

Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities

Malawi



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Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities in Malawi

Key Facts

Malawi reference table

Demographic indicators		
Total population (thousands) ¹	2015	17,215
Total live births (thousands) ¹	2015	665
Total Fertility Rate (number of children per woman) ¹	2015	5
Adolescent birth rate (per 1,000 women 15-19) ¹⁰	2012	143
Impact indicators		
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) ⁴	2015	634
Average annual rate of MMR reduction between 1990 and 2015 (%) ⁵	2015	2
Lifetime risk of maternal death: 1 in x ⁴	2015	29
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total births) ⁶	2015	22
Preterm birth rate (per 100 live births) ⁷	2010	18
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ³	2015	64
Under-five deaths that are newborn (%) ³	2015	34
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ³	2015	22
Neonatal deaths (thousands) ³	2015	14
Service Delivery		
Availability of EmONC Services (% of minimum acceptable level) ⁸	2014	40
Physician density (per 1,000 population) ⁹	2009	<0.1
Nurse and midwife density (per 1,000 population) ⁹	2009	0.3

Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities

Malawi

In 2015, approximately 670,000 babies were born in Malawi, or around 1,800 every day.¹

Among young women (aged 20-24), 31 percent gave birth by age 18.²

Approximately 38 babies will die each day before reaching their first month³; 38 stillbirths occur every day.⁶

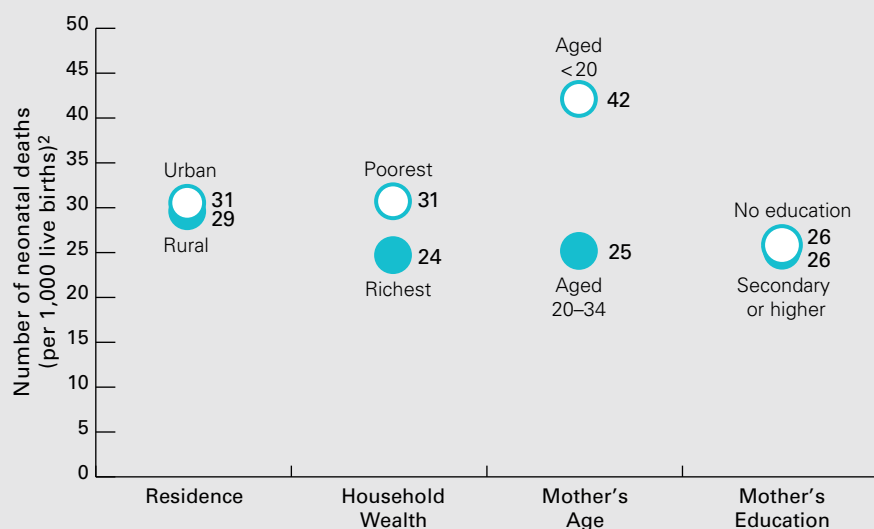
Neonatal mortality rate:

Malawi's neonatal mortality rate (NMR)⁴ is 22 deaths per 1,000 live births.³

NMR in rural areas is 29 deaths per 1,000 live births and 31 deaths per 1,000 live births in urban areas for an urban-to-rural ratio of 1.1.²

NMR among the poorest households is 31 neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 24 deaths per 1,000 live births among the richest households.²

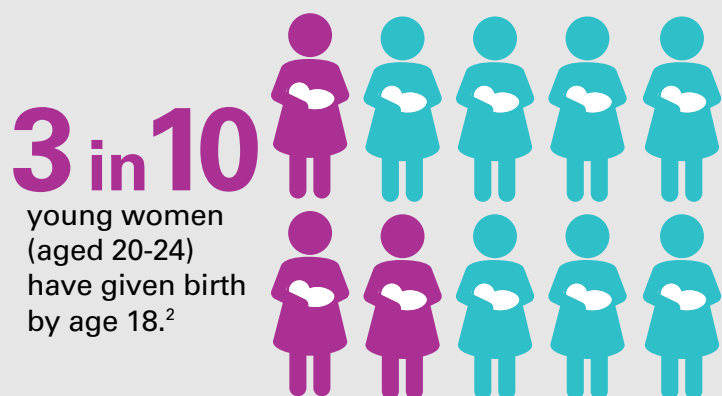
Neonatal mortality rates, by background characteristics, 2014



Neonatal mortality rate for newborns with mothers:

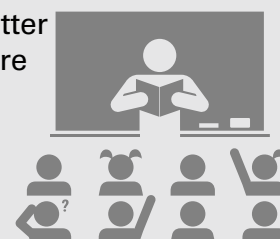


The NMR for younger mothers (42 per 1,000 live births) is 1.7 times higher than for mothers aged 20-34 (25 per 1,000 live births).²



Newborns with better educated mothers are

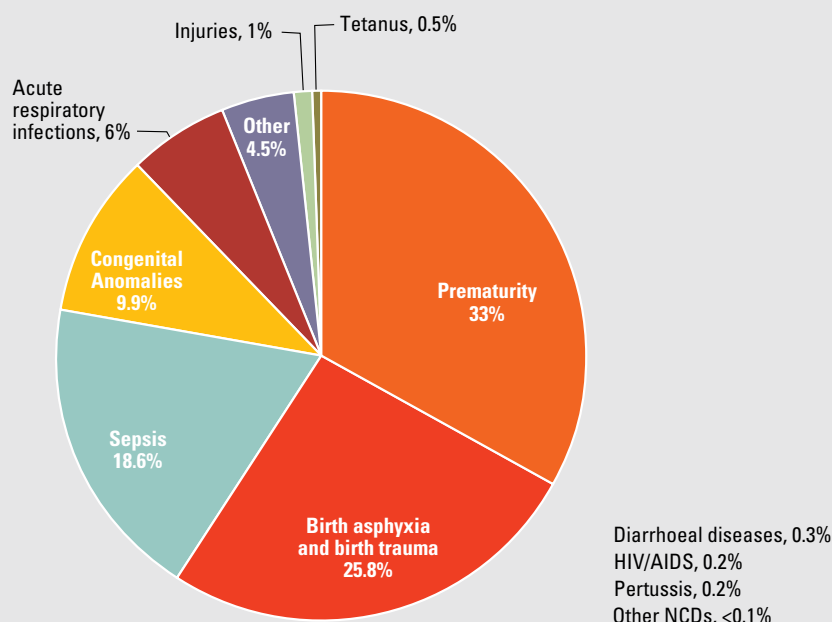
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as likely to die during the first month of life compared to those born to mothers with no education.²

Malawi — Causes of Neonatal Mortality, 2015

In Malawi, the main causes of neonatal deaths in 2015 were prematurity (33 percent), birth asphyxia and trauma (25.8 percent) and Sepsis (18.6 percent).¹¹



Disparities in key maternal and newborn health interventions, Malawi, 2014²

		Coverage – care for mothers					
		Demand for contraception satisfied (%)	Antenatal care coverage at least 4 times (%)	Skilled attendant at birth (%)	Institutional delivery (%)	Delivered by caesarean section (%)	Postnatal care of mothers within 2 days (%)
Residence	Urban	76.2	51.4	94.2	94.9	8.8	78.3
	Rural	74.9	43.8	86.5	88.1	4.7	74.7
Residence ratio (urban to rural)		1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.9	1.0
Household Wealth	Richest	79.1	52.9	94.7	96.4	8.8	80.8
	Poorest	69.7	40.1	83.1	84.9	3.5	70.9
Household wealth ratio (richest to poorest)		1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1	2.5	1.1
Mother's age	Less than 20		43.1	90.2	92.2	6.2	74.2
	20-34		45.3	87.7	89.3	5.2	75.8
	35-49		44.1	81.0	82.1	3.5	72.8
Mother's education	No education	71.7	40.0	80.8	81.9	3.5	71.5
	Primary	75.0	43.8	86.5	88.2	4.3	74.2
	Secondary	77.1	50.4	95.0	96.4	8.8	80.6
	Higher	84.4	72.1	99.3	98.7	21.4	90.3
Mother's education ratio (highest to lowest)		1.2	1.8	1.2	1.2	6.1	1.3

Maternal and newborn health coverage indicators

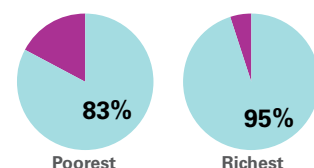
By residence:²

- In rural areas, 44 percent of women made at least 4 antenatal care (ANC) visits compared to 51 percent in urban areas.
- Coverage of skilled attendance at birth is 87 percent in rural areas, compared to 94 percent in urban areas.
- 98 percent of newborns in rural and urban areas received the BCG vaccine.

By household wealth:²

- More than half of mothers among richest households (53 percent) made at least four ANC visits, compared to 40 percent of mothers from the poorest households.
- Among the poorest households, 83 percent of deliveries were assisted by a skilled attendant, compared to 95 percent of deliveries in the richest households.
- Nearly all newborns in the richest and poorest households received the BCG vaccine (99 percent and 98 percent).

83% of deliveries in the poorest households have a **skilled attendant at birth** compared to...



...**95%** 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-HepB-Hib 1 (%)	Tetanus protection for newborns (%)	Children under five who have birth certificates (%)	Births by age 18 (%) [#]	
85.9	93.0	73.5	71.2	98.0	98.3	89.1	4.3	20.3	Urban
81.1	86.8	74.6	70.1	98.2	98.2	89.7	1.6	33.7	Rural
1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.7	0.6	Residence ratio (urban to rural)
86.4	95.3	73.4	73.8	98.7	98.8	89.5	3.7	18.6	Richest
77.3	82.2	75.0	67.8	97.6	97.2	89.0	1.5	37.6	Poorest
1.1	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.5	0.5	Household wealth ratio (richest to poorest)
82.9	89.0								Less than 20
81.9	88.4								20-34
78.3	80.9								35-49
74.8	79.2	74.9	71.3	98.2	98.1	89.7	2.1	47.9	No education
81.5	86.8	74.0	69.0	98.1	98.2	89.3	1.7	39.9	Primary
86.8	95.8	76.4	75.6	98.3	98.4	91.1	2.4	11.9	Secondary
86.9	99.3	71.8		(99.3)	(99.3)	90.6	5.6	1.2	Higher
1.2	1.3	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	2.7	0.0	Mother's education ratio (highest to lowest)

Key for tables:

0-24 %

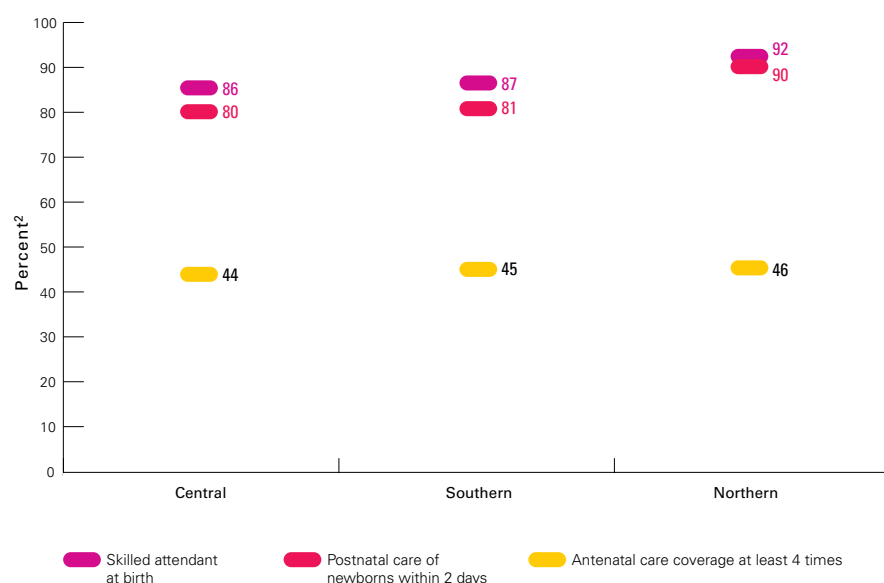
25-49 %

50-74 %

75-100%

Data not available

Selected maternal and newborn health indicators, by region, 2014



By mother's age:²



- 45 percent of mothers aged 20-34 made at least four ANC visits, compared to 43 percent among younger mothers (aged less than 20).
- 88 percent of deliveries among mothers aged 20-34 had a skilled attendant at birth, compared to 90 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 similar levels of postnatal care: 82 percent and 83 percent, respectively.

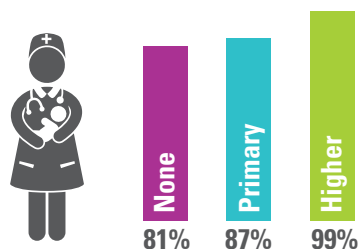
Disparities in key maternal and newborn health interventions, Malawi, 2014²

Coverage – care for mothers						
	Demand for contraception satisfied (%)	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	75.1	44.7	87.4	88.9	5.1	75.1
Region						
Northern	70.0	46.0	91.6	91.8	5.4	86.2
Central	78.5	44.4	86.1	87.8	5.5	75.2
Southern	73.2	44.7	87.4	89.2	4.8	72.6
Regional performance						
Highest value	Central	Northern	Northern	Northern	Central	Northern
	78.5	46.0	91.6	91.8	5.5	86.2
Lowest value	Northern	Central	Central	Central	Southern	Southern
	70.0	44.4	86.1	87.8	4.8	72.6
Ratio (highest to lowest)	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2

By mother's education:²

- 72 percent of mothers with a higher education made at least four ANC visits, compared to only 40 percent of mothers with no education.
- 81 percent of deliveries among mothers with no education were assisted by a skilled attendant, compared to 87 percent of deliveries among mothers with primary education and 99 percent of deliveries among mothers with higher education.
- 98 percent of newborns born to mothers with no education received the BCG vaccine, compared to 98 percent of mothers with a primary education and 99 percent of mothers with a higher 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 regions:²

- Northern saw the highest rate of antenatal care coverage (at least four visits) of 46 percent, compared to the lowest coverage of 44 percent in Central.
- The region with the highest coverage of skilled birth attendance is Northern with 92 percent; the lowest coverage is Central with 86 percent – a difference of 1.1 times.
- Northern, Central, and Southern had BCG coverage of 98 percent.

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-HepB-Hib 1 (%)	Tetanus protection for newborns (%)	Children under five who have birth certificates (%)	Births by age 18 (%)*	
81.6	87.5	74.5	70.2	98.2	98.2	89.7	1.9	31.3	National estimate
90.4	91.9	73.6	65.8	98.2	98.7	90.5	0.2	34.3	Northern
80.0	85.7	78.4	68.9	98.0	98.0	92.1	1.4	23.6	Central
80.9	88.0	71.5	72.2	98.3	98.3	87.5	2.7	36.9	Southern
									Regional performance
Northern	Northern	Central	Southern	Southern	Northern	Central	Southern	Southern	
90.4	91.9	78.4	72.2	98.3	98.7	92.1	2.7	36.9	
Central	Central	Southern	Northern	Central	Central	Southern	Northern	Central	
80.0	85.7	71.5	65.8	98.0	98.0	87.5	0.2	23.6	Lowest value
1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	13.5	1.6	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 Malawi MDG Endline Survey 2014. Zomba, Malawi: National Statistical Office. 2015.
- 3 United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNICEF, WHO, United Nations Population Division and the World Bank).
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- 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).
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- 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:

- ^ Reference period: five years preceding the survey.
- # 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.