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Life Expectancy, Infant Mortality, Illiteracy: South American Nations & Mexico, Selected Years (s/s)

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According to recent statistical reports by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), despite a decade of crisis, literacy rates increased and mortality rates declined in all South American nations and in Mexico. In 1989, Chile registered the lowest infant mortality rate, 19.1 per 1,000 live births. At the high end were Bolivia and Peru, at 106 and 84.1, respectively. In 1985, Argentina claimed the lowest illiteracy rate, 4.5% (15 years of age and older), compared to Bolivia (25.8%) and Brazil (22.3%) at the other extreme. Experts at both multilateral institutions point out, however, that education and health conditions in most of the 10 nations are inadequate to meet the challenges of "economic modernization." Life expectancy Infant mortality Illiteracy (per 1,000 live rate births) 1980 1989 1980 1989 1980 1985 Argentina 69.3 70.9 38 30.4 6.1 4.5 Bolivia 49.9 53.7 129.6 106.4 36.8 25.8 Brazil 62.8 65.6 74.2 59.9 25.5 22.3 Colombia 65.9 68.5 48.2 38.5 14.8 11.9 Chile 69.5 71.8 32.2 19.1 8.9 5.6 Ecuador 63.1 65.8 74.8 61.3 19.8 17.6 Mexico 66.6 69.4 55.8 44.8 17.3 9.7 Peru 57.9 62.1 101.4 84.1 18.1 15.2 Uruguay 70.4 72.5 36.6 22.1 ... 4.6 Venezuela 68.5 69.9 40.6 34.8 15.3 13.1 Sources: IDB and World Bank. IN Agence France-Presse, 11/29/91.

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