

Quick stats: sexual and reproductive health worldwide

Maternal health

Every year, 529,000 women die from pregnancy-related causes.

Every minute of every day, a woman dies in pregnancy or childbirth – this adds up to more than 10 million over a generation. 99% of these women live and die in developing countries.

10-15 million women a year suffer severe or long-lasting illnesses or disabilities caused by complications during pregnancy or childbirth.

The risk of a woman dying as a result of pregnancy or childbirth during her lifetime is about 1 in 30,000 in Sweden. In Afghanistan it is about 1 in 6.

Each pregnancy multiplies a woman's chance of dying from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. One in 3 deaths related to pregnancy or childbirth could be avoided if all women had access to contraceptive services. That means, 175,000 women each year could be saved and many more could avoid severe or long lasting injuries.

UNFPA. *State of world population 2007*.

Children who have lost their mothers are up to 10 times more likely to die prematurely than those who haven't.

Skilled attendance at birth

Almost all births in developed countries are attended by a skilled birth attendant. In the least developed countries, only 34% are attended.

Contraception and unsafe abortion

200 million women want to delay or avoid pregnancy but are not using effective contraceptives.

Worldwide, as many as 50% of pregnancies are unplanned and 25% are unwanted. The unwanted pregnancies are disproportionate among young, unmarried girls who lack access to contraception.

One in three deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth could be avoided if women who wanted effective contraception had access to it.

A quarter of all pregnancies end in abortion (52 million abortion each year) – 19 million of those abortions are unsafe resulting in 68,000 deaths each year. Many of those deaths could be avoided if there was access to contraception.

UNFPA. *State of world population 2007*.

As well the 68,000 deaths each year as a result of unsafe abortions, millions more suffer complications and infections.

About 90% of abortion-related deaths and disabilities worldwide could be avoided if women who wished to, had access to effective contraception.

Sources: unless indicated otherwise, all statistics are taken from *No woman should die giving birth. Facts and figures 1*. UNFPA.