



Health Inequality Data Repository

INDICATOR METADATA

Under-five mortality (UN IGME)

June 2024

Under-five mortality (UN IGME)

About

This dataset is from the [WHO Health Inequality Data Repository](#).

This dataset contains data for under-five mortality rate estimates disaggregated by economic status and sex produced by the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME).

The [UN IGME](#) is led by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and includes the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as full members.

Data source

Under-five mortality rates are published by the UN IGME here: <https://childmortality.org/>.

Methodology

The UN IGME applies a common estimation method across all countries in the interest of comparability. A description of the methodology for calculating the estimates is available here: <https://childmortality.org/methods>.

Under-five mortality rates by wealth quintile on the basis of household wealth indices is estimated using a penalized B-splines regression model. The data used are from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). Caution is advised when interpreting estimates based on years when there was no survey data, as extrapolations using past trends were used to determine trends in the most recent years. More details on the methods used are available in [Chao et al. 2016](#).

Dataset metadata

Date of first publication	April 2023
Date of updated publication	June 2024
Expected frequency of update	Annual
Date of data extraction	22 April 2024
Temporal coverage	1950–2022
Spatial coverage	Global
Spatial granularity	National
Number of countries, territories or areas	194
Number of indicators	1
Number of dimensions of inequality	2

Inequality dimensions

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Economic status is based on a wealth index from household surveys. Within each country the index was divided into five equal subgroups that each account for a quintile, or 20%, of the population.

Sex (male and female).

Disclaimer

The estimates presented may differ from, and should not be regarded as, the official national statistics of individual WHO Member States or official WHO estimates.

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Indicator metadata

Indicator name	Disaggregation	Definition / Further information	Notes
Median under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1000 live births)	Economic status Sex	Probability of dying between birth and five years of age, expressed per 1000 live births.	Further information: https://childmortality.org/methods Explanatory notes: https://childmortality.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/UN-IGME_explanatory-note_EN_2023.pdf