

# Maternal Mortality Democratic People’s Republic of Korea 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 <sup>a*†</sup> | PM <sup>b*†</sup> | HIV-related indirect deaths <sup>†</sup> | Live births <sup>c</sup><br>(Thousands) | Maternal deaths <sup>†</sup> |
|------|--------------------|-------------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| 2000 | 186 [101, 343]     | 0.05 [0.02, 0.08] | 0  | 407                                     | 755                          |
| 2005 | 122 [61, 234]      | 0.03 [0.02, 0.07] | 0  | 350                                     | 427                          |
| 2010 | 130 [63, 267]      | 0.03 [0.02, 0.07] | 0  | 314                                     | 409                          |
| 2015 | 108 [50, 240]      | 0.03 [0.02, 0.07] | 0  | 342                                     | 371                          |
| 2020 | 107 [46, 249]      | 0.03 [0.01, 0.08] | 0  | 345                                     | 368                          |

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

<sup>b</sup> 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.

<sup>c</sup> 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 | 2.84 [0.31, 5.38]      | 43.29 [5.98, 65.92]    |
| 2010, 2020 | 2.03 [-1.09, 5.33]     | 18.39 [-11.53, 41.34]  |

\* 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

No data available

## Data from studies excluded in regression

Table 3: Data from studies excluded in regression

| Study period*      | Source | Source type | Reason for exclusion                    |
|--------------------|--------|-------------|---|
| [2007.75, 2008.75) | 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 4: Predictor variables used in the model

| Year | GDP <sup>a*</sup><br>(Per capita, PPP) | GFR <sup>b</sup><br>(Per 1000 women ages 15-49) | SBA <sup>c</sup><br>(%) |
|------|--|---|-------------------------|
| 2000 | 1394                                   | 70  | 98                      |
| 2005 | 1471                                   | 50  | 99                      |
| 2010 | 1474                                   | 50  | 100                     |
| 2015 | 1483                                   | 50  | 100                     |
| 2020 | 1366                                   | 50  | 100                     |

<sup>a</sup> 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.

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

<sup>c</sup> 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.

