

Child mortality – Central African Republic

The child mortality estimates for the Central African Republic have been revised on the basis of new data from the 2006 MICS.

The methodology used to derive the child mortality estimates follow closely that documented in the “green book” (ref.1). The essence of this method is to fit a multi-spline weighted regression line to the available data for the under-5 mortality rate (U5MR) and, separately, for the infant mortality rate (IMR). Each survey, census and vital registration data source is assigned a set of weights, which have been standardized by type of data source across countries. However, during the process of deriving child mortality estimates, these weights may be adjusted on the basis of an assessment of data quality. Since an emphasis is placed on minimizing adjustment of weights, the initial estimates are derived using standardized weights. These are then modified by changes in the data weights that are considered necessary to arrive at the final child mortality estimates

The initial estimates for the Central African Republic, with all data sources given normal weights, are shown in attachment #1. There appears to be no strong reason for changing these weights in arriving at the final estimates.

The last step in finalizing the child mortality estimates usually requires a decision on which set of estimates (either U5MR or IMR) have the better data, and then derive the other set of child mortality estimates using the appropriate Coale-Demeny model life table. In the case of the Central African Republic U5MR is considered the better set of estimates and the IMR estimates have been derived from them using the closest Coale-Demeny model life table, which is South. The basis for selecting the South life table is provided in attachment #2. The resulting final estimates are given in attachment #3

G. Jones
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References

Hill K. et al, *Trends in child mortality in the developing world: 1960 to 1996*, UNICEF, New York, 1999. (see <http://www.childinfo.org/areas/childmortality/methodology.php>)