Summary

- The word "mortality" came from the Latin "mors" (death). Mortality rate is the death rate. 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

- There are a number of different types of mortality rates, examples are as following:
    - **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

- The following are the principal rates used in measuring mortality
    - Crude Death rate (CDR)
    - Specific Death Rate (SDR)
    - Age Specific Death Rate (Age-SDR)
    - Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)
    - Standardized Death Rates (STDR)

- **Crude death rate**:
  The crude death rate is the total number of deaths per year per 1000 people. The crude death rate depends on the age (and gender) specific mortality rates and the age (and gender) distribution of the population. The number of deaths per 1000 people can be higher for developed nations than in less-developed countries, despite life expectancy being higher in developed countries due to standards of health being better

- **Specific death rates:**
  In order to arrive at a more useful figure than the crude death rate, we must take into account the fact that the mortality pattern is different from different segments of the population. The various segments generally considered are Age, Sex, Occupation, Religion, Community, Social status etc Death rate computed for a particular period specific to the section of the population is termed as specific death rate

- **Infant Mortality Rate:**
  The Infant mortality rate is defined as the chance of dying of a newly born infant within a year under a given mortality conditions. The infant mortality rate and age specific death rate for Age zero (0) have the same numerator. However the denominated in the age specific death rate at Age Zero includes all the infants upto the age below 1 year

- **Standardized Death Rate:**
  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

- **Direct Method of Standardisation:**
  In any standardization method weighting of age specific death rates is done using the corresponding population of the area to which they refer. However the Direct Method consists of weighting the age specific death rates by the population distribution of another region chosen as a standard

- **Indirect Standardisation**:
  In normal calculation of standardized death rates we need to know the numbers of persons and age-specific death rates for different age groups. However in reality though we might have the population count classified by age, total number of death and crude death rate but the actual age related specific death rate might not be known or available. In such cases we use the Indirect Standardisation method