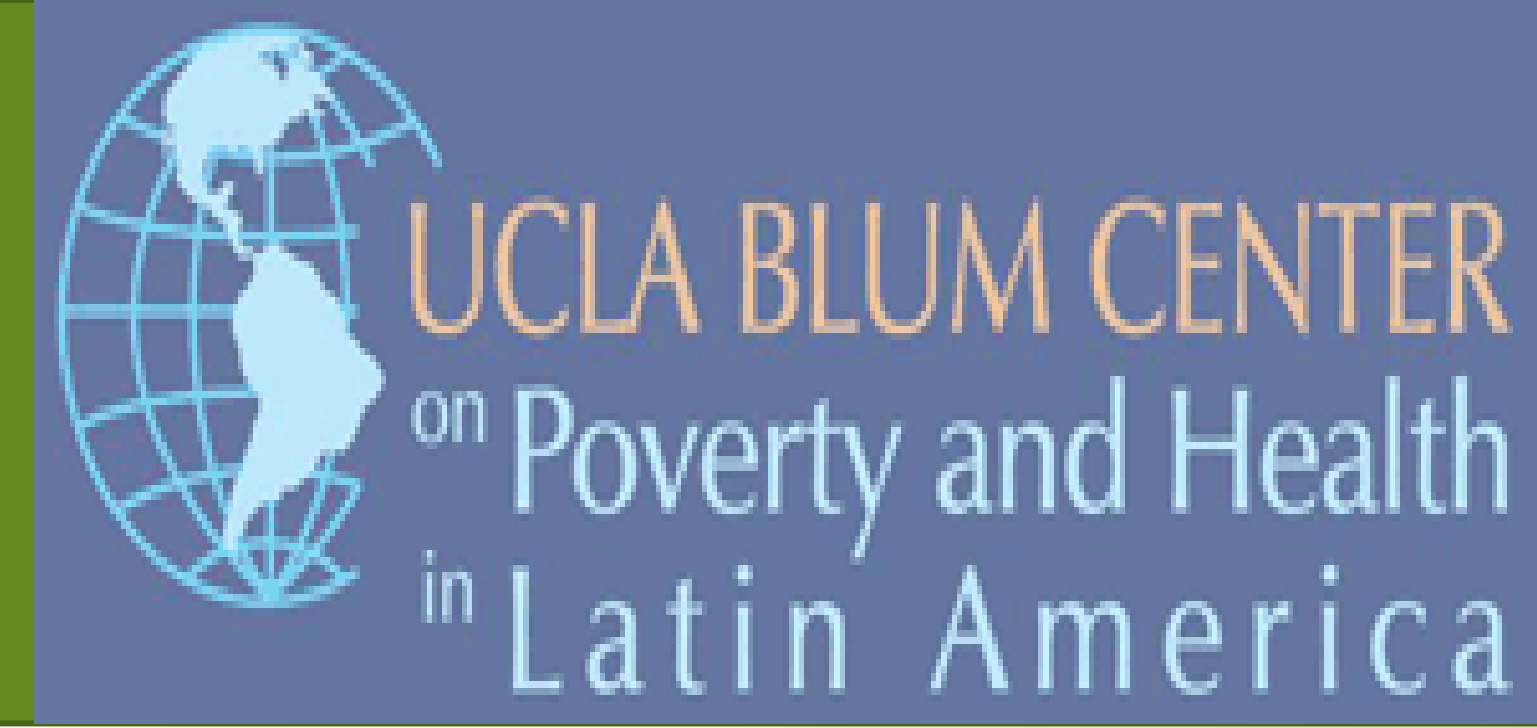




The Links Between Maternal Health Education and Child Nutrition Status in Bolivia

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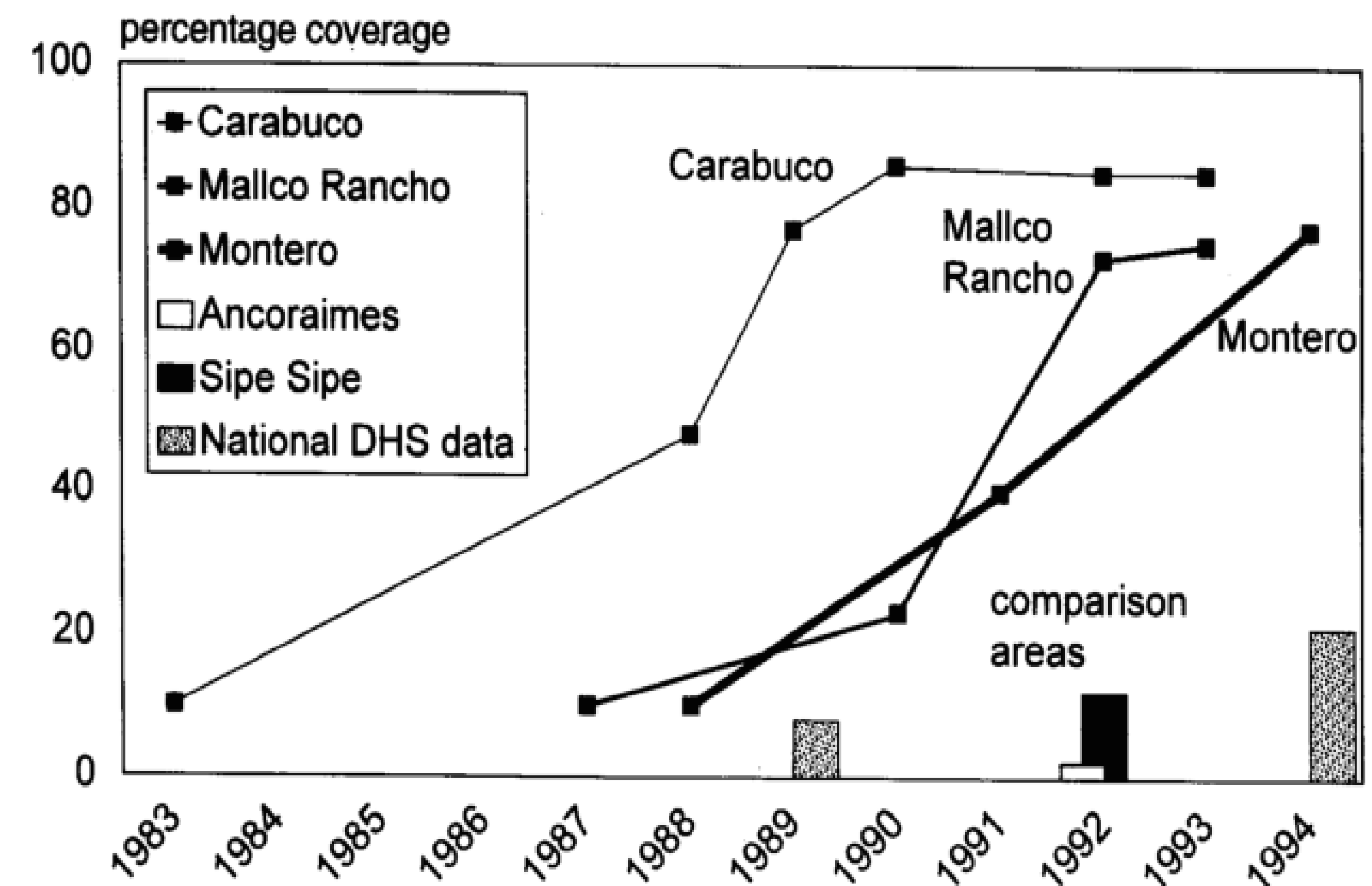


Introduction

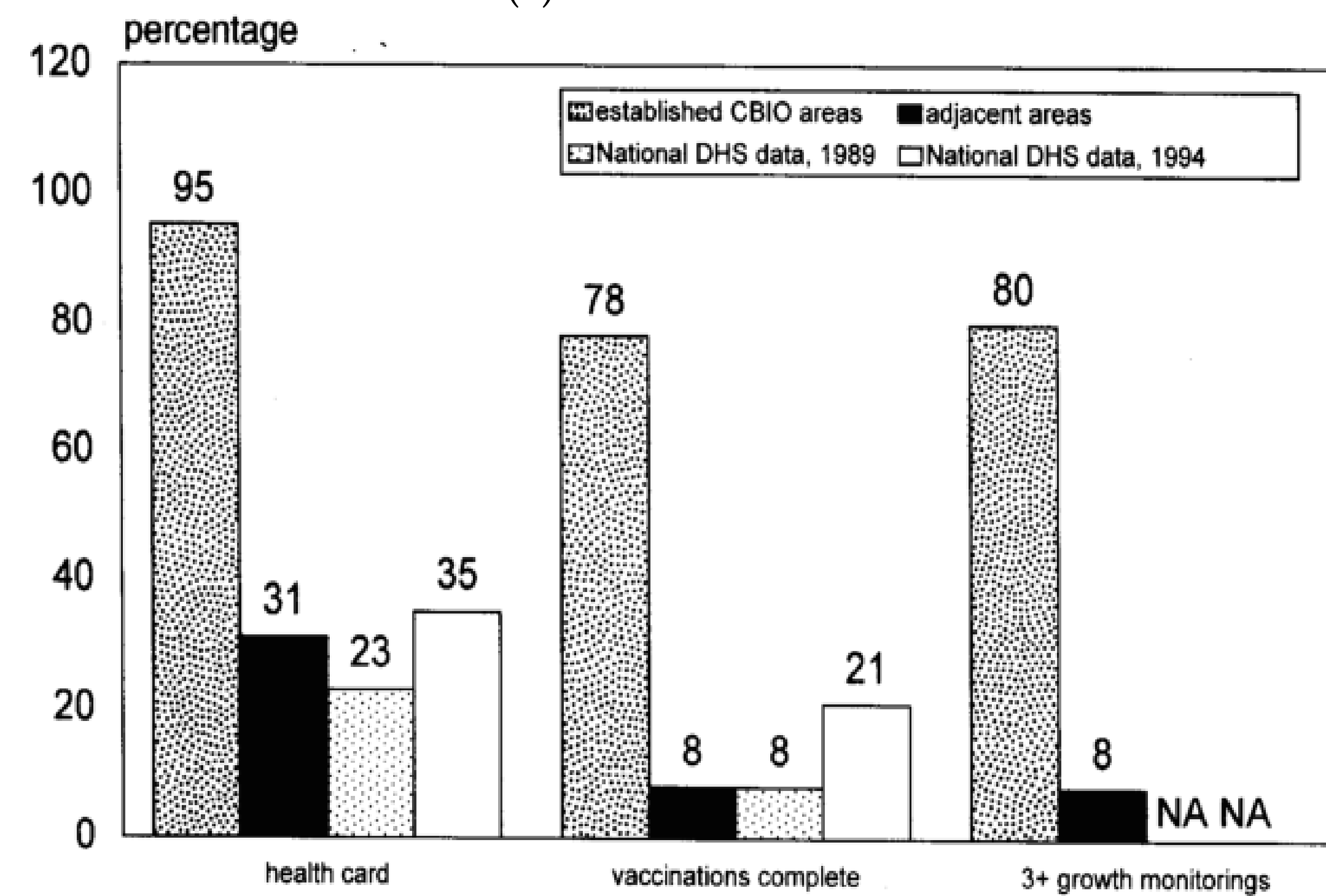
- Bolivia is one of the poorest nations in Latin America with approximately 59% of people living in poverty (3).
- Low socioeconomic and maternal education status affect children health because of their relationship with appropriate care practices.
- The Census Based Impact Oriented (CBIO) approach to primary health care is a program that offers health services to low-income rural communities.
- The program was present in 7 sites in Bolivia serving 75,000 people in rural and urban communities (1).

Methods

- The CBIO approach is a long-term 2-stage process which requires 10-15 yrs. to reach full potential, its main objective was to respond to acute curative care needs of the entire community making emphasis on the prevention and early treatment of community illnesses (1).
- Surveys were taken during routine visitations documenting mortality, morbidity, or malnourishment of children 5 years and younger
- The communities were evaluated by different staffing levels: 1 physician per 4633 persons, 1 mid-level physician per 5520 persons, and one low-level physician per 1396 persons (1).



Percentages of 12-23 month old children in est. CBIO areas and comparison with fully immunized areas 1983-1994 (2)



Coverage of children health services in est. CBIO areas and comparison areas 1992-4 (2)



Results

- They promoted health practices such as proper feeding techniques, hygiene, appropriate storage of water, signs of pneumonia in children, family planning, and prompt recognition of obstetrical emergencies (1).
- Surveys indicate that 95% of children ages 12-23 months were enrolled in the programs health system (2). And 78% of these children had completed their vaccination series (2).
- The mortality rate was 45% less than children in other programs similar to the CBIO approach (2).

Conclusion

- CBIO approach demonstrates the efficient uses of resources, money, and time management to reduce child mortality by 33-50% (ages 5 and under) (2).
- The results of this program could be implemented for health promotion amongst other developing countries.
- Community involvement is key to keeping the programs efforts sustainable and maintained after the program has ended.

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