The Epidemiology of Child Health:
Domestic and Global Perspectives

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Section A

Global Child Health
Examine child health status globally

Toward achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4
Under-Five Mortality Worldwide

Under-five mortality rate, 2003

Rate per 1,000 live births

- <25
- 25-49.9
- 50-99.9
- 100-150
- >150
- Data not available

In 2006, 9,700,000 children under the age of 5 died in countries around the world ...
- A marked improvement since 1980
- A 50% reduction since 1960
- A long way to go
Approximately 10 Million Children Died in 2006

Global Child Mortality: 1980 and Today

- 25% reduction of infant deaths
- 33% reduction in child deaths between 1 and 5 years of age
- South Asia contributes the largest number of neonatal deaths
- Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rates of child mortality ... on average, one in six children die before age 5
In 2006 nearly half (49%) of all deaths of children under 5 occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa ... which accounts for 22% of the world’s population.
The global child mortality rate declined by almost one quarter between 1990 and 2006.

Prenatal Care

- A quarter of all women in the world receive *not even one* visit from a skilled health attendant during pregnancy
UNICEF: Causes of Death

Major causes of death among children under 5 years of age and neonates in the world, 2000-2003

- Neonatal: 37%
- Pneumonia: 19%
- Diarrhea: 17%
- Malaria: 8%
- Measles: 4%
- Injuries: 3%
- Others: 10%

Undernutrition is an underlying cause of 53% of deaths among children under five years of age.
Undernutrition Is a Global Problem

South Asia has the highest level of undernutrition among the regions

- South Asia: 42%
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 28%
- Middle East & North Africa: 17%
- East Asia & the Pacific: 14%
- Latin Am. & the Caribbean: 7%
- CEE/CIS: 5%
- LCDs & territories: 35%
- Developing countries & territories: 26%
- World: 25%

% of under-fives who are moderately or severely underweight (2000-2006)

Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified.

Source: Demographic and Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, World Health Organization and UNICEF.

Child Mortality: HIV

- HIV: 500,000 children acquire the infection annually

- An HIV+ pregnant woman has a 35% chance of passing the infection to her newborn

- As of 2006, no more than 20% of all HIV+ pregnant women were receiving treatment to reduce mother-to-child (MTC) transmission
Child Mortality: Malaria

- Malaria causes an estimated 800,000 deaths annually among children under 5

- Pregnant women are especially vulnerable

- Only about a third of children with fever in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) receive anti-malarials

- Resistance to established anti-malarials is increasing

- ACT (artemisinin-based combination therapy) holds promise
Percent of Deaths in Under-Fives Attributable to...