

Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities

Uganda



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Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities in Uganda

Key Facts

Uganda reference table

Demographic indicators		
Total population (thousands) ¹	2015	39,032
Total live births (thousands) ¹	2015	1,665
Total Fertility Rate (number of children per woman) ¹	2015	6
Adolescent birth rate (per 1,000 women 15-19) ¹⁰	2013	140
Impact indicators		
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) ⁴	2015	343
Average annual rate of MMR reduction between 1990 and 2015 (%) ⁵	2015	3
Lifetime risk of maternal death: 1 in x ⁴	2015	47
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total births) ⁶	2015	21
Preterm birth rate (per 100 live births) ⁷	2010	14
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ³	2015	55
Under-five deaths that are newborn (%) ³	2015	35
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ³	2015	19
Neonatal deaths (thousands) ³	2015	30
Service Delivery		
Availability of EmONC Services (% of minimum acceptable level) ⁸	2003	34
Physician density (per 1,000 population) ⁹	2005	0.1
Nurse and midwife density (per 1,000 population) ⁹	2005	1.3

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In 2015, approximately 1,700,000 babies were born in Uganda, or around 4,600 every day.¹

Among young women (aged 20-24), 33 percent gave birth by age 18.²

Approximately 81 babies will die each day before reaching their first month³; 94 stillbirths occur every day.⁶

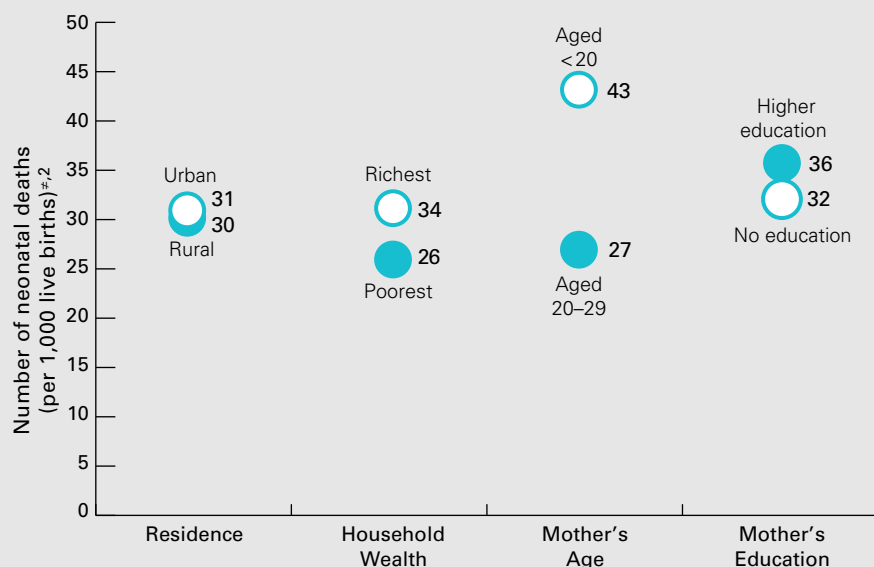
Neonatal mortality rate:

Uganda's neonatal mortality rate (NMR)⁴ is 19 deaths per 1,000 live births.³

NMR⁵ in rural areas is 30 deaths per 1,000 live births and 31 deaths per 1,000 live births in urban areas.²

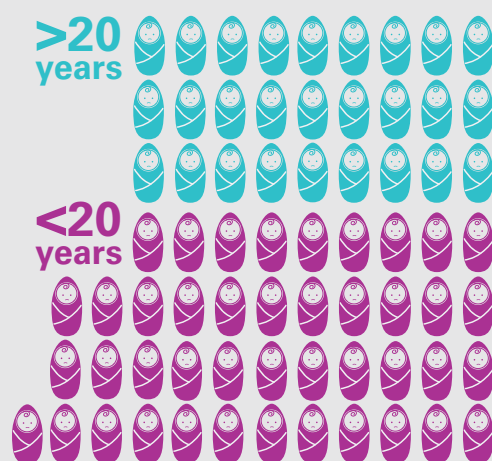
NMR⁵ among the poorest households is 26 neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 34 deaths per 1,000 live births among the richest households.²

Neonatal mortality rates, by background characteristics, 2011



Neonatal mortality rate

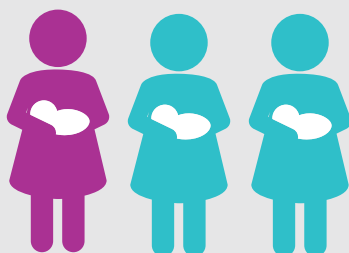
for newborns with mothers:



The NMR for younger mothers (43 per 1,000 live births) is 1.6 times higher than for mothers aged 20-29 (27 per 1,000 live births).²

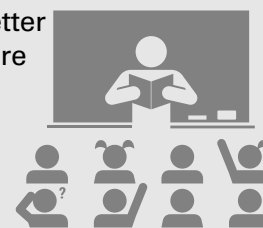
1 in 3

young women
(aged 20-24) have
given birth by age 18.²



Newborns with better
educated mothers are

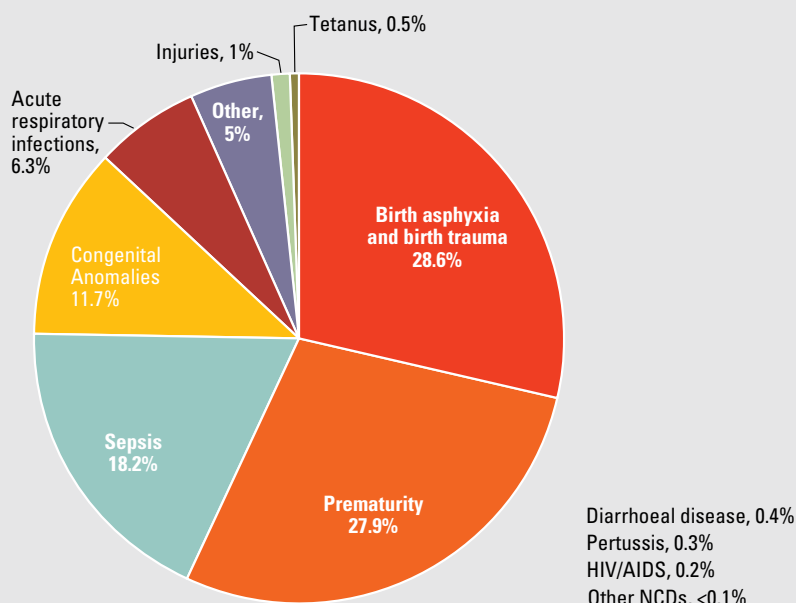
1:1



as likely to die during the first month
of life compared to those born to
mothers with no education.²

Uganda — Causes of Neonatal Mortality, 2015

In Uganda, the main causes of neonatal deaths in 2015 were birth asphyxia (28.6 percent), prematurity (27.9 percent) and sepsis (18.2 percent).¹¹



Disparities in key maternal and newborn health interventions, Uganda, 2011²

		Coverage – care for mothers					
		Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods (%)	Antenatal care coverage at least 4 times (%) ^a	Skilled attendant at birth (%)	Institutional delivery (%)	Delivered by caesarean section (%)	Postnatal care of mothers within 2 days (%)
Residence	Urban	57.2	57.0	89.1	89.5	13.7	55.9
	Rural	36.9	45.8	52.8	52.0	3.9	29.1
Residence ratio (urban to rural)		1.6	1.2	1.7	1.7	3.5	1.9
Household Wealth	Richest	56.7	58.8	88.4	87.7	12.6	56.3
	Poorest	22.3	42.6	43.5	42.2	2.2	25.1
Household wealth ratio (richest to poorest)		2.5	1.4	2.0	2.1	5.7	2.2
Mother's age	Less than 20		50.9	67.1	65.8	6.5	32.4
	20-34		47.2	57.1	56.5	5.1	33.7
	35-49		46.7	51.3	51.1	4.6	30.5
Mother's education	No education	29.7	44.7	37.7	36.1	2.6	20.5
	Primary	37.2	45.3	54.8	54.0	4.0	29.0
	Secondary	52.9		78.5	78.8	8.5	47.8
	Higher	63.3		93.3	94.9	23.6	68.7
Mother's education ratio (highest to lowest)		2.1		2.5	2.6	9.1	3.4

Maternal and newborn health coverage indicators

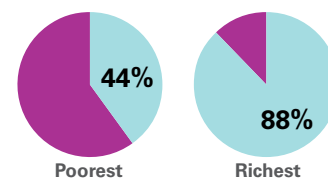
By residence:²

- In rural areas, 46 percent of women made at least 4 antenatal care (ANC) visits compared to 57 percent in urban areas.
- Coverage of skilled attendance at birth is 53 percent in rural areas, compared to 89 percent in urban areas.
- 9 percent of newborns in rural areas receive postnatal care (PNC) within 2 days after birth, compared to 21 percent in urban areas.

By household wealth:²

- Among the poorest households, only 44 percent of deliveries were assisted by a skilled attendant, compared to 88 percent of deliveries in the richest households.
- 20 percent of newborns in the richest households receive PNC within 2 days after birth, compared to 11 percent among the poorest households.
- 80 of newborns among the richest households are weighed at birth, compared to 40 percent of newborns in the poorest households.

44% of deliveries in the poorest households have a **skilled attendant at birth** compared to...



...**88%** of deliveries in the richest households.

Coverage – care for newborns								Other	
Postnatal care of newborns within 2 days (%)	Newborn weighed at birth (%)	Early initiation of breast-feeding (%)	Exclusive breast-feeding (<6 months) (%)	BCG vaccine for newborn (%)	DPT 1 vaccination received (%)**	Tetanus protection for newborns (%)	Birth registration (%)	Births by age 18 (%) a, #	
20.9	86.4	59.6		96.3	94.6	86.4	38.0	23.7	Urban
9.1	44.6	51.3		93.3	92.8	83.8	28.7	36.2	Rural
2.3	1.9	1.2		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.3	0.7	Residence ratio (urban to rural)
20.0	80.2	59.4		94.7	93.7	88.7	44.0	21.1	Richest
10.8	39.5	50.9		95.6	94.3	83.8	27.2	47.8	Poorest
1.9	2.0	1.2		1.0	1.0	1.1	1.6	0.4	Household wealth ratio (richest to poorest)
10.8	57.9					80.2			Less than 20
11.1	50.1					85.0			20-34
9.5	43.4					84.6			35-49
7.9	29.0	52.5		92.5	93.1	79.8		52.4	No education
8.9	46.7	51.4		93.8	93.1	83.7		42.6	Primary
16.7	73.4	55.7		93.4	93.1	86.9			Secondary
23.0	88.6	54.9		97.3	92.6	96.0			Higher
2.9	3.1	1.0		1.1	1.0	1.2			Mother's education ratio (highest to lowest)

Key for tables:

0-24 %

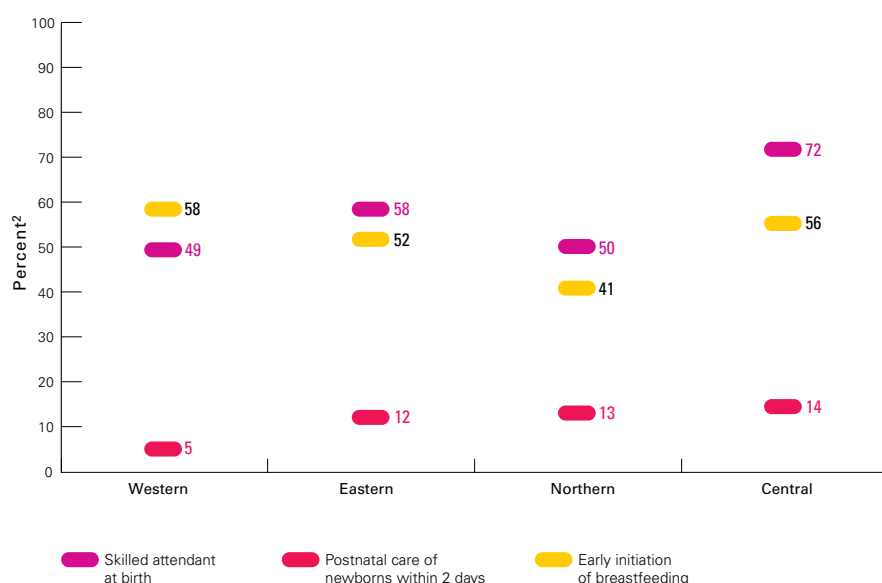
25-49 %

50-74 %

75-100%

Data not available

Selected maternal and newborn health indicators, by region, 2011



By mother's age:²



- 57 percent of deliveries among mothers aged 20-34 have a skilled attendant at birth, compared to 67 percent of deliveries among younger mothers (aged less than 20).
- Newborns born to mothers aged 20-34 and younger mothers (aged less than 20) receive low levels of postnatal care: 11 percent and 11 percent, respectively.
- 58 percent of newborns born to younger mothers (aged less than 20) were weighed at birth, compared to 50 percent of newborns born to mothers aged 20-34.

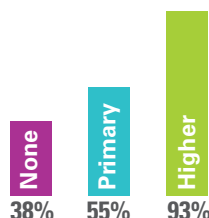
Disparities in key maternal and newborn health interventions, Uganda, 2011²

Coverage – care for mothers						
	Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods (%)	Antenatal care coverage at least 4 times (%)	Skilled attendant at birth (%)	Institutional delivery (%)	Delivered by caesarean section (%)	Postnatal care of mothers within 2 days (%)
National estimate	40.5	47.6	58.0	57.4	5.3	33.0
Region						
Western	40.2		49.3	48.8	5.2	24.1
Northern	30.5		50.2	48.8	2.9	31.7
Central	50.3		72.2	71.8	9.3	44.1
Eastern	36.6		58.1	57.7	3.1	31.2
Regional performance						
Highest value	Central		Central	Central	Central	Central
	50.3		72.2	71.8	9.3	44
Lowest value	Northern		Western	Western	Northern	Western
	30.5		49.3	48.8	2.9	24
Ratio (highest to lowest)	1.6		1.5	1.5	3.2	2

By mother's education:²

- Only 38 percent of deliveries among mothers with no education were assisted by a skilled attendant, compared to 55 percent of deliveries among mothers with primary education and 93 percent of deliveries among mothers with higher education.
- 8 percent of newborns are checked within two days after birth if their mothers have no education, compared to 9 percent of newborns born to mothers with a primary education and 23 percent of newborns born to mothers who received higher education.
- 89 percent of newborns born to mothers with higher education were weighed at birth, compared to 29 percent of newborns born to mothers with no education.

The better educated the mother is, the more likely she will receive critical **maternal health services**



Percentage of deliveries having a skilled birth attendant relative to the education level of the mother

By geographic region:²

- The region with the highest coverage of skilled birth attendance is Central with 72 percent; the lowest coverage is Western with 49 percent – a difference of 1.5 times.
- Central has the highest coverage of PNC for newborns (within 2 days after birth) with 14 percent while Western has the lowest coverage at 5 percent – a difference of 2.6 times.
- 62 percent of newborns were weighed at birth in Central region, compared to the lowest coverage of 41 percent in Western region.

Coverage – care for newborns								Other	
Postnatal care of newborns within 2 days (%)	Newborn weighed at birth (%)	Early initiation of breast-feeding (%)	Exclusive breast-feeding (<6 months) (%)	BCG vaccine for newborn (%)	DPT 1 vaccination received (%)**	Tetanus protection for newborns (%)	Birth registration (%)	Births by age 18 (%)#	
10.8	50.5	52.5	62.9	93.7	93.1	84.3	29.9	33.0	National estimate
5.2	40.9	57.8		91.0	93.9	84.1	25.4		Western
13.4	48.8	40.7		96.5	96.6	87.0	23.1		Northern
13.5	62.2	55.8		91.1	88.0	82.9	39.1		Central
11.6	49.9	52.2		96.7	94.9	83.9	30.3		Southern Highlands
Central	Central	Western		Eastern	Northern	Northern	Central		Highest value
13.5	62.2	57.8		96.7	96.6	87.0	39.1		
Western	Western	Northern		Western	Central	Central	Northern		Lowest value
5.2	40.9	40.7		91.0	88.0	82.9	23.1		
2.6	1.5	1.4		1.1	1.1	1.0	1.7		Ratio (highest to lowest)

Key for tables:

0-24 %

25-49 %

50-74 %

75-100%

Data not available

Sources:

- 1 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision.
- 2 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2011 via the DHS Program STATcompiler. (<http://www.statcompiler.com>).*
- 3 United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNICEF, WHO, United Nations Population Division and the World Bank).
- 4 United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, United Nations Population Division and the World Bank).
- 5 Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2015: estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division.
- 6 Lawn JE, Blencowe H, Waiswa P, et al, for The Lancet Ending Preventable Stillbirths Series study group with The Lancet Stillbirth Epidemiology investigator group. Stillbirths: rates, risk factors, and acceleration towards 2030. Lancet 2016; published online Jan 18. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)00837-5](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)00837-5).
- 7 Blencowe H, Cousens S, Oestergaard M, Chou D, Moller AB, Narwal R, Adler A, Garcia CV, Rohde S, Say L, Lawn JE. National, regional and worldwide estimates of preterm birth rates in the year 2010 with time trends since 1990 for selected countries: a systematic analysis and implications. The Lancet, June 9 2012, 379(9832): 2162-72.
- 8 Averting Maternal Death and Disability, United Nations Children's Fund, and United Nations Population Fund special data compilation, 2015.
- 9 Global Health Workforce Statistics database, World Health Organization, Geneva. (<http://www.who.int/hrh/statistics/hwfstats/>).
- 10 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). 2015 Update for the MDG Database.
- 11 WHO-MCEE estimates for child causes of death, 2000-2015. (http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/estimates_child_cod_2015/).

Notes:

- * DHS data drawn from STATcompiler which employs standard indicator definitions to allow for comparability between countries and year. As such, data herein may not reflect data included in the final report. For further information please visit <http://goo.gl/jXJ5SW>. MICS data reflect final report figures where available.
- ** DPT schedule includes the hepatitis B vaccine.
- ^ Reference period: five years preceding the survey.
- ≠ Reference period: ten years preceding the survey.
- a Data from UNICEF reanalysis of Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2011.
- # Births by age 18 among 20-24 year olds.
- () Based on small denominators (typically 25-49 unweighted cases). No data based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases are displayed.