

### *Asia-Pacific Population Journal*

**Article**    **Socio-economic Development and Mortality Patterns and Trends in Malaysia**

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**Abstract**    Malaysia currently has quite low levels of mortality; however, in terms of the provision of medical services and basic amenities, it lags behind several industrialised countries. Mortality trends indicate a decline for all ethnic groups and for all regions of Malaysia, but they have not been uniform for all groups of the population or in all periods. Much needs to be done to narrow, if not to eliminate, the existing mortality differentials of the different groups in the country. The article identifies the need for public health and socio-economic development programmes to be more focused on certain disadvantaged groups. The article also highlights the need to improve the coverage of birth-weight data and vital registration data in Sabah and Sarawak.

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