

## INTRODUCTION

These are instructions for the use of QFIVE, a computer program to estimate mortality in childhood. The program has been prepared to accompany the *Step-by-Step Guide to the Estimation of Child Mortality*. QFIVE produces estimates of infant mortality (the probability of dying between birth and exact age 1), child mortality (the probability of dying between exact ages 1 and 5) and under-five mortality (the probability of dying between birth and exact age 5) by applying the two versions of the Brass method described in the *Guide*: the Trussell version, which is based on the Coale-Demeny model life tables, and the Palloni-Heligman version, based on the United Nations model life tables for developing countries.

Anyone familiar with the contents of the *Guide*, even the inexperienced computer user, should find QFIVE simple to use. Its design follows that of *Mortpak-Lite, the United Nations Software Package for Mortality Measurement: Interactive Software for the IBM-PC and Compatibles*.<sup>a</sup> The chapters that follow describe the hardware requirements of QFIVE, the use of the program itself and the output it produces. Self-explanatory screens guide the user during each application, making QFIVE a useful self-teaching tool.

Knowledge of the estimation methodology, however, is essential. Appropriate use and interpretation of the estimates yielded by QFIVE demand a good understanding of the methods applied and their limitations. The user is referred to the *Guide* for an in-depth discussion of these topics.

The input required for QFIVE is described in the *Guide* for the different versions of the Brass method. It consists mainly of the number of children ever born and surviving, or dead, classified by age of mother and the number of women classified by age. In order to minimize hand calculations in the preparation of input data, QFIVE accepts as input several data combinations that permit the calculation of the basic information needed to apply the method.

The Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat would welcome any comments on the performance of QFIVE that might help improve future software development activities. For further information concerning QFIVE, please contact the Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York, New York 10017.

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<sup>a</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIII.2.