Infant and child mortality rates reflect the economic, social, and environmental conditions as well as the quality of a country’s health system. Infant mortality is death among children who are not yet one year of age and infant mortality rate (IMR) is the porportion of deaths of infant per 1,000 live births in a given year. Developed and high income countries has lower IMR than developing and low income countries. In 2019, the average IMR of all reported countries is 28.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. San Marino has the lowest IMR of 1.5 deaths per 1,000 live births while Central African Republic has the highest IMR of 81 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Infant morality has decreased significantly over the course of history. In 1990, IMR of all reported countries was 64.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. The deaths has decreased by 56% in 2019, which the IMR is 28.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. Maldives has the greatest decrease in IMR from 63 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2019 (↓ 90%). On the contrary, Dominica is the only country in recorded history that has a sharp increase in IMR. In 1990, IMR in Dominica was 12.9 deaths per 1,000 live births and has increased to 30.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2020 (↑ 140%)

Child mortality refers to the death of a child under the age of five and child mortality, also known to as the 'under-five mortality rate', is the is the probability per 1,000 live births that a newborn baby will die before reaching age five. Decreasing child mortality rates is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goal established by the United Nation which all countries are aiming to reduce child mortality rate to as low as 25 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030. Maldives and Dominica also mark the greatest increase and decrease of child mortality rate. Maldive had a decrease of 91% in child mortality from 85.8 deaths per 1,000 live births to 7.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. Dominica saw an increase of 110% from 16.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 34.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2019.

Many causes of child mortality has saw an decrease in the number of cases over the years. In 1990, lower repiratory infections, which includes pneumonia, bronchitis, and tuberculosis, accounts for the lives of 2.34 million children. While lower respiratory infections are still the leading cause of child mortality, the number of deaths per year has decreased to 808,919 deaths in 2019. Other leading causes of deaths includes neonatal preterm birth complication (premature births), diarrheal diseases, birth asphyxia and trauma; and congenital birth defects (congenital disorders).

Sources:

**Chart 1, Chart 2**

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN>

**Chart 3**

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DYN.MORT>

**Chart 4**

https://ourworld qindata.org/child-mortality