Chapter 2

A COMMENT ON INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Infant mortality rate (IMR) is taken as a key indicator of child health and the well-being of a society. In India, both the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and the Sample Registration System (SRS) published by Registrar General of India (RGI) provide reliable data on population and demographic indicators. In this comment it is shown that the IMR differs in these two surveys and after discussing the difference in sampling techniques of these surveys, it is argued for a standardisation of data source for IMR calculation.

Keywords: Infant mortality rate, surveys, India

INTRODUCTION

This review uses unit-level record (individual recoded data file) from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-III (2005-06), NFHS-II (1998-99), and NFHS-I (1992-93) conducted in India. 'NFHS-III collected information from a nationally representative sample of 109,041 households, 124,385 women age 15-49 and, 74,369 men age 15-54. The NFHS-III sample covered 99 percent of India's population living in all 29 states' (1: xxix). 'The NFHS-II survey covered a representative sample of more than 90,000 eligible women age 15-49 from 26 states that comprise more than 99 percent of India's population' (2: xiii). The NFHS-I survey covered a representative sample of 89,777 ever-married women age 13-49 from 24 states and the National Capital Territory of Delhi, which comprise 99 percent of the total

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