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The Millennium Declaration pledge on under-five mortality is, by 2015, to reduce it by two-thirds from "current rates".

Murray and Chambers' footnote to their sentence about the Declaration (Lancet 386, 9988, 3-5) wrongly directs readers to "United Nations Millennium Project. Goals, targets and indicators. New York: United Nations, 2006".

The Millennium Project page relates not to the Millennium Declaration but to the generally easier MDG target proposed a year later:  
"Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate".

On 2 July the institution which Professor Murray directs, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, issued a press release announcing the Lancet's publication of the Murray and Chambers article. The release states,

"The Millennium Declaration in 2000 set an ambitious goal of reducing the death rate in children under 5 by two-thirds in each country between 1990 and 2015."

This error is rife among academics, civil servants, journalists and others. I learned of it from the work of Thomas Pogge.

I note that Arregoces and colleagues refer to an "MDG summit in 2000"

On 12 June I had written a letter to the Lancet for publication, pointing out several relevant instances in the journal of misleading content, including from the Millennium Project. It is not difficult to see that related errors in the Lancet are common. On 29 June, after the letter was rejected, I wrote again: "I think it is clear that authors, readers and those most affected deserve the truth."

#### References

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

Thomas Pogge, Millions Killed by Clever Dilution of our Promise, 2010  
<http://www.crop.org/viewfile.aspx?id=218>

[www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm)

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2015-07/ifhm-moc070215.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2015-07/ifhm-moc070215.php)

[www.millenniumdeclaration.org](http://www.millenniumdeclaration.org)