

GLOSSARY OF HEALTH STATISTICAL TERMS

DEFINITIONS

AGE-GROUP	A period covering several years relating to the age of members of a population. Usually expressed in a range of age last birthday, for example 15-19 years. This age-group concerns all persons who have reached 15 years of age, but who have not reached twenty years. A person aged 19 years, 11 months and 29 days would be included in that age-group.
BIRTHWEIGHT	The first weight of the foetus or newborn obtained after birth. This weight should be measured preferably within the first hour of life before significant postnatal weight loss has occurred.
BIRTHWEIGHT (LOW)	A birthweight of less than 2,500 grammes (up to, and including 2,499 grammes).
CHILDBEARING YEARS	The period of her life during which a woman can reproduce. For the purpose of international comparisons, this is arbitrarily assumed to be in the age-group 15-49 years.
FECUNDITY	The physiological capacity to reproduce.
FERTILITY	The actual reproductive performance.
FOETAL DEATH	Foetal death is death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy; the death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the foetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles. (W.H.O. definition). A distinction is made between early foetal death (abortion) and late foetal death (stillbirth), the dividing line being the 28 th week of gestation.
GESTATIONAL AGE	The duration of gestation is measured from the first day of the last menstrual period, and is usually expressed in completed weeks. (W.H.O. definition).
LIFE EXPECTANCY	The average number of years left to a person to live, if current mortality trends were to continue. Life expectancy at birth is a much used health indicator. In most societies the expectancy for females is a few years longer than for males.
LIVE BIRTH	Live birth is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered live born. (W.H.O. definition).

MORBIDITY	The measurement of illness in a population.
MORTALITY	The frequency and characteristics of deaths in a population.
NATALITY	The frequency and characteristics of births in a population.
NATURAL INCREASE	The excess of live births over deaths in a population during a given time period, usually a calendar year. In a few societies the excess is negative, that is there is a "natural decrease".
NUPTIALITY	The frequency and characteristics of marriages in a population.
VITAL STATISTICS	Demographic data on live births, stillbirths, deaths and marriages.

FERTILITY RATES

CRUDE BIRTH RATE	The number of live births registered during a calendar year, divided by the estimated mid-year population, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 mid-year population.
GENERAL FERTILITY RATE	The number of live births registered during a calendar year, divided by the estimated mid-year female population aged 15-49 years, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years.
AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATE	The number of live births to women in each of the five-year age-groups, 15-19, 20-24, ...,45-49, registered during a calendar year, divided by the estimated mid-year female population in the respective age-group, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 women in the relevant age-group.
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE	The average number of children that would be born alive to an average woman during her life-time if she were to be subjected during her childbearing years (15-49) to the age-specific fertility rates observed in a given calendar year. Usually computed by adding the age-specific fertility rates (in five-year age-groups, 15-19, 20-24, ..., 45-49), multiplying by five, and dividing by 1,000; expressed as a number, usually given correct to two places of decimal.
GROSS REPRODUCTION RATE	The definition and modes of computation and expression of this rate are similar to those of the Total Fertility Rate, except that only children of the female sex are taken into consideration. As more often than not, in any given year, more boys than girls are born, the Gross Reproduction Rate is usually slightly less than half the Total Fertility Rate.
NET REPRODUCTION RATE	This rate is an improvement of the Gross Reproduction Rate, in that it takes into consideration the fact that some women die before reaching the end of their childbearing years, and therefore their contribution to reproduction would be less than that assumed in the computation of the Gross Reproduction Rate. The Net Reproduction Rate is therefore always less than the Gross Reproduction Rate. A Net Reproduction Rate of 1.00 denotes replacement level fertility, that is the women are having just enough daughters to "replace" them in the population.

MORTALITY RATES

CRUDE DEATH RATE	The number of deaths registered during a calendar year, divided by the estimated mid-year population, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 mid-year population.
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	The number of deaths of children under the age of one year (0-364 days) registered during a calendar year, divided by the number of live births registered during the same year, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 live births.
NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE	The number of deaths of children under the age of four weeks (0-27 days) registered during a calendar year, divided by the number of live births registered during the same year, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 live births.
EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE	The number of deaths of children under the age of one week (0-6 days) registered during a calendar year, divided by the number of live births registered during the same year, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 live births.
LATE NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE	The number of deaths of children aged between one week and four weeks (7-27 days) registered during a calendar year, divided by the number of live births registered during the same year, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 live births.
POST-NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE	The number of deaths of children aged between four weeks and one year (28-364 days) registered during a calendar year, divided by the number of live births registered during the same year, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 live births.
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE	The sum of the number of stillbirths and the number of deaths of children under the age of one week (0-6 days) registered during a calendar year, divided by the sum of the number of live births and the number of stillbirths registered during the same year, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 total live births and stillbirths. Sometimes the Perinatal Mortality Rate is expressed per 1,000 live births, in which case the divisor in the computation is the number of live births only.
CHILD MORTALITY RATE	The number of deaths of children aged between one year and five years (1-4 years) registered during a calendar year, divided by the estimated mid-year population aged between one year and five years (1-4 years), and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per thousand mid-year population aged between one year and five years (1-4 years).
UNDER FIVE MORTALITY RATE	The number of deaths of children aged under five years (0-4 years) registered during a calendar year, divided by the number of live births registered during the same year, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 live births.
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE	The number of (female) deaths ascribed to complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium registered during a calendar year, divided by the number of live births registered during the same year, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 live births.

MORBIDITY RATES

INCIDENCE RATE

The number of new cases of a disease registered (or notified) during a given year, divided by the estimated mid-year population, and multiplied by 10 raised to the power of a convenient digit, which depends upon the frequency of the particular disease. For example, in the Island of Mauritius, in 2002, the incidence rate of pulmonary tuberculosis was 8.9 new cases per 100,000 mid-year population.

PREVALENCE RATE

The number of persons suffering from a particular disease at a given point in time, usually 30th June or 31st December of a given year, divided by the estimated population at the same point in time, and multiplied by 10 raised to the power of a convenient digit, which depends upon the frequency of the particular disease. Difficult to compute on a regular basis through lack of disease registers. The prevalence rates of specific diseases are occasionally estimated by means of population based surveys.

OTHER RATES

CRUDE MARRIAGE RATE

The number of persons civilly married during a calendar year, divided by the estimated mid-year population, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 mid-year population.

STILLBIRTH RATE

The number of stillbirths registered during a calendar year, divided by the sum of the number of live births and the number of stillbirths registered during the same year, and multiplied by 1,000; expressed per 1,000 total live births and stillbirths.

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