

Maternal Mortality Scorecard

New Figures for 2005

On October 12, 2007, an unprecedented joint UN agency working group released new estimates, the first in five years, on maternal mortality worldwide.

The World Health Organization; UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund; UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund); the UN Population Division; and The World Bank together developed a new approach to estimating maternal mortality that seeks both to generate estimates for countries with no data and to correct available data for under-reporting and for misclassification.

Inconsistency in data on deaths and on classification of those deaths creates broad uncertainties in many places, even in developed countries. But all estimates almost certainly understate the problem. The 2005 approach differs from those used in 1990, 1995, and 2000, so the new figures cannot be reliably compared to previous estimates.

However, the task force conducted two kinds of trend analysis to supply information on progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goal 5 target of reducing maternal mortality by 75 percent by 2015. Both these analyses showed declines in maternal mortality ratios since 2000 that are insufficient to achieve the MDG goal.

The assessment of risk given below takes into account both the probability of becoming pregnant and the probability of dying as a result of that pregnancy in 171 countries with populations of more than 250,000, cumulated across a woman's reproductive years. This is the **lifetime risk of maternal death**.

The New Country Rankings

Among the ten top-ranked European and other industrialized countries, where women are guaranteed good-quality health and family planning services that minimize their lifetime risk, fewer than one in 16,400 will die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. At the other end of the scale are ten countries where high fertility and shattered health care systems raise women's lifetime risk so that more than one in every 15 women will die of pregnancy-related causes.

Rank by lifetime risk of death from pregnancy-related causes

1. Ireland	1 in 47,600 will die and in...
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 in 29,000
3. Italy	1 in 26,600
4. Greece	1 in 25,900
5. Austria	1 in 21,500
6. Germany	1 in 19,200
7. Czech Republic	1 in 18,100

- more -

Invest in women - it pays



8. Denmark	1 in 17,800
9. Sweden	1 in 17,400
10. Spain	1 in 16,400
11. Slovenia	1 in 14,200
12. Slovakia	1 in 13,800
12. Switzerland	1 in 13,800
14. Australia	1 in 13,300
14. Hungary	1 in 13,300
16. Iceland	1 in 12,700
17. Japan	1 in 11,600
18. Canada	1 in 11,000
19. Poland	1 in 10,600
20. Croatia	1 in 10,500
21. Netherlands	1 in 10,200
22. Kuwait	1 in 9,600
23. Finland	1 in 8,500
23. Latvia	1 in 8,500
25. Malta	1 in 8,300
26. United Kingdom	1 in 8,200
27. Belgium	1 in 7,800
27. Israel	1 in 7,800
27. Lithuania	1 in 7,800
30. Norway	1 in 7,700
31. Bulgaria	1 in 7,400
32. France	1 in 6,900
33. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1 in 6,500
34. Cyprus	1 in 6,400
34. Portugal	1 in 6,400
36. Singapore	1 in 6,200
37. Republic of Korea	1 in 6,100
38. New Zealand	1 in 5,900
39. Ukraine	1 in 5,200
40. Luxembourg	1 in 5,000
41. Belarus	1 in 4,800
41. United States of America	1 in 4,800
43. Serbia and Montenegro*	1 in 4,500
44. Barbados	1 in 4,400
45. Republic of Moldova	1 in 3,700
46. Mauritius	1 in 3,300
47. Chile	1 in 3,200
47. Romania	1 in 3,200
49. Brunei Darussalam	1 in 2,900
49. Puerto Rico	1 in 2,900
49. Estonia	1 in 2,900
52. Qatar	1 in 2,700
52. Russian Federation	1 in 2,700
52. Bahamas	1 in 2,700
55. Uruguay	1 in 2,100

56. Costa Rica	1 in 1,400
56. Cuba	1 in 1,400
56. Uzbekistan	1 in 1,400
56. Saudi Arabia	1 in 1,400
56. Trinidad and Tobago	1 in 1,400
61. China	1 in 1,300
61. Bahrain	1 in 1,300
63. Georgia	1 in 1,100
64. United Arab Emirates	1 in 1,000
65. Armenia	1 in 980
66. Turkey	1 in 880
67. Sri Lanka	1 in 850
68. Mongolia	1 in 840
69. Azerbaijan	1 in 670
69. Mexico	1 in 670
71. Venezuela	1 in 610
72. Belize	1 in 560
72. Malaysia	1 in 560
74. Argentina	1 in 530
74. Suriname	1 in 530
76. Tunisia	1 in 500
76. Thailand	1 in 500
78. Albania	1 in 490
79. Jordan	1 in 450
80. Oman	1 in 420
81. Brazil	1 in 370
82. Kazakhstan	1 in 360
83. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1 in 350
84. Iran	1 in 300
85. Colombia	1 in 290
85. Lebanon	1 in 290
85. Turkmenistan	1 in 290
88. Viet Nam	1 in 280
89. Panama	1 in 270
90. Jamaica	1 in 240
90. Kyrgyzstan	1 in 240
92. Dominican Republic	1 in 230
92. Egypt	1 in 230
94. Algeria	1 in 220
95. Syrian Arab Republic	1 in 210
96. Maldives	1 in 200
97. El Salvador	1 in 190
98. Ecuador	1 in 170
98. Namibia	1 in 170
98. Paraguay	1 in 170
101. Fiji	1 in 160
101. Tajikistan	1 in 160
103. Morocco	1 in 150

103. Nicaragua	1 in 150
105. Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1 in 140
105. Peru	1 in 140
105. Philippines	1 in 140
108. Botswana	1 in 130
109. Cape Verde	1 in 120
109. Swaziland	1 in 120
111. Myanmar	1 in 110
111. South Africa	1 in 110
113. Solomon Islands	1 in 100
114. Indonesia	1 in 97
115. Honduras	1 in 93
116. Guyana	1 in 90
117. Bolivia	1 in 89
118. Pakistan	1 in 74
119. Iraq	1 in 72
120. Guatemala	1 in 71
121. India	1 in 70
122. Bhutan	1 in 55
122. Papua New Guinea	1 in 55
124. Gabon	1 in 53
124. Sudan	1 in 53
126. Comoros	1 in 52
127. Bangladesh	1 in 51
128. Cambodia	1 in 48
129. Ghana	1 in 45
129. Lesotho	1 in 45
129. Mozambique	1 in 45
132. Haiti	1 in 44
132. Eritrea	1 in 44
134. Zimbabwe	1 in 43
135. Kenya	1 in 39
135. Yemen	1 in 39
137. Madagascar	1 in 38
137. Togo	1 in 38
139. Djibouti	1 in 35
139. Timor-Leste	1 in 35
141. Lao People's Democratic Republic	1 in 33
142. Gambia	1 in 32
143. Nepal	1 in 31
144. Equatorial Guinea	1 in 28
145. Côte d'Ivoire	1 in 27
145. Ethiopia	1 in 27
145. Zambia	1 in 27
148. Central African Republic	1 in 25
148. Uganda	1 in 25
150. Cameroon	1 in 24
150. United Republic of Tanzania	1 in 24

152. Burkina Faso	1 in 22
152. Congo	1 in 22
152. Mauritania	1 in 22
155. Senegal	1 in 21
156. Benin	1 in 20
157. Guinea	1 in 19
158. Malawi	1 in 18
158. Nigeria	1 in 18
160. Burundi	1 in 16
160. Rwanda	1 in 16
162. Mali	1 in 15
163. Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 in 13
163. Guinea Bissau	1 in 13
165. Angola	1 in 12
165. Liberia	1 in 12
165. Somalia	1 in 12
168. Chad	1 in 11
169. Afghanistan	1 in 8
169. Sierra Leone	1 in 8
171. Niger	1 in 7

* Serbia and Montenegro became separate entities in 2006.