

10 Things To Know About Maternal Mortality

1 One Death Every 90 Seconds Hundreds of thousands of women die every year from pregnancy and childbirth complications, making reproductive health problems the leading cause of death worldwide among women ages 15 to 44. Experts estimate that 90% of these deaths are preventable.

2 15% Experience Life-Threatening Complications | 15 percent of all pregnancies result in a potentially fatal complication during labor or delivery. Women in the developing world rarely have access to emergency medical care.

3 Girls | Pregnancy is the biggest killer of women ages 15-19 in the developing world. Nearly 70,000 young women die every year because their bodies are not ready for parenthood.

4 Sub-Saharan Africa | In sub-Saharan Africa, 1 in 30 women is likely to die in childbirth (it's 1 in 5,600 in developed countries). 9 out of 10 women in sub-Saharan Africa will lose a child during their lifetime. Only 30% of women in sub-Saharan Africa have contact with a health worker after giving birth.

5 The United States | The United States ranks 50th globally in maternal health, even though it spends more on health care per capita than any other nation in the world. African American women are four times more likely to die in childbirth than Caucasian women.

6 Disabilities | For every woman who dies in childbirth, 20 more suffer from debilitating complications. That means every year, 7 million women suffer from post-delivery infections, disabilities, and severe conditions like fistula.

7 Economics | The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) estimates that maternal and newborn mortality costs \$15 billion in lost productivity every year.

8 Prevention | Over 200 million women who would like to choose when they get pregnant don't have access to modern contraceptives. Giving these women access could reduce the number of maternal deaths due to unsafe abortion by a third.

9 Education | Women who have completed their secondary education decide to have a skilled health worker present at their delivery 84% of the time—which translates to a higher chance of survival for mother and baby.

10 We Know What Works | We know what it takes to prevent 90% of all maternal deaths—and they're often simple, common-sense, affordable solutions. Help change the lives of women and their families across the globe.

Make a difference at

everymothercounts.org

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