

PREFACE

Health Statistics from the Americas, 2006 Edition is the sixth in a series begun in 1991 to complement the quadrennial publication *Health in the Americas*. This is the second edition to be produced **only** in an electronic format, and includes a special topic on the ten leading causes of death in 31 countries of the Americas.

The 2006 edition contains mortality data for all country-years received after publication of the 2003 Edition of this series. This volume presents a large number of country-years of available data –155 data years from 42 countries. It includes 45 country-years of mortality data coded with the Ninth Revision (ICD-9) and 110 Country-years with the Tenth Revision (ICD-10). These data are presented for cause groups according to the PAHO 6/61 List for tabulation of ICD-9 and the PAHO 6/67 List for tabulation of ICD-10 coded mortality.

As countries strive to meet the growing demands for good data to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), mortality data have become a key component with two MDGs expressing targets in terms of mortality.

The publication serves to display the extensive availability of detailed mortality data in countries of the Americas. It also highlights the importance of addressing deficiencies in data coverage and quality in order to improve the reliability and usefulness of registered mortality information. Despite improvements over the years, much more needs to be done to strengthen the civil registration and vital statistics systems in countries where they are deficient.

The Pan American Health Organization gratefully acknowledges the continued cooperation and support of its Member States in providing this information for dissemination. I am confident that this information can contribute toward health situation analyses used by policymakers to make decisions that improve the health of the populations of the Americas.

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