

**ISC 2013 ABSTRACTS** 

## Abstract S4B.2

Levels and causes of adult mortality in The Gambia

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**Background:** Attempts to estimate level of adult mortality, 45q15, in The Gambia produced survivorships for both sexes well above those recorded in much of West Africa and similar to East European levels, thus creating much cause for investigation and verification. This study builds on these attempts to estimate national and regional levels of 45q15 in the past half century by adopting a combination of indirect and direct estimation techniques.

**Data and Methods:** Four indirect estimation methods based on orphanhood data are applied on four sets of census data and one nationally representative survey dataset to produce independent estimates of 45q15 at the national and regional levels. Similar annual estimates were derived directly using DSS data from two sites (Farafenni in the North Bank Region [NBR], and Basse in the Upper River Region [URR]) and used to evaluate the indirectly estimated levels of 45q15 for both regions. InterVA 4 was used to derive causes of death among adults.

**Results:** Adult mortality levels in The Gambia ranged from 527 and 523 per 1,000 for females and males respectively in 1958, to 204 and 257 per 1,000 in 1993. These represent declines of 61% and 51% for females and males over 35 years. Similar declines were observed in NBR (65% and 55%) and URR (67% and 62%). Direct estimates of 154 and 160 per 1,000 were obtained from Farafenni HDSS in 2011, representing drops of 69% and 71% for females and males respectively over 53 years. Females maintained lighter mortality experience than males. The main causes of death in adulthood in Farafenni were Tuberculosis, ARI, Stroke and Malaria.

**Conclusion:** The analysis provided much opportunity for the comparison and verification of resulting 45*q*15 estimates. The study confirmed that the health of Gambian adults was not significantly different from other West African countries.