

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20523
BIBLIOGRAPHIC INPUT SHEET

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Batch 72

1. SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION	A. PRIMARY Serials	Y-NH00-0000-0000
	B. SECONDARY Health--Maternal and child health care	

2. TITLE AND SUBTITLE
Inter-American Investigation of Mortality in Childhood; report, July-Dec., 1972

3. AUTHOR(S)
(101) Pan Am. Health Organization

4. DOCUMENT DATE 1973	5. NUMBER OF PAGES 2p.	6. ARC NUMBER ARC
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7. REFERENCE ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS
PAHO

8. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES (Sponsoring Organization, Publishers, Availability)
(Research summary)

9. ABSTRACT

10. CONTROL NUMBER PN-RAB-716	11. PRICE OF DOCUMENT
12. DESCRIPTORS Mortality Children	13. PROJECT NUMBER
	14. CONTRACT NUMBER CSD-1431 RES.
	15. TYPE OF DOCUMENT



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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INTER-AMERICAN INVESTIGATION OF MORTALITY IN CHILDHOOD

Report to the Agency for International Development

Period: 1 July-31 December 1972

1431

The Central Office staff have devoted full time to the analysis of the data collected in the Investigation. The last of the questionnaires (for unregistered deaths) were received from Chile in August 1972 and also the last ones from Sherbrooke in August. Questionnaires from these two projects were immediately processed and by October data from all projects were combined into tables for a final report.

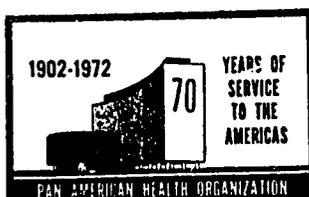
The book Patterns of Mortality in Childhood, and in Spanish Características de la Mortalidad en la Niñez, is now underway. Translation has been completed for half of the chapters. The Editorial Section and the Visual Aid Section of the Organization are assisting in this final work.

In December the first three chapters in English were given to the printer. The last schedule calls for release of the publication in English on April 1, 1973, and the Spanish soon after (by another printer).

At this time, over half of the book is in the hands of the Editorial Section, all other chapters are written except the final one which is partly drafted. Thus, major efforts of the Organization are being directed to the release of this report as soon as possible after the completion of the field work and receipt of the questionnaires.

Because of the important contributions of the principal collaborators and their staff, it is advisable to make this valuable material available to them and to the ministries of health and medical institutions and international agencies as soon as possible for actions for the improvement of health of children. Other report will follow with more intensive analysis of certain aspects of the findings. However, the analysis of mortality has uncovered many problems that require immediate action. For the first time the seriousness of nutritional deficiency and immaturity are being documented. These problems are so serious that the vicious circle of nutritional deficiency and immaturity must be broken by sufficient food to mothers to produce healthy and intelligent children.

A member of the staff of the Investigation participated in the second regional meeting held in Lima, Perú, 7-11 August 1972, for study of proposals for the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases and contributed to the discussion of various chapters with the experience obtained in this continental study. The proposal of classification of nutritional deficiencies developed by the



Investigation with the assistance of a consultation group was accepted by the regional meeting.

Many of the highlights of the findings were presented to the country representatives, zone chiefs, and staff of the Pan American Health Organization on November 1972. They will assist in the utilization of the material for health planning and actions throughout the Continent.