

Nepal 2024-25



Child Mortality

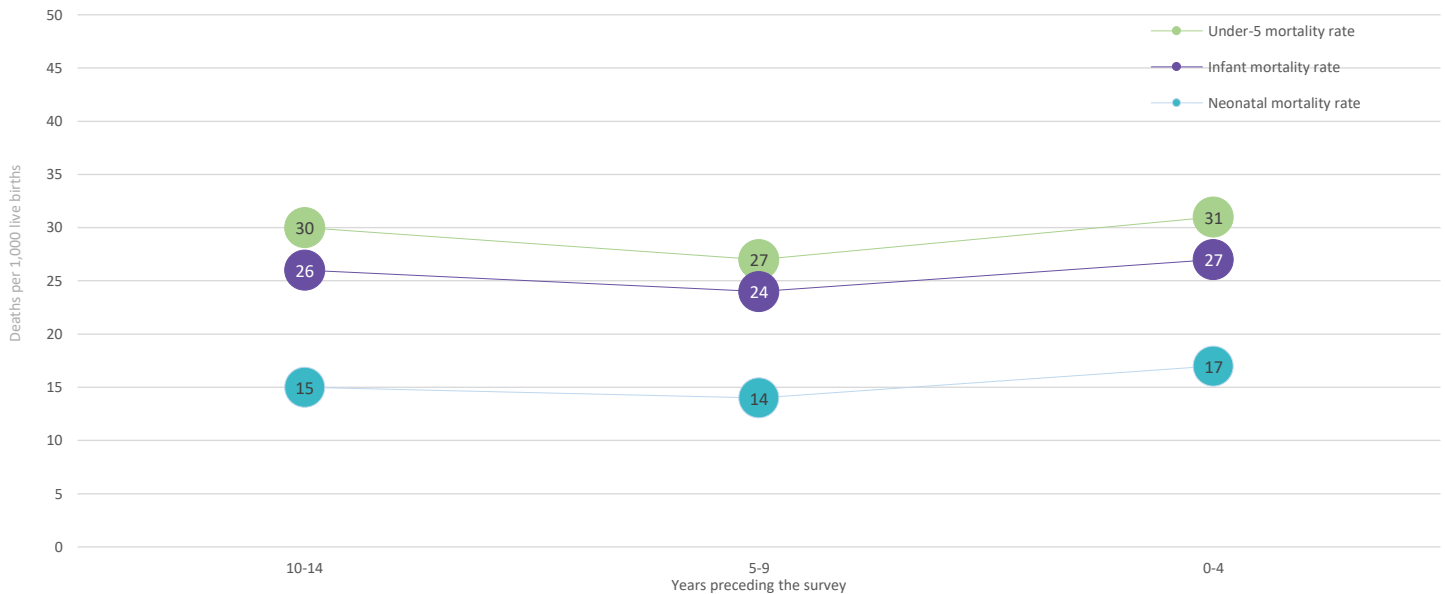
Multiple Indicator
Cluster Surveys



Government of Nepal
Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
National Statistics Office



Mortality Rates among Children Under-5



Years preceding the survey	Neonatal mortality rate: SDG 3.2.2	Post-neonatal mortality rate	Infant mortality rate	Child mortality rate	Under-5 mortality rate: SDG 3.2.1
0-4	17	10	27	4	31
5-9	14	10	24	4	27
10-14	15	11	26	4	30

Neonatal mortality (NN): probability of dying within the first month of life

Post-neonatal mortality: calculated as the difference between infant and neonatal mortality rates

Infant mortality (${}_1q_0$): probability of dying between birth and first birthday

Child mortality (${}_4q_1$): probability of dying between the first and fifth birthday

Under-5 mortality (${}_5q_0$): probability of dying between birth and fifth birthday

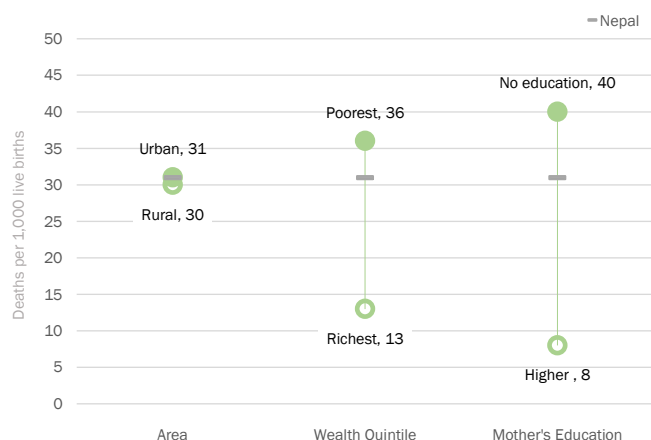
MICS uses a **direct method for estimation of child mortality**. This involves collecting **full birth histories** whereby women age 15-49 are asked for the date of birth of each child born alive, whether the child is still alive and, if not, the age at death.

Key Messages

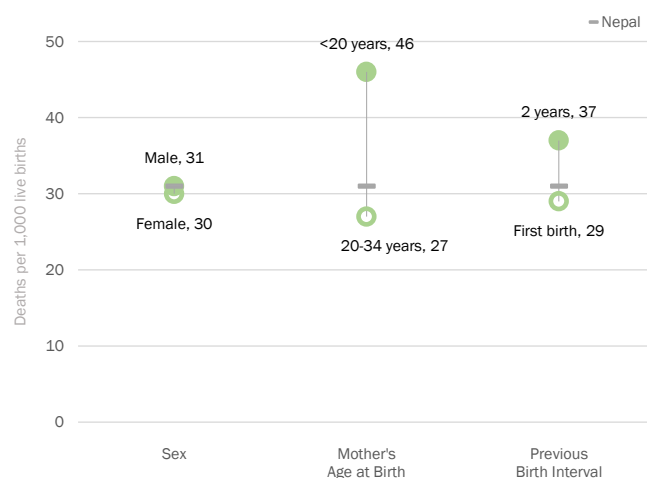
- Over the past 15 years, Nepal's under-five, infant, and neonatal mortality rates have shown little to no improvement, remaining largely stagnant.
- More than half of all child deaths occur in the first 28 days of life.
- Neonatal mortality is the primary driver of overall child survival trends—when newborn deaths increase, child mortality rises proportionally.
- Child mortality rates are highest among two groups: infants born to mothers under 20 years old (46 deaths per 1,000 live births) and those born within 2 years of a previous birth (37 per 1,000).
- Nepal MICS 2024-25 results show that maternal age and birth spacing are critical risk factors for newborn survival.
- Male infants experience slightly higher mortality than females (18 vs 15 per 1,000), while mothers aged 20-34 years have the lowest neonatal death rates (14 per 1,000).
- Bagmati province has the lowest mortality rates (neonatal: 10, infant: 17, under-5: 21), while Sudurpashchim has the highest (neonatal: 26, infant: 38, under-5: 48).

Differentials in Child Mortality

Under-5 mortality rate by socio-economic characteristics & area



Under-5 mortality rate by demographic risk factors



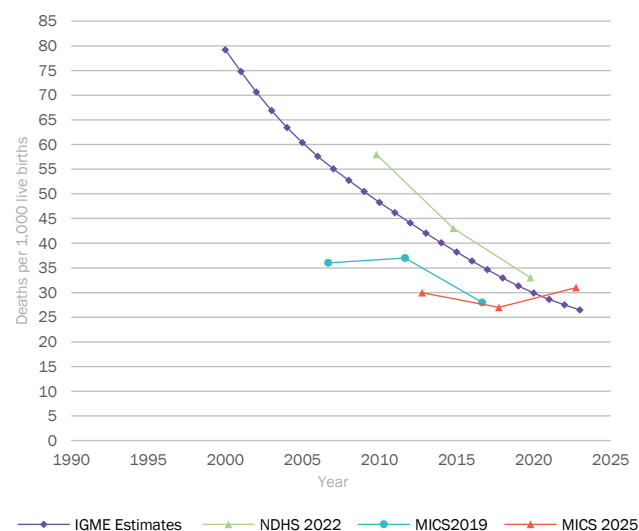
Under-five mortality rates for the five-year period preceding the survey, by socio-economic characteristics, area and demographic risk factors

Neonatal & under-5 mortality rates by province

Province	Neonatal mortality	Infant Mortality Rate	Under-5 mortality
National	17	27	31
Koshi	14	24	30
Madhesh	20	30	33
Bagmati	10	17	21
Gandaki	14	20	20
Lumbini	16	29	29
Karnali	22	29	38
Sudurpaschim	26	38	48

Neonatal mortality, Infant Mortality and under-5 mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births) for the five-year period preceding the survey, by province

Trends in under-5 mortality rates



The source data used in the above graph is taken from the final reports of MICS 2025, NDHS 2022, MICS 2019 and IGME estimates. Data from IGME estimates was downloaded from the UN IGME web portal.

Child mortality source data are published on www.childmortality.org, the web portal of the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME). UN IGME data points may differ from the published estimates of a survey, census or vital registration system since UN IGME recalculates estimates using smaller intervals, longer reference periods and/or calendar years (if data are available).

The Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2025 by National Statistics Office as part of the global MICS programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF National Statistics Office provided financial support.

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the Nepal MICS 2025 related to Child Mortality. Data from this snapshot can be found in tables CS.1, CS.2, and CS.3 in the Survey Findings Report.

Further statistical snapshots and the Survey Findings Report for this and other surveys are available on mics.unicef.org/surveys.