

Regional Disparities in Health - An Analysis of Infant Mortality Trend in Andhra Pradesh.

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Abstract

The Infant Mortality Rate is a sensitive indicator of infants health, population health, socio-economic development as well as the availability, utilisation and effectiveness of health care, particularly perinatal care. This study of IMR trends in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India is based on analysis of the time trend of IMR estimates from Sample Registration System, Census, and National Family Health Survey.

The Infant Mortality Rate of the state registered a consistent decline from 110-120 in 1970s to 66-70 in 1990s. But wide variation between and within districts remain. Rural urban differences in mortality has either remained as such or may have increased. Socioeconomic conditions and female literacy rate play a key role in reducing Infant Mortality Rate. Household standard of living and better infrastructure development of an area appears to be associated with lower Infant Mortality Rate. Mothers age at birth and closely spaced births are important risk factors for infant mortality.

Large disparities in health status of people in the state continue to exist. The health status in rural areas seems to be deteriorating over the past decade. Small area mortality analysis would enable the state to identify areas requiring development. This would facilitate area plans that may reduce inequality in health status and spread socioeconomic development.

PS: This study covers the period 1970 to 2000.

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