INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN

ORUMBA GENERAL HOSPITAL, AJALLI

(1989–1990)

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ABSTRACT

A survey of infant mortality in Orumba General Hospital, Orumba North Local Government Area, Anambra State between January 1, 1989 and December 31, 1990 is presented.

Within this period of study, a total of 1,050 livebirths were recorded out of which 65 died before completing their first year of life.

A breakdown of the figures show that in 1989 out of a total of 450 live born infants, 25 died at infancy bringing the infant mortality rate to 55.6% per 1,000 for that year. 1990 showed that out of 600 live born infants, 40 died at infancy with a mortality rate of 66.70 per 1,000 livebirths.

The major causes of death during the period were fever (24%), convulsion (24%), Diarrhoea (16%), cough (4%), prematurity (4%) and others (28%).

High birth orders, low socio-economic class, very early introduction of bottle feeding, late booking for antenatal care and caesarian section are all associated with high infant mortality rates. High levels of maternal education and completion of immunization are associated with low infant mortality rates.

The apparent low values of infant mortality rate found in this study can largely be attributable to the availability and utilization of maternal and
child health services as well as a high proportion of educated mothers.

It is recommended that this services be expanded, a comprehensive civil registration system established and regular sample surveys of infant mortality rate carried out.