

AMICS Fact Sheet

Child Mortality

Introduction: The AMICS

The Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (AMICS) is a nationally representative sample survey that presents data on the social, health, and educational status of women and children in Afghanistan. It was conducted in 2010-2011 by the Central Statistics Organisation (CSO) of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, with the technical and financial support of UNICEF. The survey is based on the need to monitor progress towards goals and targets emanating from recent international agreements such as the Millennium Declaration and the Plan of Action of A World Fit For Children. It further helps track progress towards the Afghan Government's policy commitments to reduce poverty and support the wellbeing of women and children.



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Child Mortality: Major Findings

- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR): 74
- Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR): 102

Region	IMR	U5MR
Central	66	90
Central Highlands	86	122
East	50	65
North	86	122
North East	71	99
South	54	71
South East	87	124
West	89	127

Child Mortality and Socio-economic Status

Besides the regional differences shown above, there are also differences in mortality in terms of mother's educational levels and household wealth. As education and wealth levels rise, infant and under-5 mortality rates lower. While the infant mortality rate is 62 for the wealthiest quintile, it is 75 for the poorest quintile. Infant mortality for the children of mothers with no education is 74, while it is notably lower (55) for the children of mothers with secondary education or higher.

Estimating Child Mortality

IMR: the probability of dying before the infant's first birthday. Per 1000 live births.

U5MR: the probability of dying before the child's fifth birthday. Per 1000 live births.

In MICS surveys, infant and under five mortality rates are calculated based on an indirect estimation technique known as the Brass method.



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Child Mortality

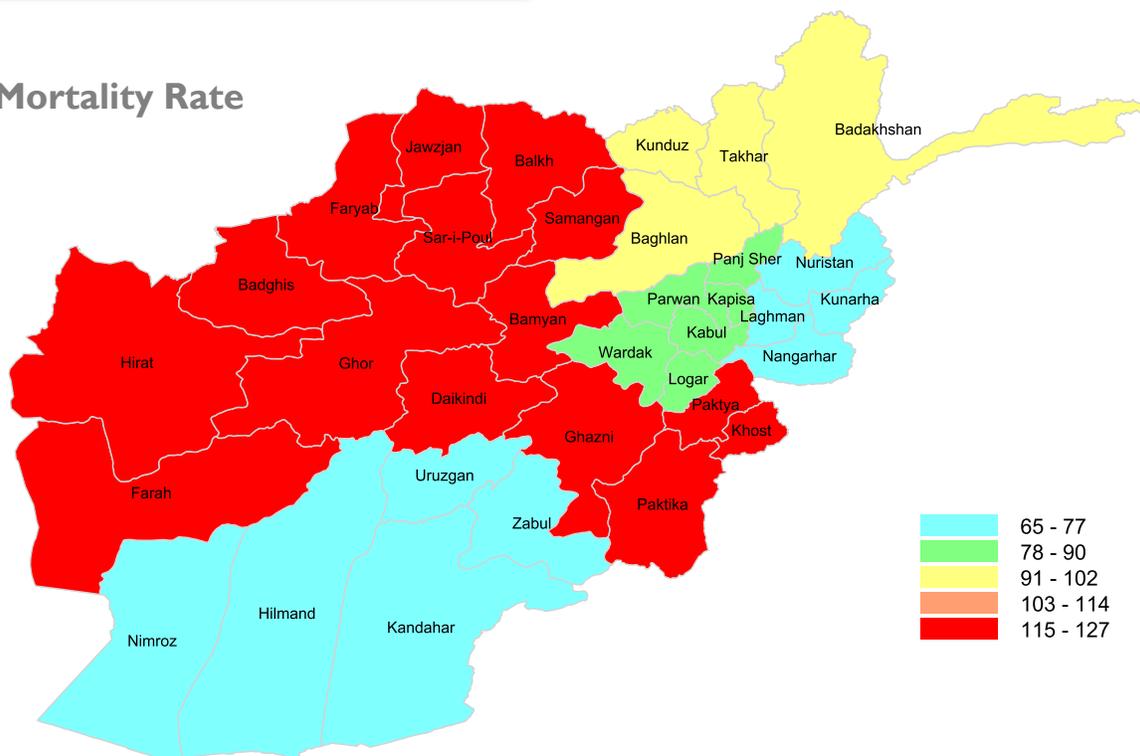
Did You Know?

The vast majority of child deaths occurring in Afghanistan are preventable. Research undertaken by UNICEF has found that cost-effective, low-tech interventions such as vaccination programs, antibiotics, micronutrient supplementation, and improved family care and breastfeeding practices can help children survive into adulthood. Despite progress made, Afghanistan's U5MR is still one of the highest child mortality rates in the world.

Interpreting the Findings

Getting accurate estimates of child mortality is challenging in countries lacking vital statistics registration systems. The AMICS findings show a very high rate of reduction in child mortality (11-12%), compared to other countries in the region. Different surveys carried out in Afghanistan have yielded slightly different results. For all of these reasons, child mortality estimate for Afghanistan is best interpreted with caution. The mortality data resulting from any single survey cannot be reflected as a true value, unless a series of data from different surveys are found to be comparable, and thus validated.

Under-5 Mortality Rate



Source: CSO, AMICS 2010/11

International Commitments on Child Mortality

One of the overarching goals of the MDGs is the reduction of infant and under-five mortality. Specifically, the MDGs call for the reduction in under-five mortality by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015.