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## **Nicaragua: 600 Children Die Of Diarrhea & Measles**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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On Aug. 24, the Health Ministry reported that since the beginning of the year, some 600 children in the Managua area have died of measles and diarrhea. In other regions, an average of five children die every day, most from diarrhea. Ministry spokespersons attribute the high fatality rate to medicine shortages, poor sanitation, and the absence of large-scale prevention campaigns. "The way things are going, we believe that the deterioration of children's health will increase notably in the next few weeks," stated Patria Mendez, director of the Health Ministry's division of disease control. The Health Ministry is attempting to compensate for medicine shortages in health clinics throughout the country by organizing training workshops for medical personnel and paramedics. (Basic data from AFP, 08/24/90)

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