Abstract
Objective. To examine cervical cancer mortality rates in Mexican urban and rural communities, and their association with poverty-related factors, during 1990-2000. Material and Methods: We analyzed data from national databases to obtain mortality trends and regional variations using a Poisson regression model based on location (urban-rural). Results. During 1990-2000 a total of 48,761 cervical cancer (CC) deaths were reported in Mexico (1990=4,280 deaths/year; 2000=4,620 deaths/year). On average, 12 women died every 24 hours, with 0.76% yearly annual growth in CC deaths. Women living in rural areas had 3.07 higher CC mortality risks compared to women with urban residence. Comparison of state CC mortality rates (reference=Mexico City) found higher risk in states with lower socio-economic development (Chiapas, relative risk [RR]=10.99; Nayarit, RR=10.5). Predominantly rural states had higher CC mortality rates compared to Mexico City (lowest rural population). Conclusions. CC mortality is associated with poverty-related factors, including lack of formal education, unemployment, low socioeconomic level, rural residence and insufficient access to healthcare. This indicates the need for eradication of regional differences in cancer detection. This paper is available too at: http://www.insp.mx/salud/index.html

Keywords
cervical cancer; poverty; mortality; trends; urban; rural; Mexico.