

Factors influencing infant mortality in Indonesia in 1991

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Abstrak

Indonesia's infant mortality rate declined to 64' infannt deaths per 1,000 live births in 1991 _ Adolescent mothers. women who first married under the age of 15. and mothers who did not obtain antenatal care and tetanus immunizations were at greater risk of experiencing an infant death. In addition. levels of infant mortality were substantially higher when births were spaced closer together. For example, the infant mortality rate among adolescent mothers was 125 when births were spaced less than 24 .months apart and 96 when births were separated by more than two years. Roughly half of all infant deaths occur within the first 28 days of life in Indonesia. Findings indicate that mothers who were less than 20 years of age. who did not have antenatal care and tetanus immunizations. and who spaced births less than 24 months apart were more likely to experience a neonatal death. With the exception of antenatal care, these factors were also associated with elevated levels of postnatal mortality (infant deaths that occur when infants are between 1-12 months of age). However, postneonatal mortality was also higher among mothers who gave birth at home rather than in a health facility, who were assisted at delivery by non-medical staff and who had lower levels of educational attainment. Postneonatal mortality is determined by a broader array of program and socioeconomic measures than neonatal mortality. and may be reduced more readily through Family Planning/Mother and Child Health (FPAHCH) service interventions. In order to reduce both neonatal and postneonatal mortality. greater effort should be made to increase the age at first birth. space births more than two years. and attain higher tetanus coverage levels among expectant mothers.