

USAID Country Health Statistical Report

Nicaragua

March 2004



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About the Report

Released March 2004

This report is one of a series of Country Health Statistical Reports produced on behalf of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) 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 USAID's profiles are available from PHNI'S publications department. Reports are 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. Contact us at the following:



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The PHNI Project, a USAID project managed by Jorge Scientific Corporation, with The Futures Group International and John Snow, Inc., prepared this document under the Data for Decision Making Project (936-3098.01), contract number HRN-C-00-00-00004-00, with the Bureau for Global Health, USAID.

I. Statistical Overview

*see data notes

Demographic Indicators				
Indicator	Value	Data Unit	Year	Source
Total Population	5,128,517		2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002
Population Growth Rate	2	%	2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002
Percent Urban	56.5	%	2001	World Bank/WDI-2003
Women, 15-19	290,407		2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002
Women, 15-49	1,352,845		2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002
Life Expectancy at Birth	69.7		2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002
Crude Birth Rate	26.3	per 1,000	2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002
Crude Death Rate	4.7	per 1,000	2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002
Number of Live Births	134,829		2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002

Socioeconomic Indicators				
Indicator	Value	Data Unit	Year	Source
GNI per Capita (PPP)	2,080	\$	2000	World Bank/WDI-2002
Health Expenditure as Percentage of GDP	4.4	%	2000	World Bank/WDI-2003
Physicians per 1,000 People	0.86		1997	World Bank/WDI-2002
Adult Literacy Rate	66.8	%	2001	World Bank/WDI-2003
Adult Literacy Rate, Female	67.1	%	2001	World Bank/WDI-2003
Adult Literacy Rate, Male	66.5	%	2001	World Bank/WDI-2003
Gross Enrollment Rate - Primary School	103.5	%	2000	UNESCO-2003/4
Gender Parity Index - Net Enrollment Rate	1		2000	UNESCO-2003/4
Access to an Improved Water Source (Rural)	59	%	2000	World Bank/WDI-2001
Access to an Improved Water Source (Urban)	95	%	2000	World Bank/WDI-2001
Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities (Rural)	68	%	2000	World Bank/WDI-2001
Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities (Urban)	96	%	2000	World Bank/WDI-2001

Family Planning Indicators				
Indicator	Value	Data Unit	Year	Source
Total Fertility Rate (BUCEN)	3		2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002
Total Fertility Rate (DHS)	3.2		2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, Modern Methods, All Women	64.1	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, Modern Methods, Married Women	86.2	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Median Age of Sexual Debut Among Women, Ages 25-49	17.8		2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Mean Ideal Family Size	2.9		2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Women 20-24 Who Gave Birth Before Age 20	47.9	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001

Maternal Health Indicators				
Indicator	Value	Data Unit	Year	Source
Maternal Mortality Ratio (WHO/Hill)	230	Per 100,000 live births	2000	WHO/Hill-2004
Maternal Mortality Ratio (DHS)	Data Not Available			
Antenatal Care (at least 1 visit)	85.2 ¹	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Antenatal Care (2+ visits)	82.5 ²	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Antenatal Care (4+ visits)	71.6 ³	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Assisted Delivery by a Health Professional	89.6	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Assisted Delivery by Doctor	64.1	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Assisted Delivery by Other Health Professional	25.5	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001

¹ The value for this country represents data from the five-year period preceding the survey.

² The value for this country represents data from the five-year period preceding the survey.

³ The value for this country represents data from the five-year period preceding the survey.

Child Survival Indicators				
Indicator	Value	Data Unit	Year	Source
Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) and Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT)				
ARI Treatment - Children Under 5	57.4	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
ORT Use Rate (ORS, RHS, or Increased Fluids)	67.7	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Mortality Indicators				
Infant Mortality Rate (BUCEN)	31.4	per 1,000 live births	2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002
Infant Mortality Rate (DHS)	31	per 1,000 live births	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Infant Mortality Rate, Females (BUCEN)	27.5	per 1,000 live births	2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002
Infant Mortality Rate, Males (BUCEN)	35.1	per 1,000 live births	2003	BUCEN-IDB-2002
Under-5 Mortality Rate (BUCEN)	38.2	per 1,000 live births	2003	BUCEN-IDB-2003
Under-5 Mortality Rate (UNICEF)	43	per 1,000 live births	2001	UNICEF-2003
Under-5 Mortality Rate (DHS)	40	per 1,000 live births	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Nutrition Indicators				
Exclusive Breastfeeding (under 4 mos.)	39.3	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Exclusive Breastfeeding (under 6 mos.)	31.1	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Stunted (height-for-age)	20.2	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Underweight (weight-for-age)	9.6	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Wasted (weight-for-height)	2	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Vaccination Coverage				
DPT3 Vaccination Rate (DHS)	82.7 ¹	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
DPT3 Vaccination Rate (WHO)	84	%	2002	WHO/Global Summary-2003
Measles Vaccination Rate (DHS)	86.4 ²	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Measles Vaccination Rate (WHO)	98	%	2002	WHO/Global Summary-2003
Polio Vaccination Rate (DHS)	84.7 ³	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001
Polio Vaccination Rate (WHO)	85	%	2002	WHO/Global Summary-2003
Tetanus Toxoid Vaccination	42.4 ⁴	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001

¹ The value for this country represents data from children 18-29 months old.

² The value for this country represents data from children 18-29 months old.

³ The value for this country represents data from children 18-29 months old.

⁴ The value for this country represents data from the five-year period preceding the survey

HIV/AIDS Prevention Indicators				
Indicator	Value	Data Unit	Year	Source
HIV Prevalence, Adults	0.2	%	2001	UNAIDS-2002
HIV Prevalence, Females 15-24, High Estimates	0.1	%	2001	UNAIDS-2002
HIV Prevalence, Females 15-24, Low Estimates	0.05	%	2001	UNAIDS-2002
HIV Prevalence, Males 15-24, High Estimates	0.31	%	2001	UNAIDS-2002
HIV Prevalence, Males 15-24, Low Estimates	0.15	%	2001	UNAIDS-2002
Males Reporting Condom Use With Last Non-Regular Partner	Data Not Available			
Females Reporting Condom Use With Last Non-Regular Partner	13.8	%	2001	Nicaragua DHS-2001

Infectious Diseases Control Indicators				
Indicator	Value	Data Unit	Year	Source
TB Estimated Number of Cases	3,582		2001	WHO/TB Control Report-2003
TB Case Detection Rate	94	%	2001	WHO/TB Control Report-2003
TB (DOTS) Treatment Success Rate	83	%	2000	WHO/TB Control Report-2003
Malaria Cases per 100,000	201	per 100,000	2001	WHO/RBM-2004

II. Trends in Health Indicators

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

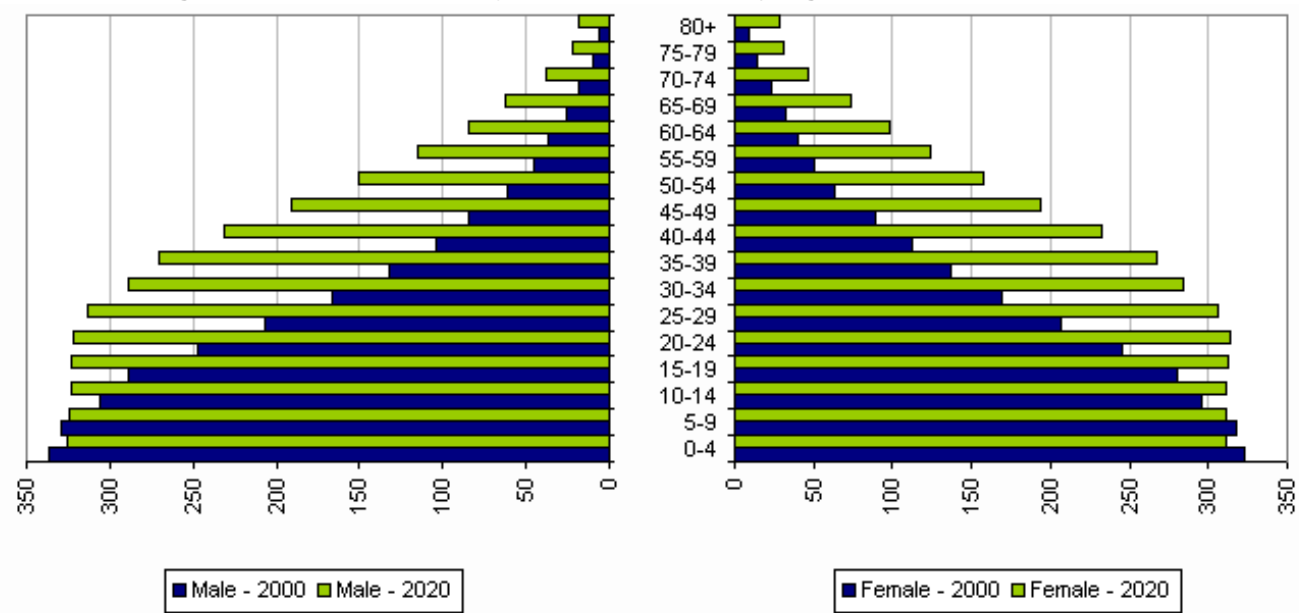


Table 1.1: Current and Projected Population by Age and Sex

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

1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
1,492,698	2,052,544	2,804,393	3,643,150	4,812,569	5,838,956	6,807,861	7,704,917	8,472,436	9,084,165

Figure 2: Estimated Total Fertility Rate per Woman

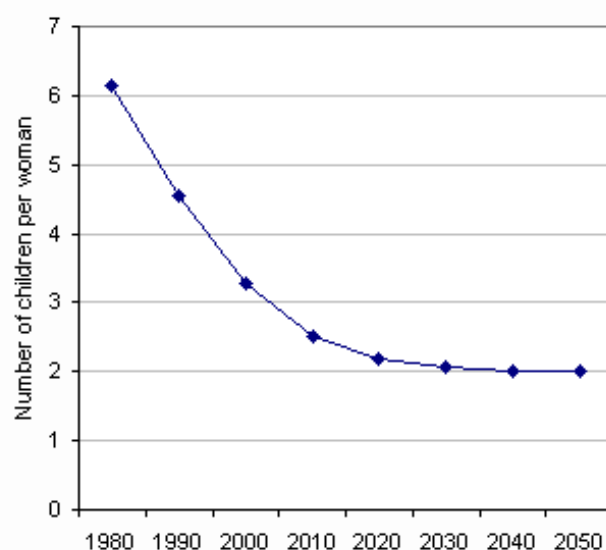


Table 2: Estimated Total Fertility Rate per Woman

Source: BUCEN-IDB

1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
6.1	4.6	3.3	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0

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

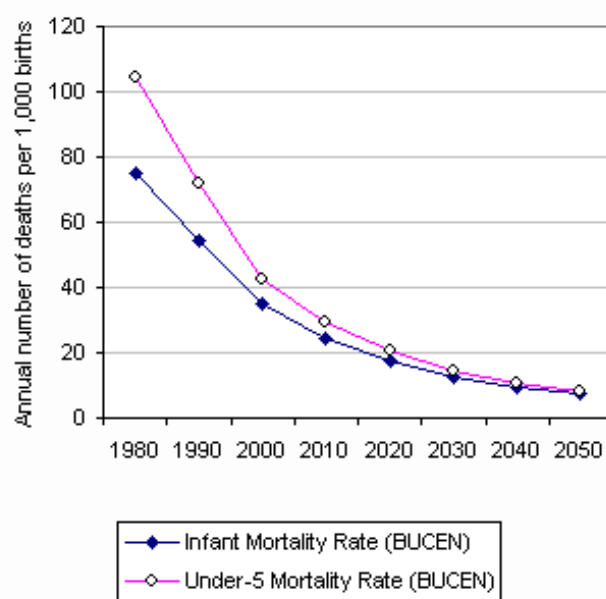


Table 3: Infant Mortality Rates / Under-5 Mortality Rates

Source: BUCEN-IDB 2002

Indicator	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Infant Mortality Rate (BUCEN)	75.0	54.4	34.8	24.4	17.3	12.5	9.3	7.3
Under-5 Mortality Rate (BUCEN)	104.4	72.2	42.6	29.4	20.5	14.6	10.8	8.3

Figure 4: Vaccination Coverage (DPT3) Trends

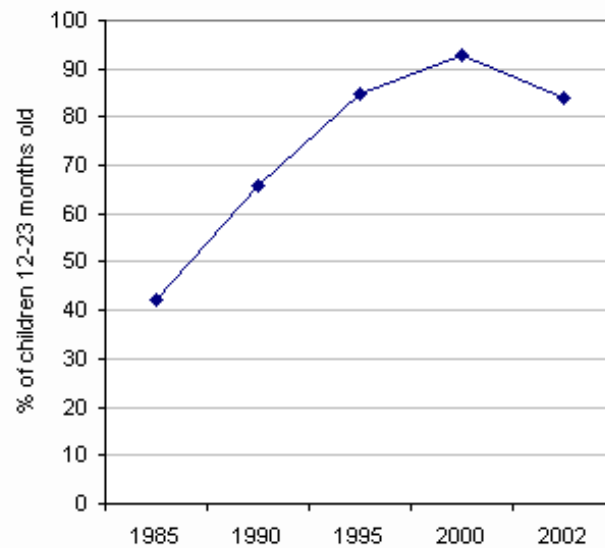


Table 4: Vaccination Coverage (DPT3) Trends

Source: WHO/Global Summary

1985	1990	1995	2000	2002
42.0	66.0	85.0	93.0	84.0

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

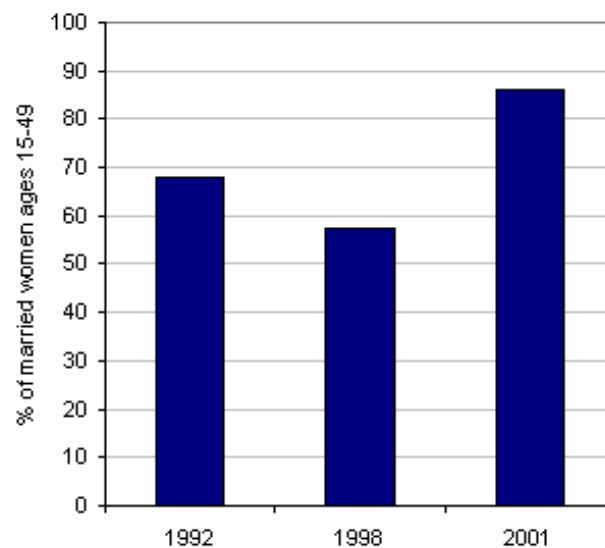


Table 5: Contraceptive Prevalence Rates, Modern Methods, Married Women

Source: Nicaragua DHS

Nicaragua FHS

1992	1998	2001
67.9	57.4	86.2

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	Total enrolment in primary level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to primary level of education in give school-year. GER can be over 100% due to the inclusion of over-aged and under-aged pupils/students because of early or late entrants, and grade repetition.
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 15-49 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 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).
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 given birth before age 20.

Maternal Health Indicators

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. The margins of uncertainty associated with the estimated maternal mortality ratios are very large and the estimates should not be used to monitor trends in the short term (including comparisons between 1995 and 2000 estimates). In addition, cross-country comparisons should be treated with considerable circumspection because different strategies are used to derive the estimates for different countries rendering comparisons fraught with difficulty. For further information please refer to the source.
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 the "sisterhood method". The data are aggregated based on different time periods ranging from four to ten years preceding the survey. Thus, the data may not be suitable for trend analysis due to over-lapping year ranges of estimates. For further information on methodology please refer to: Stanton, Cynthia, Nouredine Abderrahim, and Kenneth Hill. 1997. DHS Maternal Mortality Indicators: An assessment of Data Quality and Implications for Data Use. Calverton: Macro International Inc., or individual country DHS reports.

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, for whom treatment was sought from a health facility or provider.
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 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 (UNICEF)	Annual number of deaths that occur in children 0-4 years old per 1,000 births (five-year period preceding survey).
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 (DHS)	Proportion of living children 12-23 months old who have received three complete doses of vaccines against diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus.
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 (DHS)	Percentage of living children 12-23 months old who have received one dose of Measles Containing Vaccine.
Measles Vaccination Rate (WHO)	Percentage of living children 12-23 months old who have received one dose of Measles Containing Vaccine.
Polio Vaccination Rate (DHS)	Proportion of living children 12-23 months who have received three doses of polio vaccine.
Polio Vaccination Rate (WHO)	Proportion of living children 12-23 months who have received 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 Estimated Number of Cases	The estimated number of cases (all forms).
TB 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 Cases per 100,000	Number of malaria cases per 100,000 of the population during the year for which data was reported.

Statistical Sources For Nicaragua

BUCEN-IDB 2002	United States Census Bureau (BUCEN), International Programs Center. International Database. October 2002.
BUCEN-IDB 2003	United States Census Bureau (BUCEN), International Programs Center. International Database. July 2003.
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UNAIDS 2002	Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic. July 2002. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Geneva.
UNESCO 2002	Education for All: Is the World on Track? United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris
UNESCO 2003/4	EFA Global Monitoring Report. Gender and Education for All: The Leap to Equality. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris. 2003
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World Bank/WDI 2002

World Bank Development Indicators 2002, CD-Rom. Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2002.

World Bank/WDI 2003

World Bank Development Indicators 2003, CD-Rom. Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2003.