

# Maternal mortality

It is an important health indicator, reflecting a nation's health status, at least half a million women died from complications of pregnancy and child birth.

## Definition

According to WHO is defined as the death of women while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes .

## Major causes:

Maternal death divided into direct and associated.

**Direct** : result directly from obstetrical complication ex. Bleeding , preeclampsia , infection.

**Associated** : this divided into indirect and fortuitous.

The indirect causes result from a previous existing disease or aggravated by the physiological changes of pregnancy ex. Mitral stenosis

**A- direct causes** : result from obstetrical complications during pregnancy , labour and puerperium include the following :

- 1- **Haemorrhage** 25% of maternal mortality ( APH , PPH & post abortion bleeding )

- 2- Hypertensive diseases of pregnancy**  
12% of maternal mortality.
- 3- Amniotic fluid embolism** suspected in all cases of sudden death or collapse ,it may occur during or after delivery .
- 4- Infection (sepsis) :** 15% of maternal mortality(genital tract infection or puerperal sepsis).
- 5- Miscarriage :** 8% of maternal mortality usually in criminal abortion
- 6- Ectopic pregnancy:** 8% of maternal mortality .
- 7- Anesthesia :** 8% of maternal mortality .

**B- indirect obstetrical causes :** include the following

- 1- Pulmonary embolism.
- 2- Cardiac disease(heart failure , myocardial infarction).

3- Other causes like epilepsy and viral hepatitis

C- fortuitous deaths: from causes not related to or influenced by pregnancy like road traffic accident or suicide .

**Other contributed factors to maternal mortality:**

- 1- Deficit medical treatment of complications ,lack of essential and trained personal and lack of antenatal care .
- 2- Age specific mortality ratio is high after age of 40 years.
- 3- Low socioeconomic status and low educational level associated with high maternal mortality.

**International values :M M ratio in Iraq is 245/100000 births.**

**MM in Iran is 72/100000 births.**

**MM in Turkey 70/100000 births.**