

Trends and inequities in health and nutrition in Colombia 1995-2000*

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Resumén

Research in the last decades is giving greater importance to the analysis of the impact of nutrition and health on human capital accumulation, economic growth and social development. This study uses empirical evidence from the Demography and Health Surveys of 1995 and 2000 to document the trends and inequities in health and nutritional status in Colombia at the end of the twentieth century. The nutritional status indicators analyzed for women are height and BMI as anthropometric indicators and problems at delivery and postpartum problems as health indicators. For children 0 to 5 years old two anthropometric indicators are analyzed as measures of nutritional status, z-scores of height by age and weight by height, and as health indicators we use the infant mortality rate and the incidence of upper respiratory infection and acute diarrheal disease. The inequities and trends along the five year period are analyzed by urban / rural regions, taking into account differences in the environmental characteristics across regions.

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