

Abstract

An infant mortality rate (IMR) is considered a primary and important indicator of a geographic area's (country, state, county) overall health status or quality of life. It is defined as deaths under one year of age in a year per 1000 live births. Reduction of infant mortality has been one of the key issues for the government of India. The national population policy (NPP 2000), the national health policy 2002 and the national rural health mission (NRHM-2005-2012) have laid down the objective of reducing infant mortality. Childhood mortality is one of the important indicators of a country's general medical and public health conditions and consequently the level of socio economic development. Its decline is therefore not only desirable but also indicative of an improvement in general living standards.