



Early Childhood Mortality Rates Declined in CAR in 2003

Mortality levels among young children in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) have declined over the last ten years (1993–2003) as indicated in the National Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS) (see Figure 1). Nevertheless, one child in 29 dies before reaching age 5.

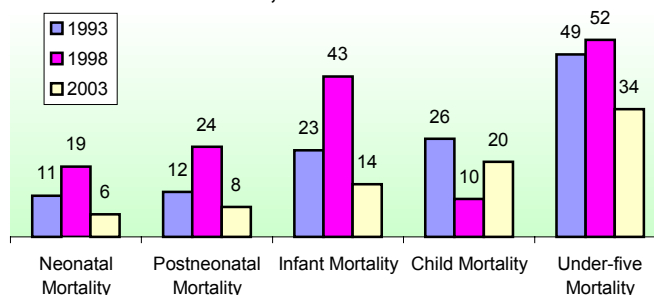
Under-five mortality levels, defined as the number of deaths below age five, declined in the region from 49 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1993 to 34 per 1,000 live births in 2003. Meaning, 1 child in 21 dies before reaching age 5 in 1993 while in 2003, 1 in every 29 children dies before the age of 5. Correspondingly, the results for infant mortality or the infant mortality rate (IMR) – deaths under 12 months of age – were 23 and 14 per 1,000.

Since the level of mortality is deemed higher at the early stages rather than at the later stages of infancy as in the case nationwide (see Figure 2), it is also helpful to break up the IMR into *neonatal mortality*, deaths within the first month of life, and *postneonatal mortality*, deaths after the first month of life but before 1 year of age. In the region, however, postneonatal mortality was consistently higher than neonatal mortality for the past 10 years (see Figure 1).

Another useful indicator in analyzing the trends of early childhood mortality is the child mortality rate (CMR) which is defined as the number of deaths of children ages 1–4 years per 1,000 children in the same age group. Although the CMR of CAR declined during the 10-year period (23.4 percent), it sharply declined in 1998 and increased by almost a 100 percent in the next five years. Moreover, it was the only indicator that exceeded the national rates in 2003 by about 67 percent or 20 deaths in 1,000 livebirths for CAR compared to only 12 deaths per 1,000 livebirths in the whole country.

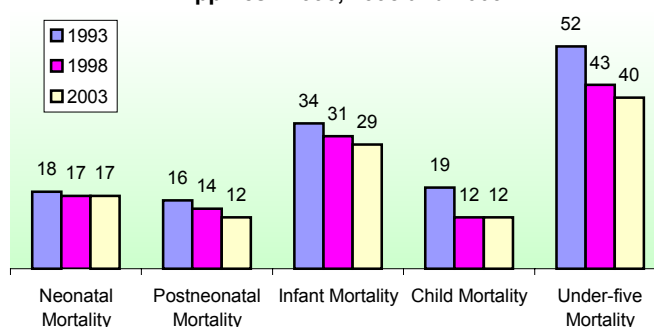
Early childhood mortality levels in the Philippines steadily declined over the last decade (see Figure 2). However, the region differed when mortality rates generally increased at the middle of the decade. Furthermore, the unusual increase in the regional IMR in 1998 by 187 percent pushed up the number of under-five mortality by 52 per 1,000 exceeding the national level by 9 more deaths.

Figure 1. Early Childhood Mortality Rates, CAR: 1993, 1998 and 2003



Source of Basic Data: 1993, 1998 & 2003 NDHS

Figure 2. Early Childhood Mortality Rates, Philippines: 1993, 1998 and 2003.



Source of Basic Data: 2003 NDHS

Source of Basic Data: National Demographic & Health Survey: 1993, 1998 & 2003

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