

## PREFACE

In the 1990s the United Nations held a series of global conferences addressing a number of economic and social issues of international concern. Besides identifying targets to measure progress in particular fields, these conferences succeeded in forging a consensus on the development issues confronting the international community. The United Nations is now engaged in the review and appraisal of progress in achieving the goals and objectives of those conferences.

The present publication grew out of the participation of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in activities aimed at ensuring a coordinated and system-wide implementation of the goals and commitments adopted by the conferences. In 1997, the Population Division issued a *Wall Chart on Basic Social Services for All*, as a contribution to the work of the system-wide ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All. The chart brought together key statistical indicators relevant to the goals adopted at the recent conferences. However, that format precluded an analytic summary of the information or background information about the data sources, coverage and quality. While further information about each indicator is available from the responsible United Nations agencies, this information is scattered among a variety of sources. Recognizing the desirability of an accessible and concise and updated analytic summary of these key indicators, the Population Division has issued the present report.

The report provides information on 12 key socio-economic indicators related to the goals of the conferences. Goals are explicitly identified in documents adopted at the above-mentioned global conferences, particularly, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II). The indicators are: total population, access to health services, contraceptive prevalence, underweight prevalence among preschool children, maternal mortality, infant and child mortality, life expectancy at birth, school enrolment, adult illiteracy, access to safe water, access to sanitation, and floor area per person. The data are the latest available as of September 1999.

## PREFACE

Acknowledgements are due to the various United Nations offices and specialized agencies that assisted in the preparation of the publication. Particular thanks are due to the following organizations which provided data and valuable comments on earlier drafts: the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (chap. II, IV, V, X and XI); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (chap. VIII and IX); the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (chap. XII); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and the World Health Organization (WHO) (chap. IV, V, X, and XI). Acknowledgement is also due to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, which provided partial support for the printing of this publication.

*Charting the Progress of Populations*, as well as other population information, may also be accessed on the Population Division POPIN world wide web site at [www.popin.org](http://www.popin.org).

Comments or questions about this report are welcome. Readers may contact the Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, United States of America, at fax 1-212-963-2147, or e-mail to [population@un.org](mailto:population@un.org). For further information regarding specific indicators, contact the offices or agencies cited in the source notes.

## CONTENTS

Preface .....	iii
Explanatory notes .....	x
Introduction and overview .....	1
<i>Chapter</i>	
I. TOTAL POPULATION .....	11
II. ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES .....	15
III. CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE .....	21
IV. UNDERWEIGHT PREVALENCE AMONG PRESCHOOL CHILDREN .....	27
V. MATERNAL MORTALITY .....	33
VI. INFANT MORTALITY AND UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY .....	39
VII. LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH .....	45
VIII. GROSS ENROLMENT FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL COMBINED .....	51
IX. ADULT ILLITERACY .....	59
X. ACCESS TO SAFE WATER .....	67
XI. ACCESS TO SANITATION .....	73
XII. FLOOR AREA PER PERSON .....	79
Annex table. Data for 12 indicators, by country .....	85

## CONTENTS

### TABLES

II.1.	Distribution of countries according to access to health services, 1985-1995 .....	17
II.2.	Global and regional estimates of prenatal care and deliveries attended by skilled personnel, around 1996 .....	19
III.1.	Distribution of countries according to contraceptive prevalence .....	23
IV.1.	Distribution of countries according to underweight prevalence among preschool children, 1990-1998 .....	29
V.1.	Distribution of countries according to estimated maternal mortality ratio, 1990 ....	34
VI.1.	Distribution of countries according to infant mortality rate, 1995-2000 .....	41
VI.2.	Distribution of countries according to under-5 mortality rate, 1995-2000 .....	41
VII.1.	Distribution of countries according to life expectancy at birth, 1995-2000 .....	47
VIII.1.	Distribution of countries according to gross enrolment ratio for primary and secondary school combined, 1990-1996 .....	53
VIII.2.	Distribution of countries according to difference in school enrolment ratio between sexes, 1990-1996 .....	55
IX.1.	Distribution of countries in the less developed regions according to adult illiteracy rate, 1995 .....	61
IX.2.	Distribution of countries in the less developed regions according to percentage point difference in adult illiteracy between sexes, 1995 .....	62
X.1.	Distribution of countries according to percentage of population with access to safe water, 1990-1998 .....	69
XI.1.	Distribution of countries according to percentage of population with access to sanitation, 1990-1998 .....	75
XII.1.	Distribution of countries according to floor area per person, 1990-1995 .....	80
XII.2.	Distribution of cities according to floor area per person, 1990-1995 .....	81

## FIGURES

A.	12 indicators, by country ranking and region .....	5
I.1.	Total population, 1999 .....	12
I.2.	Estimated and projected growth of the world population, 1950-2050 .....	12
I.3.	Distribution of world population, 1999, and the increase in population, 1999-2015 .....	13
II.1.	Percentage of population with access to health services, 1985-1995 .....	16
II.2.	Access to health services, 1985-1995, by country ranking and region .....	17
II.3.	Distribution of population in the less developed regions, by access to health services, 1985-1995 .....	18
III.1.	Contraceptive prevalence .....	22
III.2.	Contraceptive prevalence, by country ranking and region .....	24
III.3.	Distribution of married women of reproductive age, by contraceptive prevalence .....	25
IV.1.	Underweight prevalence among preschool children, 1990-1998 .....	28
IV.2.	Underweight prevalence among preschool children, 1990-1998, by country ranking and region .....	29
IV.3.	Distribution of population under-5 in the less developed regions, by underweight prevalence, 1990-1998 .....	30
V.1.	Maternal mortality ratio, 1990 .....	34
V.2.	Maternal mortality ratio, 1990, by country ranking and region .....	35
V.3.	Distribution of female population of reproductive age, by maternal mortality ratio, 1990 .....	36

## CONTENTS

### FIGURES *(continued)*

VI.1.	Infant mortality rate, 1995-2000 .....	40
VI.2.	Under-5 mortality rate, 1995-2000 .....	40
VI.3.	Infant and under-5 mortality rates, 1995-2000, by country ranking and region ...	42
VI.4.	Distribution of child population by infant and under-5 mortality rates, 1995-2000 .....	43
VII.1.	Life expectancy at birth, 1995-2000 (both sexes) .....	46
VII.2.	Life expectancy at birth, 1995-2000, by country ranking and region .....	47
VII.3.	Distribution of world population by life expectancy at birth, 1995-2000 .....	48
VIII.1.	Gross enrolment ratio for primary and secondary school combined, 1990-1996 (both sexes) .....	52
VIII.2.	School enrolment ratio, 1990-1996, by country ranking and region .....	53
VIII.3.	Distribution of under-15 population by school enrolment ratio, 1990-1996 (both sexes) .....	54
VIII.4.	Sex difference in school enrolment ratio, 1990-1996, by country ranking and region .....	55
VIII.5.	Distribution of under-15 girls and boys by school enrolment ratio, 1990-1996 ....	56
IX.1.	Adult illiteracy rate, 1995 (both sexes) .....	60
IX.2.	Adult illiteracy rate, 1995, by country ranking and region .....	61
IX.3.	Distribution of adult population in the less developed regions, by adult illiteracy rate, 1995 .....	62
IX.4.	Sex difference in adult illiteracy rate, 1995, by country ranking and region .....	63

**FIGURES** *(continued)*

IX.5.	Distribution of the female and male adult populations in the less developed regions, by literacy status, 1995 .....	63
X.1.	Percentage of population with access to safe water, 1990-1998 .....	68
X.2.	Percentage of population with access to safe water, 1990-1998, by country ranking and region .....	69
X.3.	Distribution of population in the less developed regions, by access to safe water, 1990-1998 .....	70
XI.1.	Percentage of population with access to sanitation, 1990-1998 .....	74
XI.2.	Percentage of population with access to sanitation, 1990-1998, by country ranking and region .....	75
XI.3.	Distribution of population in the less developed regions, by access to sanitation, 1990-1998 .....	76
XII.1.	Floor area per person, 1990-1995, by country ranking and region .....	81
XII.2.	Data availability of floor area per person, at the national level, 1990-1995 .....	82

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Explanatory notes

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

The term “billion” signifies a thousand million.

More developed regions comprise Northern America, Japan, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Less developed regions comprise all regions of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia (excluding Japan), Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

The least developed countries with a population of 150,000 or more, classified as such by the United Nations General Assembly in 1998, are:

Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.

The following abbreviations are used in the present report:

DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
FWCW	Fourth World Conference on Women
HABITAT	United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat)
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDWSSD	International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Study
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MMR	Maternal mortality ratio
PAPCHILD	Pan-Arab Project for Child Development
RAMOS	Reproductive Age Mortality Surveys
SDA	Social dimensions of adjustment
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit for Social Development