

III. GUIDE TO NOTATION AND LAYOUT OF DATABASE

Each developing country that had both an estimated population of 1 million or more in 1990 and some nationally representative data relevant to the estimation of child mortality between 1960 and 1990 appears as a separate section of the database. The requirement that a country should have nationally representative data resulted in the exclusion of some countries with substantial amounts of data pertinent to the estimation of child mortality, but none that is nationally representative. Each section follows a common pattern. First, data sources are reviewed in the order of vital registration, censuses and sample surveys. Value judgements about data quality are usually not included, but the geographical limitations of each data set, where known, are included.

A. LAYOUT OF DATA SOURCES

The existence of vital registration data is shown in terms of the reported completeness of registration of infant deaths. Countries report the completeness of their vital registration data to the United Nations Statistical Office. "Complete" means that, as assessed by the country, 90 per cent or more of events of a particular type are registered. "Incomplete" means that fewer than 90 per cent of events are registered; such data are usually of no value for monitoring either levels or trends of child mortality. Some countries simply do not report assessments of registration completeness, and this uncertain status is reported in the database.

Censuses are mentioned only if they included Brass questions on children ever born and children dead (or surviving), permitting the indirect estimation of child mortality. Surveys also are listed only if they collected data relevant to the estimation of child mortality. Surveys that collected maternity histories are listed first, followed by surveys that included Brass questions, followed by longitudinal follow-up surveys. Within each category, surveys are listed chronologically.

B. LAYOUT OF DATABASE

Within the database proper, estimates from vital registration are given first, followed by measures of child mortality from official life-tables. Estimates from censuses and surveys follow, in chronological order of data collection. Indirect estimates are presented in a standard form. Women are classified by five-year age groups from 15-19 to 45-49 (or for all age groups within this range for which data are available). Estimates of levels and reference dates are obtained using the Trussell (United Nations, 1983) or Palloni and Heligman (1986) methods. A single standard model life-table family is used for each country on the basis of available information on the age pattern of child mortality for the country. This model is used for indirect estimation and also for converting estimates into common indices ${}_1q_0$ and ${}_5q_0$ for comparison purposes. Maternity history and longitudinal survey data are presented in the form of ${}_1q_0$ and ${}_5q_0$ estimates, in general for a maximum of three five-year time periods, although in some duly noted cases, the estimates are for birth cohorts of children. References for the basic data are given below each table. Where the data are available in sufficient detail, both direct and indirect estimates based on maternity histories are presented. For those countries which participated in the World Fertility Survey programme and used an extended household sample, the indirect estimates given in the database are derived from the extended sample rather than the individual woman sample, and they can therefore be regarded as largely independent observations.

The estimates of ${}_1q_0$ and ${}_5q_0$ given in the tables are summarized by time period in the two graphs that complete each country section. Indirect estimates based on reports of women aged 15-19 are excluded from these graphs, on the grounds that the estimates are frequently distorted. For some countries with particularly rich data sources, it is not possible to

include all the estimates on the graph. Direct estimates from maternity history surveys and indirect estimates from censuses were always included when

available, but some other sets of estimates were not included, particularly where the overlap between sets of estimates is substantial.

