

# Maternal Mortality

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The death of a woman during pregnancy or childbirth is not only a health issue, but also a matter of social injustice.

# Maternal Mortality

Definition - ICD-10

- Safe Motherhood Initiative 1987
- World Summit for children 1990
- ICPD - 1994
- Beijing - Fourth World Conference on Women 1995
- Sri Lanka 1997
- ICPD +5

# OBJECTIVE

- To review the available evidence on the levels of maternal mortality according to different estimation techniques

# METHODOLOGY

The WHO maternal mortality and morbidity review database from 1998:

- Medline was searched from 1995-2002
- Studies selected for the review

# RESULTS

- The methods used to estimate maternal mortality
- The study size ranges between 226-893998.
- The populations studied: 33% urban, 14% rural and 53% mixed
- Maternal Mortality ratio ranges between 8-1050
- 1449 cases of maternal deaths were identified
- Direct obstetric causes 56.9% and indirect 43.1%

# Conclusion

The importance to measure maternal mortality:

- It gives qualitative and quantitative information
- It helps to prioritize the health services
- It helps to assess the progress towards the achievement of the national/international goals



## Difficulties in estimating maternal mortality:

- Sample size
- Lack of vital statistics
- Identification of the cause of maternal death
- Differences in definitions of the cause of death

# Methodology in measuring maternal mortality:

- Direct counting
- Special surveys
- Special techniques to ascertain the cause of maternal death
- Hospital-based
- Community-based

# Indicators to measure maternal mortality:

- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)
- Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)
- Proportion of maternal deaths among women of reproductive age (PMDF)

# Maternal Mortality

- Direct and indirect obstetric factors
- Risk Factors
- Trends in regions

# Maternal Mortality Estimation - 1995 (WHO)

## New regional estimates of MMR per 100000 live births

UN Region	1990 (m.m.ratio)	1995 (m.m.ratio)
World total	430	400
Africa	870	1000
Asia	390	280
Latin America & Carribean	190	190
Europe	36	28
Northern America	11	11