

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (IMR)

- Number of infants death per thousand live birth

- IMR

= $\frac{\text{Number of Infant Deaths in a year} \times 1000}{\text{Total number of live births in same year}}$

- important indicator of.

- best indicator of availability, utilization & effectiveness of health services

- Best indicator of health in a community

- Most universally accepted indicator for health

status

- 2nd best indicator of socioeconomic development of a country (USMR being the 1st)
- Level of living
- Effectiveness of MCH services
- Among the best predictors of state failure

CAUSES

- 1. Neonatal mortality (0-4 weeks)
- Low birth weight or Prematurity
- Birth

injury

- Hemolytic disease or Congenital anomalies

- Sepsis

- 2. Post neonatal mortality (1-12 months)—

- Malnutrition

- Acute respiratory infections

- Diarrheal diseases

- Congenital anomalies

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Accidents

- Principal cause of infant mortality in India

- i. LBW & Prematurity (most common)

- ii. Pneumonia

- iii. Diarrheal diseases

- iv. Congenital malformations

- v. Cord infections/sepsis

- vi. Birth injuries (least common) Most common cause of IMR.

- India-LBW &

Prematurity

- World-Pneumonia

CRITERIA FOR AT RISK INFANTS

- i. LBW (< 2.5 kg)
- ii. Failure to gain weight during 3 successive months
- iii. Weight below 70% of the expected weight
- iv. Child with PEM, diarrhea
- v. Birth order 5 or more
- vi.

Twins

vii. Artificial feeding
viii. Working mother

ix. .Single parent

FACTORS AFFECTING INFANT MORTALITY

1. Age of mother- IMR is greater when age of mother is very young (< 19 years) or relatively old (> 35 years)

2. Maternal education - Maternal education plays a major role in decline of infant & child mortality

(Kerala)

3. Birth order > Highest mortality found in 1st born, Lowest mortality among 2nd born child mortality risks increase from 3rd born onwards

4. Birth spacing-IMR is Highest for infants born at an interval of 1 year & Lowest for interval of 2-3 years

5. Multiple births- High risk

6. Family size/high fertility- IMR increases with family size/high fertility

7. Breast feeding

- Early weaning & bottle-fed infants are more prone to die

8.

Illegitimacy

- Unwanted child does not receive the care in terms of nutrition & medical care

9. Sex of a child-

Female infant mortality is higher due to less attention & care by parents as compared to males

10. Socio economic status-

Higher in lower socio-economic status 11.
Habits/customs

- Higher with habits like-not feeding Colostrum & applying cow dung to umbilical