

Better Data to Save Mothers' and Babies' Lives

The **day of birth** can be a dangerous time for mothers and babies.

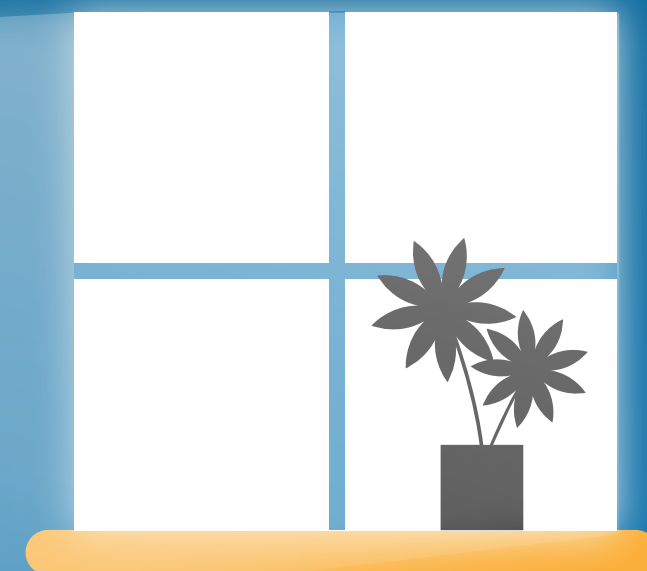


Every year:

303 000
mothers die during childbirth

2.7 million
babies die during the first 28 days of life

2.6 million
stillbirths occur



These are only **estimates**.
They do not tell the whole story



~60% of countries lack adequate systems for counting births and deaths



Many deaths are unreported



Most death reviews focus on medical causes and overlook solutions

Without knowing the true number of deaths or the causes, countries are not able to adequately:



Improve quality of care



Prevent future deaths



Improve vital statistics



Allocate resources



Reach global targets

Making **every** mother and baby count.

The majority of maternal deaths and stillbirths, and **75%** of newborn deaths, are preventable.

In order to **prevent future deaths**, WHO is helping countries to:



Produce a birth and death certificate for everyone, including stillbirths



Form death review committees



Create policies to report and review all deaths

Collect **at least the minimum data** for each birth and death

- Mother's age
- Place of delivery
- Mode of delivery
- Birth weight
- Gestational age
- Birth outcome

Every misclassified or unrecorded death is a **lost opportunity** to ensure other mothers and babies do not die in the same way.



World Health Organization