

PHNIP Country Health Statistical Report

Nicaragua

March 2002



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About the Report

Released March 2002

This report is one of a series of Country Health Statistical Reports produced by the Population, Health and Nutrition Information (PHNI) Project. Each profile contains statistical data on current health conditions, population dynamics, health and family planning behavior, and health and population trends in a given developing country. Information is compiled from PHNI's health statistics database, which draws data from a diverse range of sources listed at the end of this profile.

Hard copy editions of PHNI's profiles are available from our publications department. Reports will soon be available on the USAID Global Health Web site in Portable Document Format (.pdf). Any feedback you have on the content or presentation of this report would be greatly appreciated. We would also appreciate receiving any more recent, more accurate, or more representative information.

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I. Statistical Overview

*see data notes on page 8

| Demographic Indicators | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|------|---------------------|
| Indicator | Value | Data Unit | Year | Source |
| Total Population | 4,918,393 | | 2001 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Population Growth Rate | 2.1 | % | 2001 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Percent Urban | 55.8 | % | 1999 | World Bank/WDI-2001 |
| Women, 15-19 | 288,121 | | 2002 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Women, 15-49 | 1,316,043 | | 2002 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Life Expectancy at Birth | 69.1 | | 2001 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Crude Birth Rate | 27.6 | per 1,000 | 2001 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Crude Death Rate | 4.8 | per 1,000 | 2001 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Number of Live Births | 136 | 000s | 2001 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |

| Socioeconomic Indicators | | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Indicator | Value | Data Unit | Year | Source |
| GNI per Capita (PPP) | 2,060 | \$ | 1999 | World Bank/WDI-2001 |
| Health Expenditure as Percentage of GDP | 12.2 | % | 1990-1998 | World Bank/WDI-2001 |
| Physicians per 1,000 People | 0.8 | | 1990-1998 | World Bank/WDI-2001 |
| Adult Literacy Rate | 68.2 | % | 1999 | World Bank/WDI-2001 |
| Adult Literacy Rate, Female | 69.8 | % | 1999 | World Bank/WDI-2001 |
| Adult Literacy Rate, Male | 66.6 | % | 1999 | World Bank/WDI-2001 |
| Gross Enrollment Rate - Primary School | 96.1 | % | 1998 | UNESCO-2000 |
| Gender Parity Index - Net Enrollment Rate | Data Not Available | | | |
| Access to an Improved Water Source (Rural) | 59.0 | % | 2000 | World Bank/WDI-2001 |
| Access to an Improved Water Source (Urban) | 95.0 | % | 2000 | World Bank/WDI-2001 |
| Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities (Rural) | 68.0 | % | 2000 | World Bank/WDI-2001 |
| Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities (Urban) | 96.0 | % | 2000 | World Bank/WDI-2001 |

Family Planning Indicators

| Indicator | Value | Data Unit | Year | Source |
|--|-------|-----------|------|---------------------|
| Total Fertility Rate (BUCEN) | 3.2 | | 2001 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Total Fertility Rate (DHS) | 3.6 | | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, Modern Methods, All Women | 39.0 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, Modern Methods, Married Women | 57.4 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Median Age of Sexual Debut Among Women, Ages 25-49 | 18.2 | | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Mean Ideal Family Size | 2.8 | | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Women 20-24 Who Gave Birth Before Age 20 | 52.3 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |

Maternal Health Indicators

| Indicator | Value | Data Unit | Year | Source |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|------|---------------------|
| Maternal Mortality Ratio (DHS) | Data Not Available | | | |
| Maternal Mortality Ratio (WHO/Hill) | 246 | Per 100,000 live births | 1995 | WHO/Hill-2001 |
| Antenatal Care (at least 1 visit) | 81.3 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Antenatal Care (2+ visits) | 78.5 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Antenatal Care (4+ visits) | 62.2 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Assisted Delivery by a Health Professional | 64.6 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Assisted Delivery by Doctor | 36.7 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Assisted Delivery by Other Health Professional | 27.9 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |

| Child Survival Indicators | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Indicator | Value | Data Unit | Year | Source |
| Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) and Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) | | | | |
| ARI Treatment - Children Under 5 | 57.8 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| ORT Use Rate (ORS, RHS, or Increased Fluids) | 70.2 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Mortality Indicators | | | | |
| Infant Mortality Rate (BUCEN) | 33 | per 1,000 live births | 2002 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Infant Mortality Rate (DHS) | 40 | per 1,000 live births | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Infant Mortality Rate, Females (BUCEN) | 29 | per 1,000 live births | 2002 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Infant Mortality Rate, Males (BUCEN) | 36 | per 1,000 live births | 2002 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Under-5 Mortality Rate (BUCEN) | 41 | per 1,000 live births | 2001 | BUCEN - IDB-2000 |
| Under-5 Mortality Rate (DHS) | 50 | per 1,000 live births | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Nutrition Indicators | | | | |
| Exclusive Breastfeeding (under 4 mos.) | 29.5 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Exclusive Breastfeeding (under 6 mos.) | 21.8 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Stunted (height-for-age) | 24.9 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Underweight (weight-for-age) | 12.2 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Wasted (weight-for-height) | 2.2 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |
| Vaccination Coverage | | | | |
| DPT3 Vaccination Rate (WHO) | 79.7 | % | 1998 | WHO/Global Summary-2001 |
| Measles Vaccination Rate (WHO) | 85.7 | % | 1998 | WHO/Global Summary-2001 |
| Polio Vaccination Rate (WHO) | 83.0 | % | 1998 | WHO/Global Summary-2001 |
| Tetanus Toxoid Vaccination | 42.3 | % | 1998 | Nicaragua DHS -1998 |

HIV/AIDS Prevention Indicators

| Indicator | Value | Data Unit | Year | Source |
|--|--------------------|-----------|------|-------------|
| HIV Prevalence, Adults | 0.2 | % | 1999 | UNAIDS-2000 |
| HIV Prevalence, Females 15-24, High Estimates | 0.08 | % | 1999 | UNAIDS-2000 |
| HIV Prevalence, Females 15-24, Low Estimates | 0.05 | % | 1999 | UNAIDS-2000 |
| HIV Prevalence, Males 15-24, High Estimates | 0.26 | % | 1999 | UNAIDS-2000 |
| HIV Prevalence, Males 15-24, Low Estimates | 0.17 | % | 1999 | UNAIDS-2000 |
| Males Reporting Condom Use With Last Non-Regular Partner | Data Not Available | | | |
| Females Reporting Condom Use With Last Non-Regular Partner | Data Not Available | | | |

Infectious Diseases Control Indicators

| Indicator | Value | Data Unit | Year | Source |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------|----------------------------|
| TB Incidence Rate | Data Not Available | | | |
| Case Detection Rate | 80.2 | % | 1998 | WHO/TB Control Report-2001 |
| TB (DOTS) Treatment Success Rate | 82.2 | % | 1998 | WHO/TB Control Report-2001 |
| Malaria | 42,819 | Reported # of cases | 1999 | WHO/RBM-2002 |

II. Trends in Health Indicators

Figure 1: Current and Projected Population by Age and Sex (in thousands)

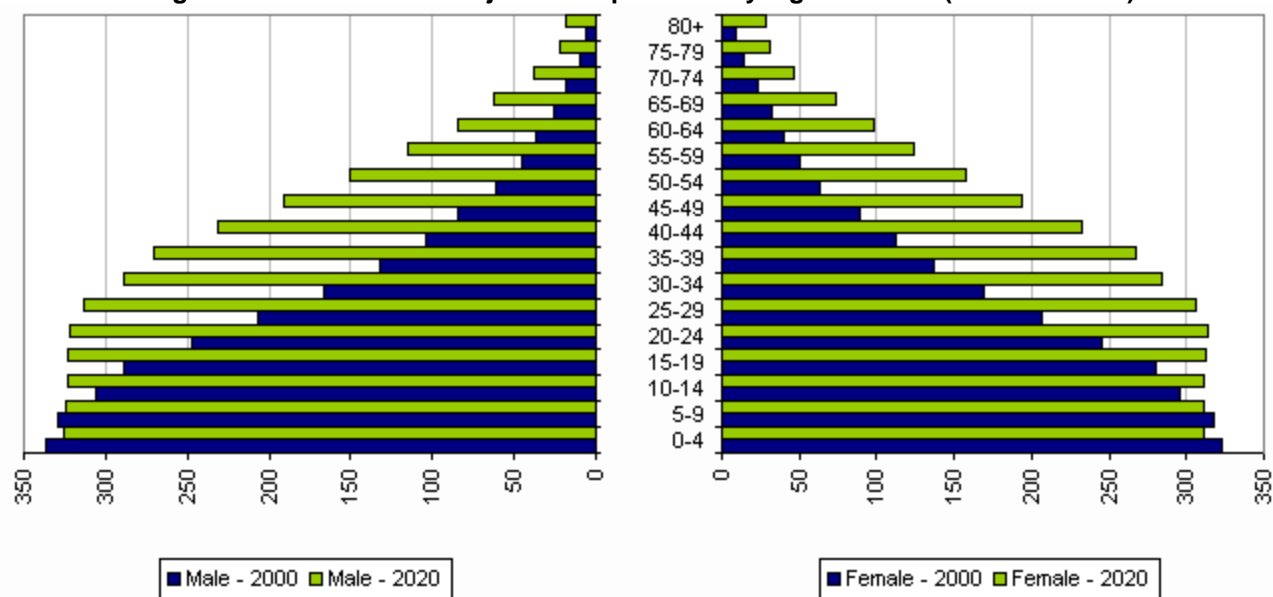


Table 1.1: Current and Projected Population by Age and Sex

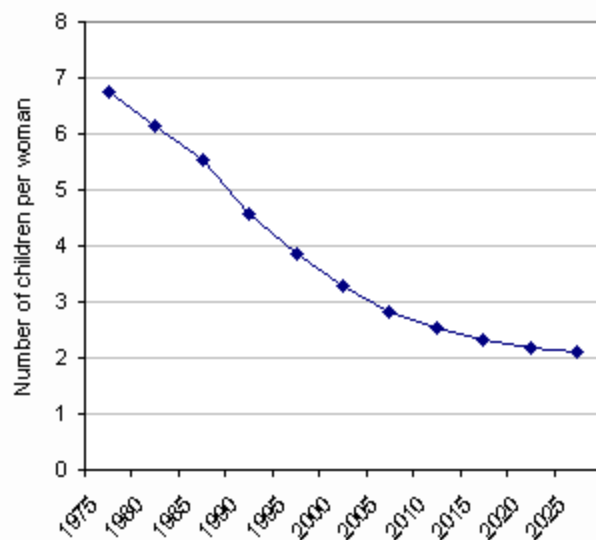
Source: BUCEN - IDB

| Age Group | Male - 2000 | Male - 2020 | Female - 2000 | Female - 2020 |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 0-4 | 336,400 | 325,285 | 323,485 | 311,533 |
| 5-9 | 328,632 | 324,119 | 317,175 | 311,339 |
| 10-14 | 306,548 | 322,948 | 296,228 | 311,259 |
| 15-19 | 288,515 | 323,246 | 280,781 | 312,922 |
| 20-24 | 247,390 | 322,285 | 245,061 | 314,008 |
| 25-29 | 206,449 | 312,742 | 206,061 | 306,712 |
| 30-34 | 166,739 | 288,996 | 169,207 | 284,319 |
| 35-39 | 132,180 | 270,519 | 136,408 | 267,905 |
| 40-44 | 103,502 | 230,803 | 112,625 | 232,531 |
| 45-49 | 84,328 | 190,976 | 89,252 | 193,998 |
| 50-54 | 60,634 | 151,095 | 62,868 | 157,057 |
| 55-59 | 45,685 | 115,209 | 50,047 | 123,748 |
| 60-64 | 36,747 | 84,646 | 40,551 | 98,269 |
| 65-69 | 26,112 | 62,500 | 32,134 | 72,981 |
| 70-74 | 18,007 | 38,352 | 23,220 | 45,951 |
| 75-79 | 10,249 | 22,482 | 13,914 | 30,388 |
| 80+ | 6,171 | 18,279 | 9,264 | 28,459 |

TABLE 1.2: Population Estimates and Projections

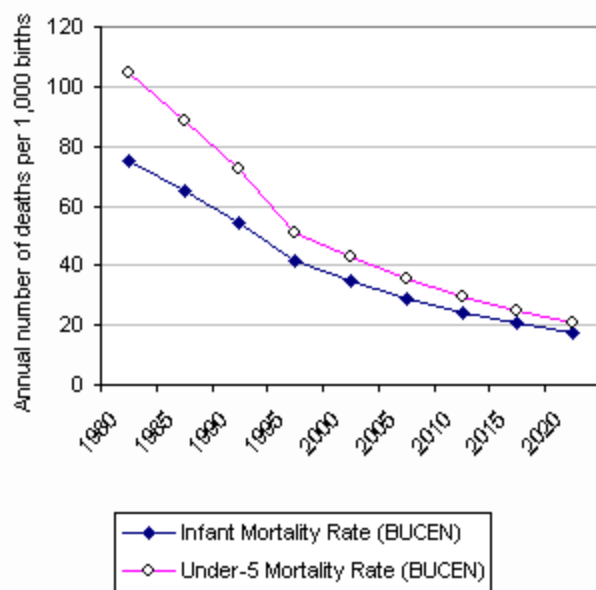
Source: BUCEN - IDB

| 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2,804,000 | 3,643,000 | 4,813,000 | 5,839,000 | 6,808,000 |

Figure 2: Estimated Total Fertility Rate per Woman**Table 2: Estimated Total Fertility Rate per Woman**

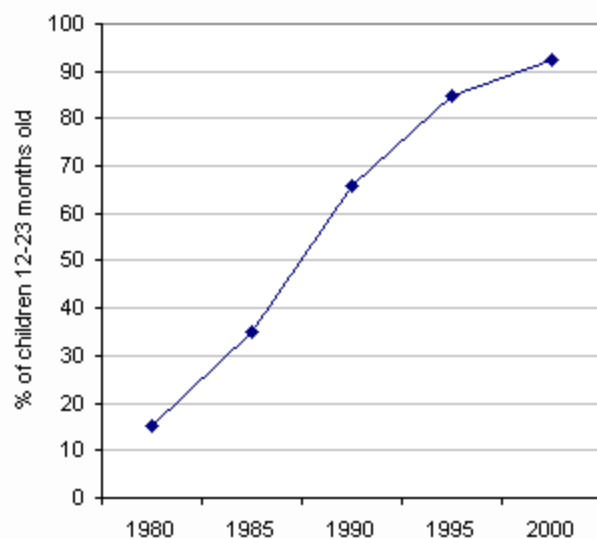
Source: BUCEN - IDB

| 1975 | 1980 | 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 6.7 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 4.6 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.1 |

Figure 3: Infant Mortality Rates / Under-5 Mortality Rates**Table 3: Infant Mortality Rates / Under-5 Mortality Rates**

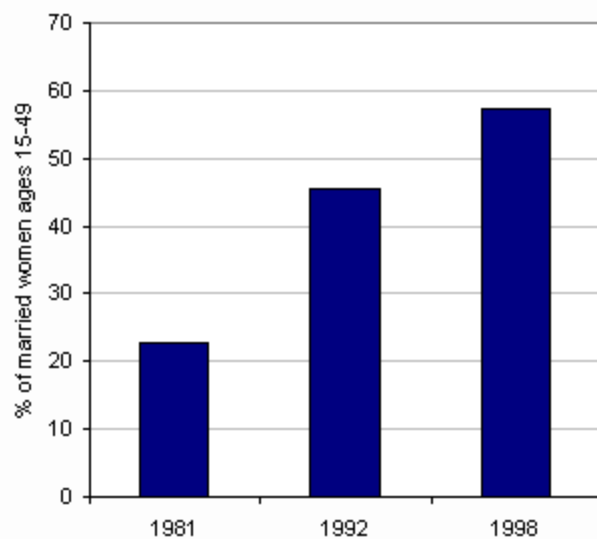
Source: BUCEN - IDB 2000

| Indicator | 1980 | 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Infant Mortality Rate (BUCEN) | 75 | 65 | 54 | 41 | 35 | 29 | 24 | 21 | 17 |
| Under-5 Mortality Rate (BUCEN) | 104 | 88 | 72 | 51 | 43 | 35 | 29 | 25 | 21 |

Figure 4: Vaccination Coverage (DPT3) Trends**Table 4: Vaccination Coverage (DPT3) Trends**

Source: WHO/Global Summary

| 1980 | 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 15.0 | 35.0 | 66.0 | 85.0 | 92.6 |

Figure 5: Contraceptive Prevalence Rates, Modern Methods, Married Women**Table 5: Contraceptive Prevalence Rates, Modern Methods, Married Women**

Source: Nicaragua DHS

Ross/TFGI

| 1981 | 1992 | 1998 |
|------|------|------|
| 22.8 | 45.5 | 57.4 |

Data Notes

*Indicator definitions that differ from those in the data notes section are identified by footnotes accompanying the indicator tables.

Demographic Indicators

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Total Population | The number of people in a given area (i.e., country) in a particular time period (usually a midyear estimate). |
| Population Growth Rate | The average annual growth rate is the rate of natural increase in a population plus the net migration rate. The rate of natural increase is the difference between the birth rate and the death rate, but it is conventionally measured in percentage terms (per hundred rather than per thousand). |
| Percent Urban | The percentage of the midyear population living in areas defined as urban in each country and reported to the United Nations. |
| Women, 15-19 | The number of women between the ages of 15-19 in the midyear population. |
| Women, 15-49 | The number of women between the ages of 15-49 in the midyear population. |
| Life Expectancy at Birth | The average number of years that a person at age 0 will live if age-specific death rates remain constant. Life expectancy at birth is highly affected by rates of infant and child death. |
| Crude Birth Rate | The number of births per thousand of the population. The product of the number of live births, divided by the midpoint population, multiplied by 1,000. |
| Crude Death Rate | The number of deaths per thousand of the population. The product of the number of deaths divided by the midpoint population, multiplied by 1,000. |
| Number of Live Births | The number of live births, annually, within a country. |

Socioeconomic Indicators

| | |
|---|---|
| GNI per Capita (PPP) | The gross national income (GNI) converted to international dollars using purchasing power parity (PPP) rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GNI as a U.S. dollar has in the United States. |
| Health Expenditure as Percentage of GDP | Total health expenditures is the sum of public and private health expenditures figured as a percentage of a country's gross domestic product (GDP). It covers the provision of health services (preventive and curative), family planning activities, nutrition activities, and emergency aid designated for health but does not include provision of water and sanitation. |
| Physicians per 1,000 People | Physicians are defined as graduates of any faculty or school of medicine who are working in the country in any medical field (practice, teaching, research). |
| Adult Literacy Rate | The percentage of people ages 15 and over who can, with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement about their everyday life. |
| Adult Literacy Rate, Female | The percentage of women ages 15 and over who can, with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement about their everyday life. |
| Adult Literacy Rate, Male | The percentage of men ages 15 and over who can, with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement about their everyday life. |
| Gross Enrollment Rate - Primary School | The number of children enrolled in primary school, expressed as a percentage of the total official primary school-aged population. Percentage may be over 100 due to children of older-than-typical age re-entering primary school. |
| Gender Parity Index - Net Enrollment Rate | The ratio of the female-to-male net primary school enrollment rates measures progress towards gender equity in school attendance and the level of learning opportunities available for women in relation to those available to men. Calculation Method: Divide the female net primary school enrollment rate by the male net primary school enrollment rate. |
| Access to an Improved Water Source (Rural) | Access to an improved water source in rural areas. Refers to the percentage of the rural population with reasonable access to an adequate amount of water from an improved source, such as a household connection, public standpipe, borehole, protected well or spring, or rainwater collection. Unimproved sources include vendors, tanker trucks, and unprotected wells and springs. Reasonable access is defined as the availability of at least 20 liters a person a day from a source within one kilometer of the |

dwelling.

Access to an Improved Water Source (Urban)

Access to an improved water source in urban areas. Refers to the percentage of the urban population with reasonable access to an adequate amount of water from an improved source, such as a household connection, public standpipe, borehole, protected well or spring, or rainwater collection. Unimproved sources include vendors, tanker trucks, and unprotected wells and springs. Reasonable access is defined as the availability of at least 20 liters a person a day from a source within one kilometer of the dwelling.

Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities (Rural)

Access to improved sanitation facilities in rural areas. Refers to the percentage of the rural population with access to at least adequate excreta disposal facilities (private or shared, but not public) that can effectively prevent human, animal, and insect contact with excreta.

Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities (Urban)

Access to improved sanitation facilities in urban areas. Refers to the percentage of the urban population with access to at least adequate excreta disposal facilities (private or shared, but not public) that can effectively prevent human, animal, and insect contact with excreta.

Family Planning Indicators

Total Fertility Rate (BUCEN)

The number of children a woman between ages 15-44 would have during her reproductive life, if, for all of her childbearing years she were to experience the age-specific birth rates for that given year.

Total Fertility Rate (DHS)

The number of children a woman between ages 15-49 would have during her lifetime if she were to bear children at the currently observed rates.

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, Modern Methods, All Women

Percentage of all women ages 15-49 currently using a modern method of contraception. Modern methods include oral contraceptives, IUDs, injectables, female and male sterilization, all emergency contraception, and barrier methods (diaphragm, foam, jelly, male and female condom).

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, Modern Methods, Married Women

Percent of currently married ages women 15-49 currently using a modern method of contraception. Modern methods include oral contraceptives, IUDs, injectables, female and male sterilization, all emergency contraception, and barrier methods (diaphragm, foam, jelly, male and female condom).

Median Age of Sexual Debut Among Women, Ages 25-49

Median age of first sexual intercourse for women ages 25-49.

Mean Ideal Family Size

Mean ideal number of children for all women, according to number of living children.

Women 20-24 Who Gave Birth Before Age 20

Percentage of women ages 20-24 who have already given birth or were pregnant with their first child before the age of 20.

Maternal Health Indicators

Maternal Mortality Ratio (DHS)

The estimated number of women who die as a result of pregnancy or childbirth per 100,000 live births, arrived mostly through 'direct sisterhood method'. The use of information reported by a sibling is to expand the sample size and to compensate for the fact that the deceased are not available for interview.

Maternal Mortality Ratio (WHO/Hill)

The estimated number of women who die as a result of pregnancy or childbirth per 100,000 live births arrived through Hill et al., adjustment procedure depending on the nature of data used.

Antenatal Care (at least 1 visit)

Percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49) who receive at least one antenatal care visit during pregnancy (in the three-year period preceding the survey).

Antenatal Care (2+ visits)

Percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49) who receive at least two antenatal care visits during pregnancy (in the three-year period preceding the survey).

Antenatal Care (4+ visits)

Percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49) who receive four or more antenatal care visits during pregnancy (in the three-year period preceding the survey).

Assisted Delivery by a Health Professional

The percentage of births/deliveries that occur with the assistance of any trained health professional during the five-year period preceding the survey. May include doctors, nurses, midwives, village health workers, or any other trained health professional.

Assisted Delivery by Doctor

The percentage of live births/deliveries that occur with the assistance of a doctor during the five-year period preceding the survey.

Assisted Delivery by Other Health Professional

The percentage of live births/deliveries that occur with the assistance of a nurse, midwife, village health worker, or any other trained health professional besides a doctor during the five-year period preceding

the survey.

Child Survival Indicators

| | |
|---|---|
| ARI Treatment - Children Under 5 | Percentage of children under five years who were ill with an acute respiratory infection (ARI), which is associated with cough, rapid breathing and a high fever, during the two weeks preceding the survey, and who were treated with specific remedies. |
| ORT Use Rate (ORS, RHS, or Increased Fluids) | Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT). Percentage of children under age 5 with diarrhea two weeks prior to survey who received increased fluids, oral rehydration solution (ORS) or recommended home solution (RHS). |
| Infant Mortality Rate (BUCEN) | The estimated annual number of deaths of infants under 12 months in a given year per 1,000 live births in that same year. |
| Infant Mortality Rate (DHS) | The estimated annual number of deaths of infants under 12 months in a given year per 1,000 live births in that same year (five-year period preceding survey). |
| Infant Mortality Rate, Females (BUCEN) | The estimated annual number of deaths of female infants under 12 months in a given year per 1,000 live births in that same year. |
| Infant Mortality Rate, Males (BUCEN) | The estimated annual number of of male infants under 12 months in a given year per 1,000 live births in that same year. |
| Under-5 Mortality Rate (BUCEN) | Annual number of deaths that occur in children 0-4 years old per 1,000 births. |
| Under-5 Mortality Rate (DHS) | Annual number of deaths that occur in children 0-4 years old per 1,000 births (five-year period preceding survey). |
| Exclusive Breastfeeding (under 4 mos.) | Percentage of children under 4 months exclusively breastfed. Exclusive breastfeeding is defined as providing no food or liquid other than breast milk to the child during the 24-hour period before the survey. |
| Exclusive Breastfeeding (under 6 mos.) | Percentage of children under 6 months exclusively breastfed. Exclusive breastfeeding is defined as providing no food or liquid other than breast milk to the child during the 24-hour period before the survey. |
| Stunted (height-for-age) | Percentage of children under age five whose height-for-age is below minus-two standard deviations from the median of the reference population. |
| Underweight (weight-for-age) | Percentage of children under age five whose weight-for-age is below minus-two standard deviations from the median of the reference population. |
| Wasted (weight-for-height) | Percentage of children under age five whose weight-for-height is below minus-two standard deviations from the median of the reference population. |
| DPT3 Vaccination Rate (WHO) | Proportion of living children 12-23 months old who have received three complete doses of vaccines against diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus. |
| Measles Vaccination Rate (WHO) | Percentage of living children who have received one dose of MCV (fully immunized) against measles. |
| Polio Vaccination Rate (WHO) | Percentage of children receiving three doses of polio vaccine. |
| Tetanus Toxoid Vaccination | Percentage of pregnant women receiving two (or more) doses of tetanus toxoid (three-year period preceding survey). |

HIV/AIDS Prevention Indicators

| | |
|--|--|
| HIV Prevalence, Adults | The estimated number of adults (ages 15-49) living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 1999 divided by the 1999 adult population (ages 15-49). |
| HIV Prevalence, Females 15-24, High Estimates | HIV prevalence, adolescent females 15-24 for high estimates. |
| HIV Prevalence, Females 15-24, Low Estimates | HIV prevalence, adolescent females 15-24 for low estimates. |
| HIV Prevalence, Males 15-24, High Estimates | HIV prevalence, adolescent males 15-24 for high estimates. |
| HIV Prevalence, Males 15-24, Low Estimates | HIV prevalence, adolescent males 15-24 for low estimates. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Males Reporting Condom Use With Last Non-Regular Partner | Among men who have had sex in the last year, percentage who used condoms during their last sexual intercourse with a non-regular partner/non-cohabitating partner. |
| Females Reporting Condom Use With Last Non-Regular Partner | Among women who have had sex in the last year, percentage who used condoms during their last sexual intercourse with a non-regular partner/non-cohabitating partner. |

Infectious Diseases Control Indicators

| | |
|---|--|
| TB Incidence Rate | Total number of TB cases (all types) estimated in a given period of time per 100,000 population. |
| Case Detection Rate | TB Case Detection Rate is defined as the percentage of the annual new smear-positive notifications of the estimated annual new smear-positive incidence. |
| TB (DOTS) Treatment Success Rate | The proportion of smear-positive patients who were cured plus the proportion who completed treatment. |
| Malaria | Reported number of cases of malaria during the year for which data reported. |

Statistical Sources For Nicaragua

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| BUCEN - IDB 2000 | United States Census Bureau (BUCEN), International Programs Center. International Database. Web site revision dated October 2000. |
| Nicaragua DHS 1998 | Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos, Ministerio de Salud and Macro International Inc. "Nicaragua Encuesta Nicaraguense de Demografía y Salud, 1998." Macro International, Calverton, MD; 1999 |
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