

Maternal Mortality Malawi 2000-2020

Internationally comparable MMR estimates by the Maternal Mortality Inter-Agency Group (MMEIG): WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division

Table 1: Estimates

Year	MMR ^{a*†}	PM ^{b*†}	HIV-related indirect deaths [†]	Live births ^c (Thousands)	Maternal deaths [†]
2000	573 [463, 723]	0.1 [0.08, 0.13]	483	510	2925
2005	347 [283, 440]	0.09 [0.07, 0.11]	413	573	1988
2010	513 [408, 659]	0.14 [0.12, 0.19]	247	601	3083
2015	445 [348, 592]	0.17 [0.13, 0.22]	99	606	2696
2020	381 [269, 543]	0.16 [0.11, 0.23]	60	644	2452

^a Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) defined as maternal deaths per 100,000 live births for women of reproductive age (15-49 years).

^b Proportion maternal (PM) defined as the proportion of all-cause deaths for women of reproductive age (15-49 years) that are due to maternal causes.

^c UN Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. World Population Prospects. New York; 2022.

* The uncertainty intervals (UI) for all estimates refer to the 80% uncertainty intervals (10th and 90th percentiles of the posterior distributions). This was chosen as opposed to the more standard 95% intervals because of the substantial uncertainty inherent in maternal mortality outcomes.

† Figures presented in the table are estimates based on national data, such as surveys or administrative records, or other sources, produced by the international agency when country data for some year(s) is not available, when multiple sources exist, or when there are data quality issues.

Table 2: Estimates

Period	Annual rate reduction*	Percent change in MMR*
2000, 2020	2.06 [0.25, 4.01]	33.77 [4.86, 55.13]
2010, 2020	2.95 [-0.12, 6.31]	25.54 [-1.2, 46.8]

* Figures presented in the table are estimates based on national data, such as surveys or administrative records, or other sources, produced by the international agency when country data for some year(s) is not available, when multiple sources exist, or when there are data quality issues.

Data from civil registration vital statistics system (CRVS)

No data available

Excluded data from CRVS

No data excluded

Data from other sources

Table 3: Data from other sources

Study period*	Source	Source type	Maternal deaths ^a	Preganancy-related deaths ^b	Female deaths, 15-49	Maternal PM ^c	Pregnancy-related PM ^{d†}	MMR per 100,000 lb ^e	Adjusted MMR per 100,000 lb	F+ ^{f†}	F- ^{g†}	U+ ^{h†}
[1985.76, 1992.76)	DHS 1992	Survey	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2003628	714.1471	665.8747	NA	NA	NA
[1993.7, 2000.7)	DHS 2000	Survey	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2090282	1055.6914	881.9535	NA	NA	NA
[1997.92, 2004.92)	DHS 2004	Survey	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1723483	891.6170	699.6781	NA	NA	NA
[2003.66, 2010.66)	DHS 2010	Survey	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1521020	594.5061	461.1953	NA	NA	NA
[2009.13, 2016.13)	DHS 2015 - 2016	Survey	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1710964	529.6412	465.8677	NA	NA	NA
[2017.71, 2018.71)	Census	Census	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1755231	433.2353	400.5470	NA	NA	NA

^a Maternal deaths defined according to the ICD-10.

^b Pregnancy-related deaths defined according to ICD-10.

^c Maternal PM is calculated when deaths are defined as maternal.

^d Pregnancy-related PM is calculated when reported deaths are defined as pregnancy related deaths.

^e The MMR in this column is calculated from the PM.

^f False positive: true non-maternal death which may be incorrectly labeled as a maternal death.

^g False negative: maternal death which may be incorrectly classified as a non-maternal death.

^h Maternal deaths not registered in the CRVS.

* Kindly note the interpretation of notation: for a period [a,b) the observation starts on date a and ends before date b; thus a period covering 1st January 2000 through 31st December 2000 is denoted [2000,2001).

† Calculated from studies which undertake specialized analyses of routine reporting of maternal deaths.

‡ Survey data has been adjusted by 1.1 for underreporting and standardized by age when obtained using the direct sisterhood method.

Data from studies excluded in regression

Table 4: Data from studies excluded in regression

Study period*	Source	Source type	Reason for exclusion
[2007.08, 2014.08)	MES 2014	Survey	PM could not be obtained
[2007.5, 2008.5)	Census	Census	Quality of census measurement not clear

* Kindly note the interpretation of notation: for a period $[a,b)$ the observation starts on date a and ends before date b; thus a period covering 1st January 2000 through 31st December 2000 is denoted $[2000,2001)$.

Predictor variables used in the model

Table 5: Predictor variables used in the model

Year	GDP ^{a*} (Per capita, PPP)	GFR ^b (Per 1000 women ages 15-49)	SBA ^c (%)
2000	1097	200	57
2005	1121	200	64
2010	1349	180	81
2015	1452	150	91
2020	1513	130	96

^a WHO, MMEIG. Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita measured in purchasing power parity (PPP) equivalent dollars using 2017 as the baseline year were taken from World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI) database, and in instances supplemented by unofficial estimates derived by MMEIG using growth rates in United Nations GDP data and/or previous MMEIG GDP estimates. Geneva; 2021.

^b General fertility rate (GFR) from UN Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. World Population Prospects. New York; 2022.

^c Skilled Birth Attendant (SBA) from WHO, UNICEF joint SBA database. Geneva; 2022. In some instances, supplemented with unofficial estimates derived by MMEIG. Annual series were estimated by fitting a multilevel time series (AR1) model with region- and country-specific intercepts and slopes.

* A 5-year moving average was calculated.

Estimates

(Input data) The following adjustments were applied to maternal deaths depending on the source type:

1. An age-standardization was applied to population based surveys that obtained data from the direct sisterhood method.
2. An upward adjustment of 10% was applied to all input data that were not obtained from CRVS or specialized studies, to account for underreporting.

(Model adjusted data) The following model adjustments were applied to maternal deaths depending on the source type and the definition of reported deaths

1. A model adjustment derived from BMIs was applied to maternal deaths obtained from CRVS.
2. A model adjustment was applied to observations of pregnancy-related deaths to remove accidental/incidental (non-maternal) deaths from the count.

