

HOUSEHOLD, ENVIRONMENT AND UNDER FIVE CHILD MORTALITY IN BOLIVIA

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ABSTRACT

Despite the progress made in terms of under-five mortality from 1990 to 2015 around the world, according to the Millennium Development Goals, Bolivia has not reached the agreed targets in this matter. Identifying the determinants of childhood mortality, in this context, is key for understanding the reason for the problem and its magnitude to establish corrective public policy measures that help reach the expected mortality rates. Under this premise, the research uses two analysis techniques: 1) the analysis of the independent variables on the survival condition of the child through descriptive statistics, and 2) the application of a binary choice model that allows a specific review about the effect of each independent variable selected over the probability of death for the child before reaching sixty months in terms of sign of intervention and magnitude. The main results show that the variables that conclude in an increase or decrease in the probability of dying are: size at birth, preceding birth interval, working status of the mother, presence of breastfeeding, mother's educational level, number of household members, mother's ethnic identification, and the proportion of women in the community who have had births attended by a professional and at a hospital. These results show that the interconnection between variables of different levels: individual, household and context, is vital to explain mortality levels and trends.

Keywords: Under Five Mortality, Mosley-Chen Theoretical Framework, Millennium Development Goals, Public Policy.

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