MDIS

GLOBAL PREVALENCE OF VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY

DISAGGREGATED DATA TABLES
GUIDELINES FOR USING DISAGGREGATED TABLES

Information on VAD prevalence in this section is presented in two sets of tables:

- Ocular signs and symptoms
- Serum retinol data

For each set, data are presented for countries in alphabetical order according to the six WHO regions. For each country there is a brief description of the location and population under study in the column marked *Geographic area*, together with any other defining characteristics of the region or area. The *Survey year* refers to the year in which the study was conducted or ended if it spans more than one year. *N.S.* (not specified) is recorded if the survey year is unknown. The *Age group* is presented in years. *Sex* is divided into three categories each denoted by the following letters: B=both males and females; M=males only; F=females only. If the sex was not specified it is assumed that both sexes were assessed, and a 'B' is recorded on the table. *Sample size* refers to the number of children in a particular strata. If the sample size was not given, *N.S.* is inserted. Where no data are given in one or more of these columns for a particular survey, unless otherwise noted it is assumed that it is the same as the preceding survey.

For clinical data, point prevalence estimates are provided for individual signs and symptoms of clinical xerophthalmia and the total of corneal xerophthalmia (X2+X3A+X3B). Where a total xerophthalmia rate is available, the next column indicates the particular classification scheme used, i.e. the specific stages of xerophthalmia which are included in the estimate. It is very important to recall when comparing data across studies that disparate classifications were employed in many of the rates presented for total xerophthalmia.

For serum retinol data, in addition to those characteristics outlined above, a column has been included to specify the laboratory method employed in the biochemical analysis and determination of serum retinol levels. The information for serum retinol is presented both as prevalence, i.e. percent of population falling below 0.70 and 0.35 µmol/l, as well as for the entire distribution, by designating the mean value and its standard deviation.

Reference numbers are coded according to WHO region where the first number corresponds to the following: 1=AFR; 2=AMR; 3=EMR; 4=EUR; 5=SEAR; 6=WPR; 7=Multiple country data. Specific references are listed in a separate section of the document.