



Global Decline in Diarrhoeal Disease Deaths

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A recent study published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* highlights a decline in global deaths caused by [diarrheal](#) diseases.

- There has been a **nearly 60% drop in global deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases**, with **1.2 million deaths reported in 2021**, down from 2.9 million in 1990.
- **Children under five** and the **elderly (above 70 years) remain highly vulnerable**, especially in [sub-Saharan Africa](#) and [South Asia](#), where mortality rates are highest.
 - Notably, while mortality among children under five has **decreased by 79%**, this age group still experiences the **highest mortality rate**.
 - [Disability-adjusted life years \(DALY\)](#) , representing years of life lost and lived with disability, dropped from **186 million in 1990 to 59 million in 2021**, with **31 million in children under five**.
- In **high-income countries**, there are **less than one death per 100,000 population** in children under five, while **sub-Saharan Africa** reports at least **150 deaths per 100,000 population** in the same demographic.
- **Diarrhoea**: Diarrhoea is defined as the **passage of three or more loose or liquid stools per day** (or more frequent passage than is normal for the individual).
 - The most severe threat posed by diarrhoea is dehydration.

Read More: [Stop Diarrhoea Drive, Asian Conference on Diarrhoeal Disease and Nutrition](#)

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