

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Mortality Rate?

Answer: Mortality rate is a measure of the number of deaths (in general, or due to a specific cause) in a population, scaled to the size of that population, per unit of time. Mortality rate is typically expressed in units of deaths per 1000 individuals per year.

2. What are the different types of Mortality rates?

Answer:

The fetal mortality rate: The ratio of fetal deaths to the sum of the births (the live births + the fetal deaths) in that year.

The infant mortality rate: The number of children dying under a year of age divided by the number of live births that year.

The maternal mortality rate: The number of maternal deaths related to childbearing divided by the number of live births (or by the number of live births + fetal deaths) in that year.

3. What are the various rates used in measuring Mortality Rate?

Answer:

The principal rates used in measuring mortality are,

- Crude Death rate (CDR)
- Specific Death Rate (SDR)
- Age Specific Death Rate (Age-SDR)
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)
- Standardized Death Rates (STDR)

4. What is Crude Death Rate?

Answer: The Crude death rate is the simplest of all the indices of mortality and is defined as the number of deaths (from all causes) per k-persons in the populations in the given region or community during a given period. Thus, in particular, the annual crude death rate denoted by 'm' for any region or community.

5. What does Crude Death Rate indicate?

Answer: The Crude Death Rate is a probability rate giving the probability that a person belonging to a given population will die in the given period as the entire population of the region is exposed to the risk of mortality.

6. What are the advantages of Crude Death Rate?

Answer: The Crude Death Rate is simple to understand and calculate; the most widely used of any vital statistical rates and is an index of mortality used in numerous demographic and public health problems.

7. What is the major drawback of the Crude Death Rate?

Answer: The most crucial drawback of the crude death rate is that it completely ignores the age and sex distribution of the population. Experience shows that mortality is different in different segments of the population. Children in early ages of their life, the older generation are exposed to higher risk of mortality as compared to younger people.

8. Can we calculate the Crude Death Rates for male and female?

Answer: It is to be noted that the crude death rate for males and females can be calculated separately. The crude death rate for males in a given region for a given

period is calculated using the formula Crude death rate for Males is equal to Male deaths(m D) divided by Male population (m P) into thousand. Similarly, Crude death rate for Females is equal Female deaths (f D) divided by Female population (f P) into Thousand.

9. What is a Specific Death Rate?

Answer: Death rate computed for a particular period specific to the section of the population is termed as specific death rate.

10. What is the importance of Specific Death Rates?

Answer: Specific death rates reveal more facts about various segments of the population than the crude death rate that is, if the death rate is high in a specific age group than old age, preventive measure can be taken depending on the situations, thus specific death rates are extremely helpful in planning and research.

11. What is the advantage of Specific Death rate?

Answer: The Age specific death rates is one of the most important and widely applicable type of death rates as it supplies one of the essential components required for computation of Net reproduction rates and construction of life table.

12. What is Infant Mortality Rate?

Answer: The Infant mortality rate is defined as the chance of dying of a newly born infant within a year under a given mortality conditions.

13. Why is Infant Mortality Rate called as a Sensitive Index?

Answer: The infant mortality rate is regarded as a very sensitive index of the health condition of a community or country and reflects any changes in its health standards since the infant mortality rate is very responsive to any improvements made in the environment and medical conditions.

14. Why is it difficult to calculate the Infant Mortality Rate?

Answer: As the definition of Live births and still births vary from country to country and for the same country from time to time. It is difficult to define Infant Mortality Rate.

15. What is Standardized Death Rate?

Answer: In the Crude death rate and Age specific death rate there are certain draw backs in the formulation of the calculations since the age distributions of the populations between two regions are not identical. To remove this draw back it was suggested to use the same set of weights for computing the weighted average of the age related Specific Death Rate. Such an adjusted death rate is known as Standardised death rate.