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LIBERIA 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 preceeding 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 demog. phic 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

JULY 1994

I: Health & Demographic Overview	1
Current Demographic and Health Indicators	1
Trends in Selected Demographic and Health Indicators	2
Population Estimates/Pyramid	3
Trends in Selected Health and Child Survival Indicators	4
Vaccination Coverage Rates	4
ORS Access, ORS and/or RHF Use Rates	6
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	6
Access to Potable Water	7
Access to Adequate Sanitation	7
Comparative Indicators	8
Comparative IMR Rates	8
Comparative Vaccination Coverage Rates	9
Comparative ORS Access, ORS and/or RHF Use Rates	9
II: Data Notes	10
III: Sources *	13

* 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

JULY 1994

INDECATOR VALUE YEAR SOURCE Total Population 2,853,400 1993 UNP9200 Women Ages 15-49 614,600 1993 UNP9200 Under 5 Mortality 144 1984 DHS8009 Moter 5 Mortality 220 1984 DHS8009 Maternal Mortality NA UNP9200 Annual Infant Deaths 134,141 1993 UNP9200 Annual Infant Deaths 134,141 1993 UNP9200 Annual Infant Deaths 19,316 1993 CALXX01 Total Fertility Rate 6.8 1993 UNP9200 UNP9200 Child Survival Indicators	Demographic Indicators				
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Other Health IndicatorsINDICATORPERCENTYEARSOURCEHIV-1 Seroprevalence01991BUC9103Urban01991BUC9103Rural01991BUC9103Access to Improved Water351991JMP9301Jiban351991JMP9301Rural181988AID9012Access to Sanitation551991JMP9301Jiban551991JMP9301Rural551991JMP9301Diban551991JMP9301Rural551991JMP9301Celiveries/Trained AttendantsNA55	Continued Breastfeeding	68	1986	DHS8809	
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Access to Sanitation 55 1991 JMP9301 Jiban 55 1991 JMP9301 Rural 55 1991 JMP9301 Deliveries/Trained Attendants NA	Rural	18	1988	AID9012	
Jiban 55 1991 JMP9301 Rural 55 1991 JMP9301 Deliveries/Trained Attendants NA NA	Access to Sanitation				
Rural 55 1991 JMP9301 Deliveries/Trained Attendants NA	Urban	55	1991	JMP9301	
Deliveries/Trained Attendants NA	Rural	55	1991	JMP9301	
	Deliveries/Trained Attendants	NA			

NA = Notavailable

Trends in Selected Demographic and Health Indicators

INDICATOR	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	SOURCE
Infant Mortality	203	197	191	185	179	16-	156	140	127	115	105	WBK930?
Under Five Mortality	303	294	285	276	268	250	233	209	188	168	151	WBK9302
Crude Birth Rate	47	49	50	50	49	48	47	47	47	46	43	UNP9200
Crude Death Rate	28	26	25	23	21	19	17	16	15	13	12	UNP9200
Avg. Annual Growth Rate	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	UNP9200
Total Fertility Rate	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.1	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 clousally 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





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



	BCG COVERAGE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
YEAR	PERCENT	SOURCE
1980	NA	
1981	87	WHE8700
1982	NA	
1983	NA	
1984	NA	
1985	NA	
1986	41	WHE8900
1987	41	WHE8900
1988	62	WHE8900
1989	NA	
1990	NA	
1991	NA	
1992	NA	

	DPT3 COVERAGE	
YEAR	PERCENT	SOURCE
1980	NA	
1981	39	WHE8700
1982	NA	
1983	23	WHE8700
1984	NA	
1985	6	A1D9008
1986	27	AID9008
1987	28	A1D9008
1988	28	AID9008
1989	28	WHE9200
1990	NA	
1991	NA	
1992	NA	

		<u> </u>					
M	MEASLES COVERAGE						
YEAR	PERCENT	SOURCE					
1980	NA						
1981	99	WHE8701					
1982	NA						
1983	NA						
1984	NA						
1985	29	AID9008					
1986	59	AID9008					
1987	47	AID9008					
1988	51	A1D9008					
1989	55	WHE9200					
1990	NA						
1991	NA						
1992	NA						

1980 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 1992 Year

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0



Vaccination Coverage Rates, continued

ORS Access, ORS and/or RHF Use Rates JULY 1994



INDICATOR	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
ORS Access	NA	13	NA	9	22	NA	NA	NA	30	NA
Source		WHD8700		WHD8900	WHD9000				WHD9300	
ORS/RHF Use	NA	1	NA	9	9	NA	NA	NA	15	NA
Source		WHD8700		WHD8900	WHD9001				WHD9300	

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate

JULY 1994

6



YEAR	MODERN METHODS	SOURCE	ALL METHODS	SOURCE
1984	NA		NA	
1985	NA		NA	
1986	6	DHS8809	6	DHS8809
1987	NA		NA	
1988	NA		NA	
1989	NA		NA	
1990	NA		NA	
1991	NA		NA	
1992	NA		NA	



JULY 1994



YEAR	RURAL	SOURCE	URBAN	SOURCE
1980	10	AID9012	30	A:D9012
1981	NA		NA	
1982	NA		NA	
1983	20	WHO9101	71	WHO9101
1984	NA		NA	
1985	23	WHO9101	100	WHO9101
1986	NA		NA	
1987	NA		NA	
1988	18	AID9012	87	AID9012
1989	NA		NA	
1990	NA		NA	
1991	NA		35	JMP9301
1992	NA		NA	
1993	NA		NA	

Access to Adequate Sanitarion



YEAR	RURAL	SOURCE	URBAN	SOURCE
1980	NA		NA	
1981	NA		NA	
1982	NA		NA	
1983	20	WHO9101	NA	
1984	NA		NA	
1985	2	WHO9101	NA	
1986	NA		NA	
1987	NA		NA	
1988	5	AID9012	10	AID9012
1989	NA		NA	
1990	NA		NA	
1991	55	JMP9301	55	JMP9301
1992	NA		NA	
1993	NA		NA	

COMPARATIVE INDICATORS Comparative IMR Rates



COUNTRY	1950	SOURCE	1993	SOURCE
LIBERIA	203	WBK9302	120	WBK9302
COTE D'IVOIRE	198	BUC9302	93	BUC9302
GUINEA	244	BUC9302	142	BUC9302
SIERRA LEONE	228	WBK9302	203	WBK9302

Comparative Vaccination Coverage Rates

JULY 1994



COUNTRY	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	SOURCE
LIBERIA	BCG	1988	62	WHE8900
	DPT 3	1989	28	WHE9200
	Measles	1989	55	WHE9200
	Polio 3	1988	28	WHE8900
	l fetanus 2	1988	20	WHE8900
COTE	BCG	1991	63	WHE9200
D'IVOIRE	DPT 3	1991	48	WHE9200
	Measles	1991	42	WHE9200
	Polio 3	1991	48	WHE9200
	Tetanus 2	1991	63	WHE9200
GUINEA	BCG	1993	76	WHE9401
	DPT 3	1993	55	WHE9401
	Measles	1993	57	WHE9401
	Polio 3	1993	55	WHE9401
	Tetanus 2	1993	61	WHE9401
SIERRA	BCG	1992	87	WHE9401
LEONE	DPT 3	1992	64	WHE940*
	Measles	1992	61	WHE9401
	Polio 3	1992	64	WHE9401
	Tetanus 2	1992	80	WHE9401

Comparative ORS Access, ORS and/or RHF Use Rates



II: Data Notes

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 <u>World</u>

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 wellestablished 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 registratio., (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: Duta 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 indiator 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 tirst 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 diairhea 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 bottlefeeding, 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 subindicators may be calculated from the data used to form the composite, of which two are presented in this report.

II: Data Notes



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 globa¹¹y prevalent strain of the human imm¹:nodeficiency virus.

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

Acc: sto 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 person.) 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

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AID9012	Water and Sanitation for Health Project, U.S. Agency for International Development. Water and Sanitation Sector Profiles of Twenty African Countries, June 1989.
BUC9103	Bureau of Census, Center for International Research, Recent HIV Seroprevalence Levels By Country, April, 1992
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.
CALXX01	Calculated from the values for total population, crude birth rate and infant mortality from designated sources for those variables.
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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.
WHA7805	Liberia National Nutrition Survey, 1976 Liberia National Nutrition Survey, 1976
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WHD8900	World Health Organization. Programme for Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases: Programme Report (WHO/CDD/89.31) Geneva: WHO, 1989.

III: Sources

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WHD9001	World Health Organization, Programme for Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases facsimile, March 27, 1990.
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WHD9201	Programme For Control Of Diarrhoeal Diseases. Eighth Programme Report 1990-1991. WHO/CDD/92.38. Geneva: World Health Organization, 1992.
WHD9300	World Health Organization, Programme for Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases; provisional data for Annex 1 of the Ninth Programme Report. Received by personal communication, February 16, 1993.
WHD9401	Advanced Copy of Annex 1 of the WHO/CDR Annual Report, Received by facsimile, March 29, 1994.
WHE8700	World Health Organization. Expanded Programme on Immunization Information System Report, January 1987. Geneva: WHO, 1987.
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WHE8900	World Health Organization. Expanded Programme on Immunization Information System Report, July 1989. (WHO/EPI/GEN/89.2) Geneva: WHO, 1989.
WHE9200	World Health Organization. Expanded Programme on Immunization Information System Report, April 1992. (WHO/EPI/CEIS/92.1) Geneva: WHO, 1992.
WHE9401	Download of WHO/EPI vaccination coverage files from INTERNET, March 24, 1994.
WHO9101	World Health Organization. World Health Organization Disk: Water Supply and Sanitation Service Coverage. Geneva: WHO, October 29, 1991.

