Fertility Rate	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.4	5.7	UNP9200



IMR and TFR

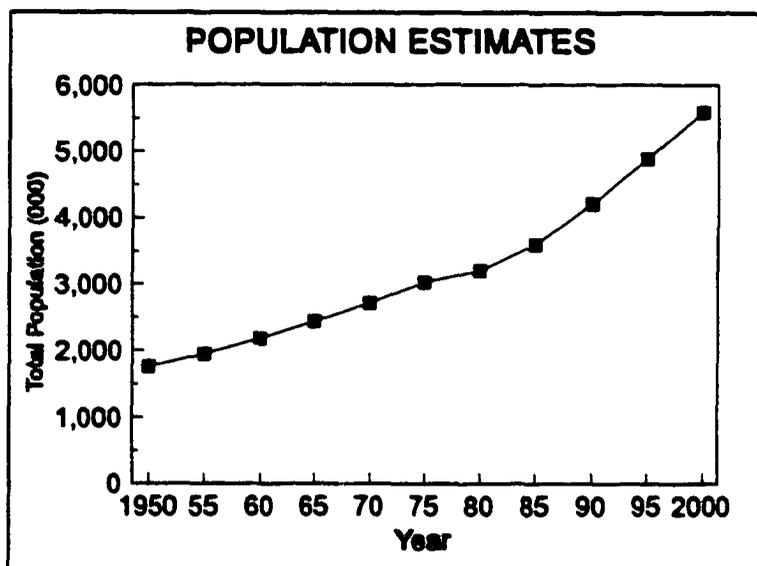
The relationship between IMR and TFR is currently a subject under review by the scientific community. While there is not conclusive evidence that the IMR and TFR are causally linked and necessarily decline together, there is empirical evidence for suspecting that such a reinforcing relationship exists as the pattern is observable in most countries.



Population Estimates/Pyramid

JULY 1994

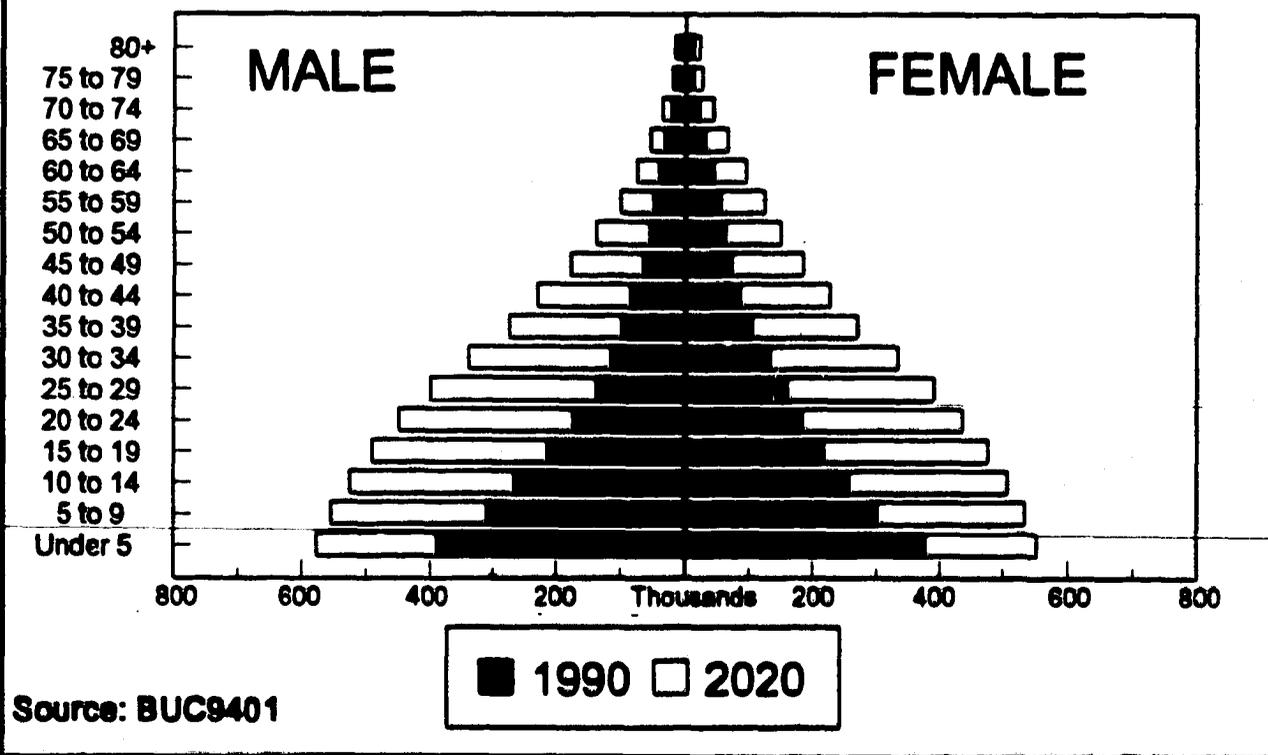
POPULATION ESTIMATES (000s)		
YEAR	VALUE	SOURCE
1950	1,755	UNP9200
1955	1,944	UNP9200
1960	2,177	UNP9200
1965	2,432	UNP9200
1970	2,713	UNP9200
1975	3,024	UNP9200
1980	3,205	UNP9200
1985	3,594	UNP9200
1990	4,202	UNP9200
1995	4,882	UNP9200
2000	5,592	UNP9200



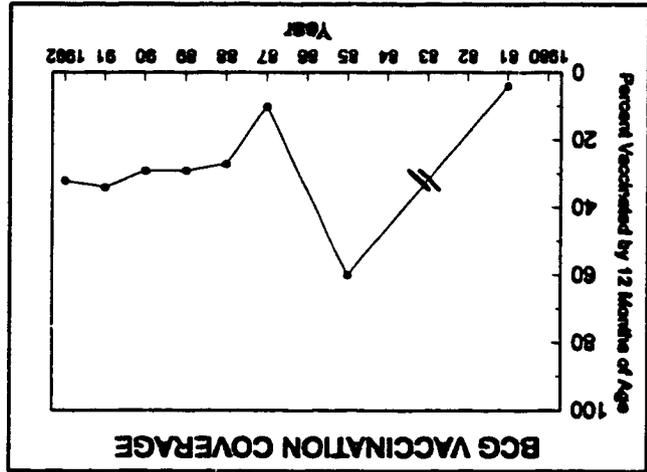
CURRENT & PROJECTED POPULATION

By Age & Gender: 1990 - 2020

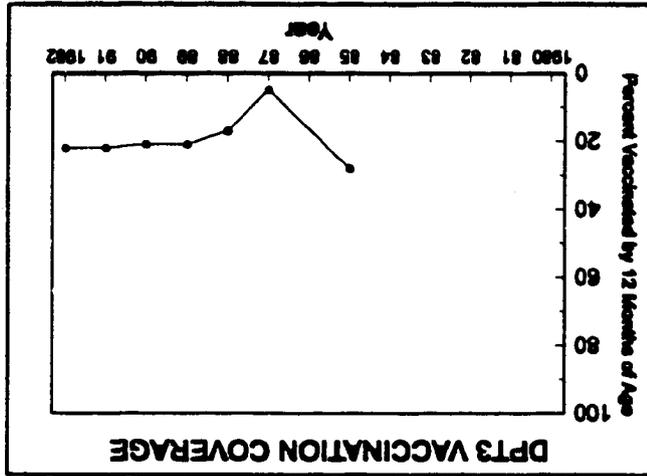
Total Population 1990: 4,191,263 Total Population 2020: 8,922,700



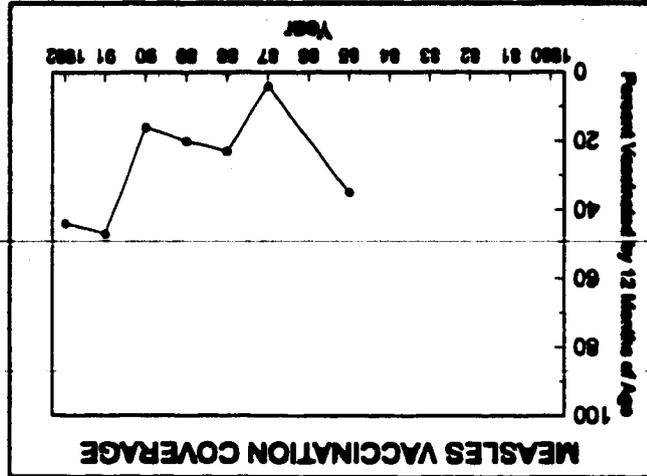
Trends in Selected Health and Child Survival Indicators
 Vaccination Coverage Rates
 JULY 1994



YEAR	PERCENT	SOURCE
1980	4	WHEB801
1981	10	WHEB801
1982	27	NA
1983	29	NA
1984	29	NA
1985	27	WHEB801
1986	27	WHEB801
1987	27	WHEB801
1988	27	WHEB801
1989	29	WHEB900
1990	29	WHEB100
1991	27	WHEB202
1992	32	WHEB401

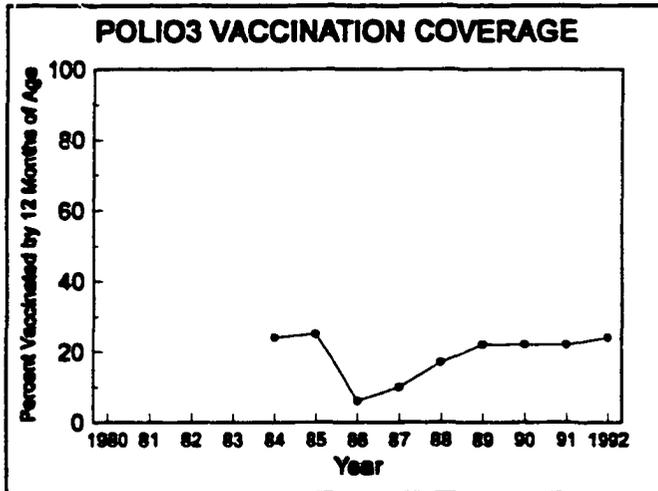


YEAR	PERCENT	SOURCE
1980	5	WHEB801
1981	17	WHEB801
1982	21	NA
1983	21	NA
1984	21	NA
1985	21	NA
1986	21	NA
1987	21	WHEB801
1988	21	WHEB801
1989	21	WHEB900
1990	21	WHEB100
1991	21	WHEB202
1992	22	WHEB401

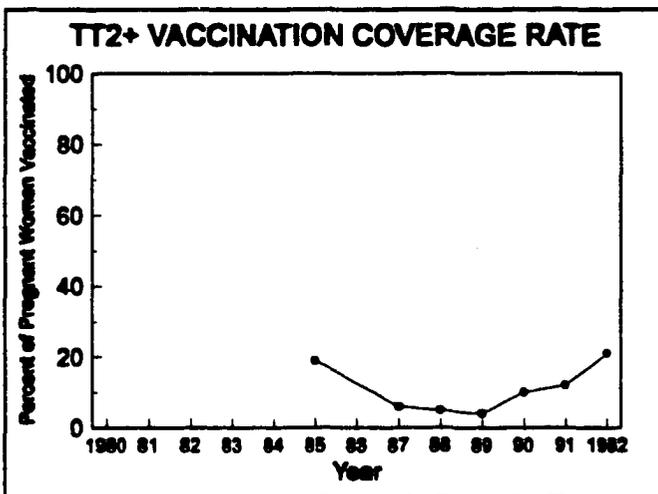


YEAR	PERCENT	SOURCE
1980	4	WHEB801
1981	23	WHEB801
1982	23	WHEB801
1983	23	WHEB801
1984	23	WHEB801
1985	23	WHEB801
1986	23	WHEB801
1987	23	WHEB801
1988	23	WHEB801
1989	23	WHEB900
1990	23	WHEB100
1991	23	WHEB202
1992	44	WHEB401

Vaccination Coverage Rates, continued



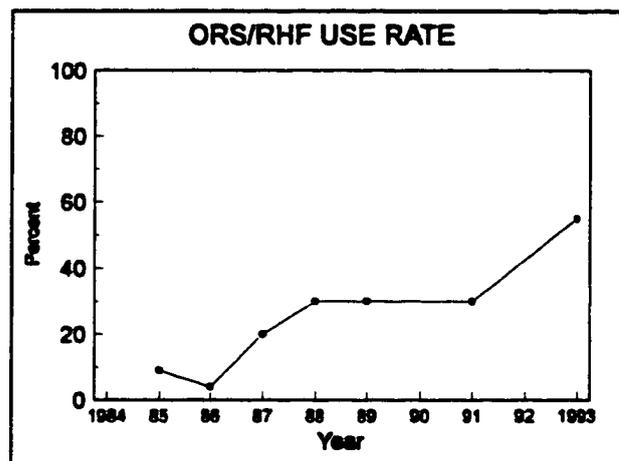
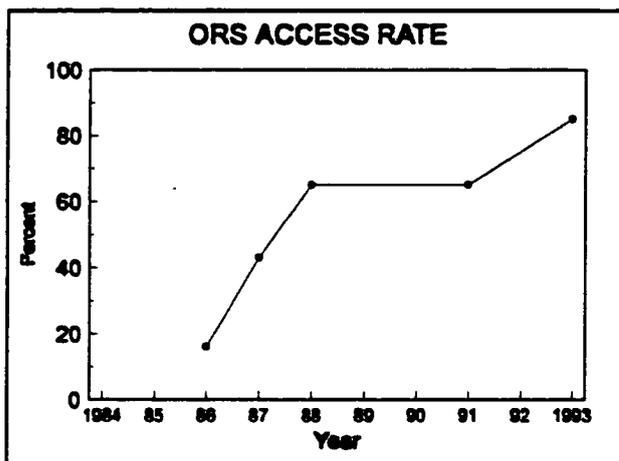
POLIO3 COVERAGE		
YEAR	PERCENT	SOURCE
1980	NA	
1981	NA	
1982	NA	
1983	NA	
1984	24	WHE8801
1985	25	WHE8801
1986	6	WHE8801
1987	10	WHE8801
1988	17	WHE8801
1989	22	WHE8900
1990	22	WHE9100
1991	22	WHE9202
1992	24	WHE9401



TT2+ COVERAGE		
YEAR	PERCENT	SOURCE
1980	NA	
1981	NA	
1982	NA	
1983	NA	
1984	NA	
1985	19	WHE8801
1986	NA	
1987	6	WHE8801
1988	5	WHE8801
1989	4	WHE8900
1990	10	WHE9200
1991	12	WHE9202
1992	21	WHE9401

ORS Access, ORS and/or RHF Use Rates

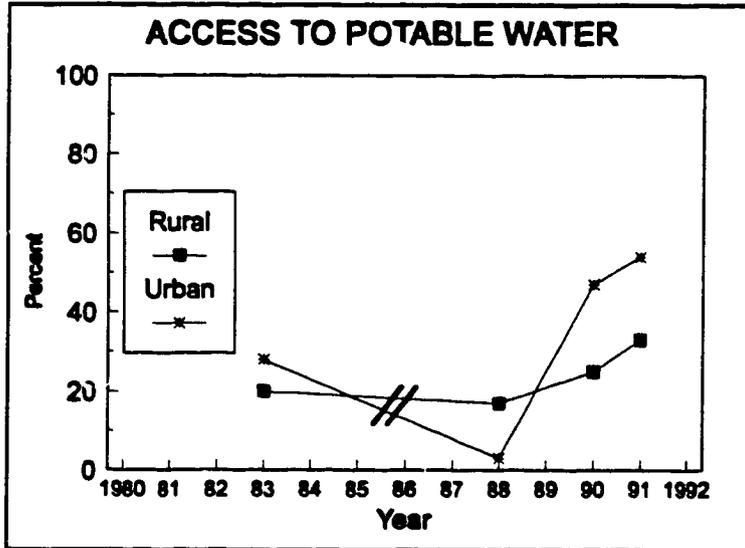
JULY 1994



INDICATOR	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
ORS Access	NA	NA	16	43	65	NA	NA	65	NA	85
Source			WHD8600	WHD8700	WHD8800			WHD8201		WHD8401
ORS/RHF Use	NA	9	4	20	30	30	NA	30	NA	55
Source		WHD8500	WHD8800	WHD8700	WHD8800	WHD8100		WHD8201		WHD8401

Access to Potable Water

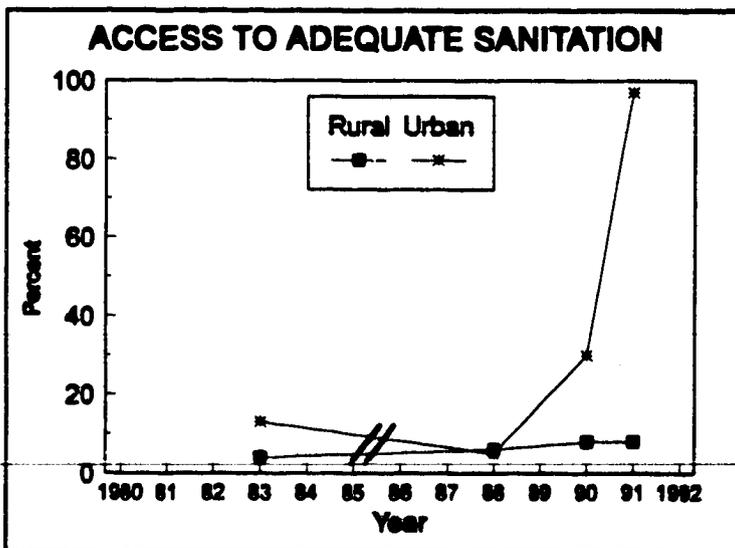
JULY 1994



YEAR	RURAL SOURCE	URBAN SOURCE
1980	NA	NA
1981	NA	NA
1982	NA	NA
1983	20 WHO9101	28 WHO9101
1984	NA	NA
1985	NA	NA
1986	NA	NA
1987	NA	NA
1988	17 WHO9101	3 WHO9101
1989	NA	NA
1990	25 WHO9200	47 WHO9200
1991	33 JMP9301	54 JMP9301
1992	NA	NA
1993	NA	NA

Access to Adequate Sanitation

JULY 1994



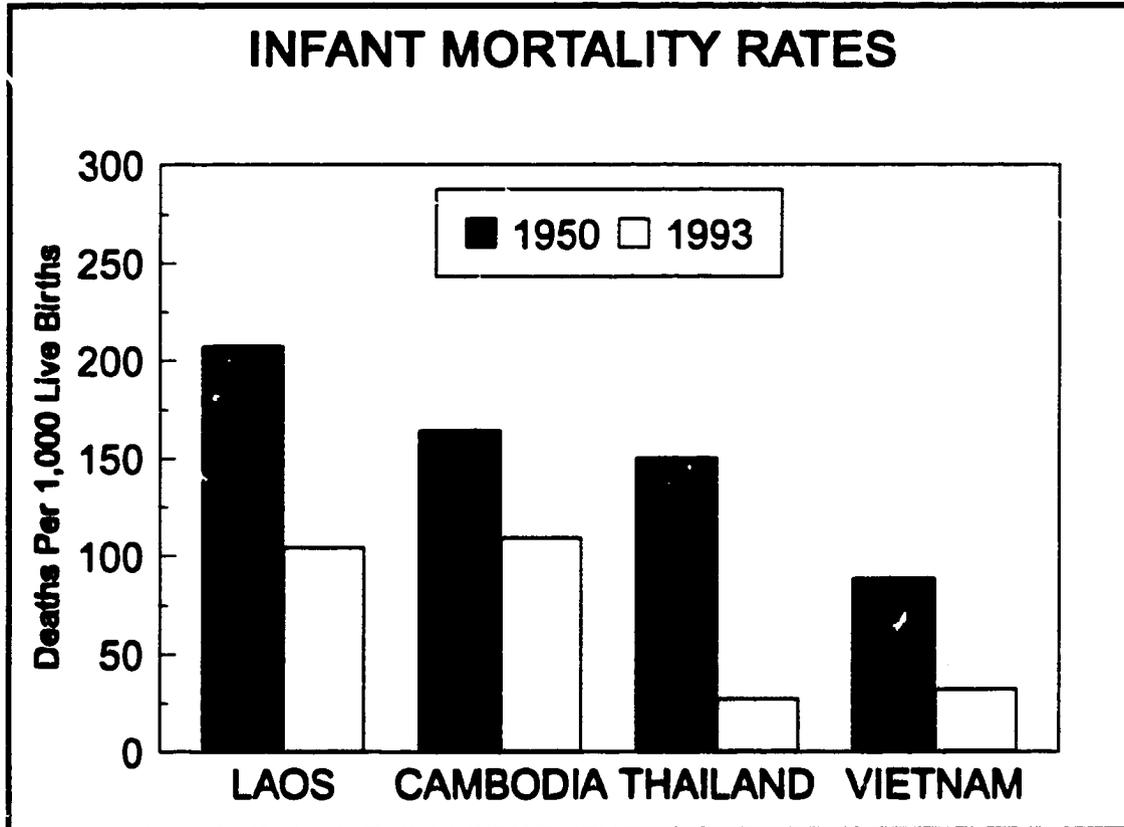
YEAR	RURAL SOURCE	URBAN SOURCE
1980	NA	NA
1981	NA	NA
1982	NA	NA
1983	4 WHO9101	13 WHO9101
1984	NA	NA
1985	NA	NA
1986	NA	NA
1987	NA	NA
1988	6 WHO9101	5 WHO9101
1989	NA	NA
1990	8 WHO9200	30 WHO9200
1991	8 JMP9301	87 JMP9301
1992	NA	NA
1993	NA	NA



COMPARATIVE INDICATORS

Comparative IMR Rates

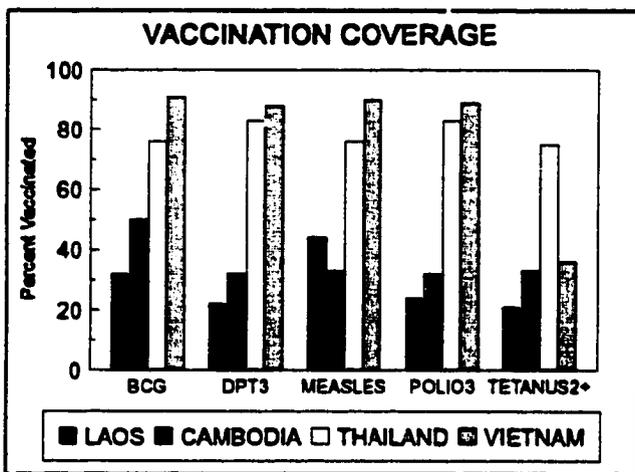
JULY 1994



COUNTRY	1950	SOURCE	1993	SOURCE
LAOS	207	BUC9302	104	BUC9302
CAMBODIA	164	BUC9302	109	BUC9302
THAILAND	150	WBK9302	27	WBK9302
VIETNAM	88	WBK9302	32	WBK9302

Comparative Vaccination Coverage Rates

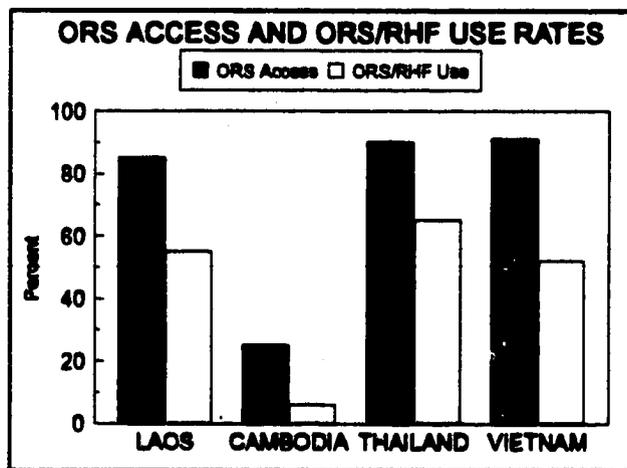
JULY 1994



COUNTRY	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	SOURCE
LAOS	BCG	1992	32	WHE9401
	DPT 3	1992	22	WHE9401
	Measles	1992	44	WHE9401
	Polio 3	1992	24	WHE9401
	Tetanus 2	1992	21	WHE9401
CAMBODIA	BCG	1992	50	WHE9301
	DPT 3	1992	32	WHE9301
	Measles	1992	33	WHE9301
	Polio 3	1992	32	WHE9301
	Tetanus 2	1992	33	WHE9301
THAILAND	BCG	1992	78	WHE9301
	DPT 3	1992	83	WHE9301
	Measles	1992	76	WHE9301
	Polio 3	1992	83	WHE9301
	Tetanus 2	1992	75	WHE9301
VIETNAM	BCG	1992	91	WHE9301
	DPT 3	1992	88	WHE9301
	Measles	1992	90	WHE9301
	Polio 3	1992	89	WHE9301
	Tetanus 2	1992	36	WHE9301

Comparative ORS Access, ORS and/or RHF Use Rates

JULY 1994



COUNTRY	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	SOURCE
LAOS	ORS Access Rate	1993	85	WHD9401
	ORT Use Rate	1993	55	WHD9401
CAMBODIA	ORS Access Rate	1989	25	WHD9100
	ORT Use Rate	1988	6	WHD9100
THAILAND	ORS Access Rate	1991	90	WHD9201
	ORT Use Rate	1992	65	WHD9300
VIETNAM	ORS Access Rate	1993	91	WHD9401
	ORT Use Rate	1993	52	WHD9401



II: DATA NOTES

JULY 1994

Notes On Mortality Estimation

Throughout this profile, references are made to infant and under 5 mortality rates for individual countries or groups of countries. In past years, the primary source of data on infant mortality was the World Population Prospects, a set of estimates updated every two years by the Estimates and Projections Section of the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations. The primary source of data on under 5 mortality was a special report published in 1988 by the same group. Where another source, such as a recent Demographic and Health Survey or a national census, was available for a given country, the reported values from that source were cited in place of the United Nations estimates if the technical staff of USAID in the Country Mission and/or the appropriate regional bureaus confirmed the validity of the alternative source.

Known as indirect estimates, those of the United Nations are generated from accepted demographic models which combine the results of all available surveys and censuses in a given country to produce a single time series of estimates and projections. When new empirical data becomes available for a given country, the entire time series of estimates and projections is updated. Thus, using conventional demographic approaches, a survey done in 1990 may generate a new estimate of a mortality rate for 1970 or 1980.

During 1993, a new set of estimates for mortality was generated for 82 countries for publication in the World

Development Report 1993 and a forthcoming UNICEF publication entitled The Progress of Nations. Based on a curve-fitting model, the methodology applied to generate these new estimates purports to depict more accurately the trend derived from all available data sources for a country. Like the estimates generated using conventional demographic models, the entire time series might change upon the addition of a new empirical source. These estimates were made available to USAID through the courtesy of the World Development Report of the World Bank and UNICEF.

The selection of the mortality rates was done through a consultative process involving representatives of the Office of Health in USAID's Research and Development Bureau, USAID's Regional Bureaus and, in many cases, the USAID Country Missions. The source determined to best reflect the reality in a country for the current values of infant and under 5 mortality was identified and one of a number of a computation procedures, depending on the source selected for the current value, was applied to estimate the longitudinal rates. The consideration of the additional source of data developed for the World Development Report and UNICEF during the consultative process has prompted some changes in the reporting of mortality rates from those reported in recent years.

Definitions

Demographic Indicators

Total Population: The mid-year estimate of the total number of individuals in a country.

Average Annual Rate of Growth: An estimate of the rate at which a population is increasing (or decreasing) in a given year.

Infant Mortality Rate: The estimated number of deaths in infants (children under age one) in a given year per 1,000 live births in that same year. This rate may be calculated by direct methods (counting births and deaths) or by indirect methods (applying well-established demographic models).

Under 5 Mortality Rate: The estimated number of children born in a given year who will die before reaching age five per thousand live births in that same year. This rate may also be calculated by direct or indirect methods.

Maternal Mortality Ratio: The estimated number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births where a maternal death is one which occurs when a woman is pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management. Although sometimes referred to as a rate, this measure is actually a ratio because the unit of measurement of the numerator (maternal deaths) is different than that of the denominator (live births). The measure would be a rate if the units were the same. Extremely difficult to measure, maternal mortality can be derived from vital registration systems (usually underestimated), community studies and surveys (requires very large sample sizes) or hospital registration (usually overestimated).

Crude Birth Rate: An estimate of the number of live births per 1,000 population in a given year.

Crude Death Rate: An estimate of the number of deaths per 1,000 population in a given year.

II: Data Notes

Life Expectancy At Birth: An estimate of the average number of years a newborn can expect to live. Life expectancy is computed from age-specific death rates for a given year. It should be noted that low life expectancies in developing countries are, in large part, due to high infant mortality.

Number of Births: An estimate of the number of births occurring in a given year.

Annual Infant Deaths: An estimate of the number of deaths occurring to children under age one in a given year.

Total Fertility Rate: An estimate of the average number of children a woman would bear during her lifetime given current age-specific fertility rates.

Child Survival Indicators

Vaccination Coverage In Children: An estimate of the proportion of living children between the ages of 12 and 23 months who have been vaccinated before their first birthday--three times in the cases of polio and DPT and once for both measles and BCG. Vaccination coverage rates are calculated in two ways. Administrative estimates are based on reports of the number of inoculations of an antigen given during a year to children who have not yet reached their first birthday divided by an estimate of the pool of children under one year of age eligible for vaccination. Survey estimates are based on samples of children between the ages of 12 and 23 months.

Vaccination Coverage In Mothers: An estimate of the proportion of women in a given time period who have received two doses of tetanus toxoid during their pregnancies. This indicator is being changed in many countries to account for the cumulative effect of tetanus toxoid boosters. A woman and her baby are protected against tetanus when a mother has

had only one or, perhaps, no boosters during a given pregnancy so long as the woman had received the appropriate number of boosters in the years preceding the pregnancy in question. (The appropriate number of boosters required during any given pregnancy varies with number received previously and the time elapsed.) The revised indicator is referred to as TT2+. Rates are computed using administrative methods or surveys.

DPT Drop-out Rate: An estimate of the proportion of living children between the ages of 12 and 23 months who received at least one DPT vaccination but who did not receive the entire series of three vaccinations before their first birthdays.

Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) Access Rate: An estimate of the proportion of the population under age five with reasonable access to a trained provider of oral rehydration salts who receives adequate supplies. This is a particularly difficult indicator to measure and, therefore, it may fluctuate dramatically from year to year as improved methods of estimation are devised.

ORS and/or Recommended Home Fluid (RHF) Use Rate: An estimate of the proportion of all cases of diarrhea in children under age five treated with ORS and/or a recommended home fluid. ORT use may be determined using administrative means or surveys. In general, administrative estimates are based on estimates of the number of episodes of diarrhea in the target population for a given year and the quantity of ORS available. Thus, changes in the estimates of the frequency of diarrhea episodes can alter the ORT use rate as well as "real" changes in the pattern of use. Surveys are more precise in that they focus on the actual behavior of mothers in treating diarrhea in the two-week period prior to the survey.

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate: An estimate of the proportion of women, aged 15 through 44 (or, in some countries, 15 through 49), in union or married, currently using a modern method of contraception. Where sources fail to distinguish modern and traditional methods, the combined rate is shown.

Adequate Nutritional Status: An individual child of a certain age is said to be adequately nourished if his/her weight is greater than the weight corresponding to "two Z-scores" (two standard deviations) below the median weight achieved by children of that age. The median weight and the distribution of weights around that median in a healthy population are taken from a standard established by the National Center for Health Statistics, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). The indicator for the population as a whole is the proportion of children 12 through 23 months of age who are adequately nourished.

Appropriate Infant Feeding: A composite estimate of the proportion of infants (children under age one) being breastfed and receiving other foods at an appropriate age according to the following criteria: breastfed through infancy with no bottle-feeding, exclusively breastfed through four months (120 days) of age, and receiving other foods if over six months of age (181 days). Water is not acceptable in the first four months (120 days). ORS is considered acceptable at any age. Surveys are the only source of data to form this indicator. Surveys yield an estimate of how many infants are being fed correctly at the moment of the survey. They do not give an indication of the proportion of individual children fed appropriately throughout their first year of life. A number of sub-indicators may be calculated from the data used to form the composite, of which two are presented in this report.



Exclusive Breastfeeding: An estimate of the proportion of infants less than four months (120 days) of age who receive no foods or liquids other than breast milk.

Complementary Feeding: An estimate of the proportion of infants six to nine months of age (181 days to 299 days) still breastfeeding but also receiving complementary weaning foods.

Continued Breastfeeding: An estimate of the proportion of children breastfed for at least one year. In this report, all values presented for this indicator are the proportion of children 12 to 15 months of age at the time of the survey still receiving breast milk.

Other Health Indicators

HIV-1 Seroprevalence, Urban: An estimate of the proportion of all persons (pregnant women, blood donors, and other persons with no known risk factors) living in urban areas infected with HIV-1, the most virulent and globally prevalent strain of the human immunodeficiency virus.

HIV-1 Seroprevalence, Rural: An estimate of the proportion of all persons living in rural areas infected with HIV-1.

Access to Improved Water, Urban: An estimate of the proportion of all persons living in urban areas (defined roughly as population centers of 2,000 or more persons) who live within 200 meters of a stand pipe or fountain source of water.

Access to Improved Water, Rural: An estimate of the proportion of all persons not living in urban areas with a source of water close enough to home that family members do not spend a disproportionate amount of time fetching water.

Access to Sanitation, Urban: An estimate of the proportion of all persons living in urban areas with

sanitation service provided through sewer systems or individual in-house or in-compound excreta disposal facilities (latrines).

Access to Sanitation, Rural: An estimate of the proportion of all persons not living in urban areas with sanitation coverage provided through individual in-house or in-compound excreta disposal facilities (latrines).

Deliveries by Trained Attendants: An estimate of the proportion of deliveries attended by at least one physician, nurse, midwife, or trained traditional birth attendant.

III: SOURCES

JULY 1994

- BUC9103 Bureau of Census, Center for International Research, Recent HIV Seroprevalence Levels By Country, April, 1992
- BUC9300 United States Bureau of the Census, Facsimile from Peter Johnson dated 3/3/93. Data prepared following the meeting on mortality estimation, 2/25/93.
- BUC9302 Time series estimates of Infant Mortality generated by applying the ratio of the BUCEN estimate for 1992 to the World Population Prospects estimate for 1992 to the annual values dating back to 1950 as estimated in the World Population Prospects. Under 5 Mortality estimates are calculated by applying the appropriate Coale-Demeny model to the Infant Mortality estimates.
- BUC9401 U.S. Bureau of the Census (BUCEN). International Data Base. Version dated March, 1994.
- CALXX0 Calculated from the values for total population, crude birth rate and infant mortality from designated sources for those variables.
- JMP9301 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme. Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Monitoring Report 1993. Sector Status as of December 1991. WHO and UNICEF. August, 1993.
- UNP9200 Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations. World Population Prospects 1992. (ST/ESA/SER.A/120) New York: UN, 1992.
- WBK9302 Mortality rate time series generated from Ken Hill equations provided in a personal communication, March, 1993. The equations were developed for the World Development Report, 1993 and a UNICEF publication, The Progress of Nations.
- WHD8500 World Health Organization. Programme for Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases: Fourth Programme Report 1983-1984. (WHO/CDD/85.13) Geneva: WHO, 1985.
- WHD8600 World Health Organization. Programme for Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases: Fifth Programme Report 1984-1985. (WHO/CDD/86.16) Geneva: WHO, 1986.
- WHD8700 World Health Organization. Programme for Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases: Interim Programme Report 1986. (WHO/CDD/87.26) Geneva: WHO, 1987.
- WHD8800 World Health Organization. Programme for Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases: Sixth Programme Report 1986-1987. (WHO/CDD/88.28) Geneva: WHO, 1988.
- WHD9100 World Health Organization. Programme for Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases: Interim Programme Report 1990. (WHO/CDD/91.36) Geneva: WHO, 1991.
- WHD9201 Programme For Control Of Diarrhoeal Diseases. Eighth Programme Report 1990-1991. WHO/CDD/92.38. Geneva: World Health Organization, 1992.



III: Sources

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- WHD9401 Advanced Copy of Annex 1 of the WHO/CDR Annual Report, Received by facsimile, March 29, 1994.
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