Argentina: Malnutrition Among School-age Children

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According to results of a recent survey released July 5, 10% of primary school children suffer from malnutrition. The survey was conducted by the independent Child Nutrition Studies Center (CENI) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). Malnutrition among children up to the age of 12 is highest in Argentina's northeastern region, where the proportion recorded in the survey was 50%. The average height of children residing in the country's low-income regions is seven centimeters less than the average for children residing in economically developed areas. Chronic malnutrition affects 6.4% of school-age children living in suburbs surrounding metropolitan Buenos Aires; 13.3% in Buenos Aires province (the nation's wealthiest province); and, 28.5% in Misiones province (850 km. northeast of the capital). Half of all children between one and two years of age residing in the nation's poorest regions suffer iron-deficiency anemia. In Misiones province, the proportion is 55%. (Basic data from AFP, 07/05/91)

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