

Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities

Benin



© UNICEF/UNI175336/Pirozzi

Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities in Benin

Key Facts

Benin reference table

Demographic indicators	Year	Value
Total population (thousands) ¹	2017	11,176
Total live births (thousands) ¹	2017	410
Total Fertility Rate (number of children per woman) ¹	2017	5
Adolescent birth rate (per 1,000 women 15-19) ¹⁰	2009	98
Impact indicators		
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) ⁴	2015	405
Average annual rate of MMR reduction between 2000 and 2015 (%) ^{5,a}	2015	2
Lifetime risk of maternal death: 1 in x ^{4,b}	2015	51
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total births) ⁶	2015	30
Preterm birth rate (per 100 live births) ⁷	2015	11
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ³	2016	98
Under-five deaths that are newborn (%) ³	2016	33
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ³	2016	31
Neonatal deaths (thousands) ³	2016	13
Service Delivery		
Availability of EmONC Services (% of minimum acceptable level) ⁸	2016	39
Skilled health professional density (per 10 000 population) ⁹	2013	8
Physician density (per 1,000 population) ⁹	2013	0.1
Nurse and midwife density (per 1,000 population) ⁹	2013	0.6

Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities in Benin

In 2017, approximately 410,000 babies were born in Benin, or around 1,100 every day.¹

Among young women (aged 20-24), 19 percent gave birth by age 18.²

Approximately 35 babies will die each day before reaching their first month³; 32 stillbirths occur every day.⁶

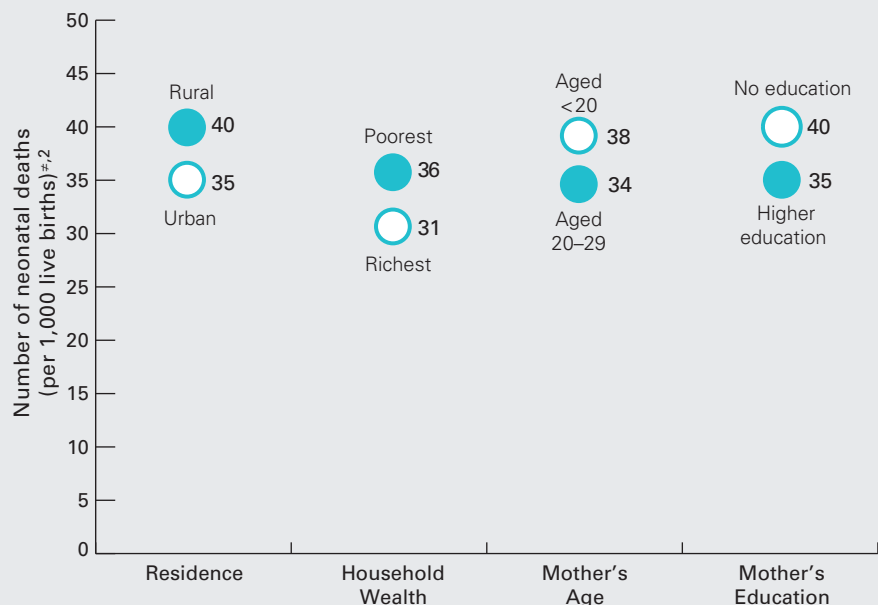
Neonatal mortality rate:

Benin's neonatal mortality rate (NMR)⁴ is 31 deaths per 1,000 live births.³

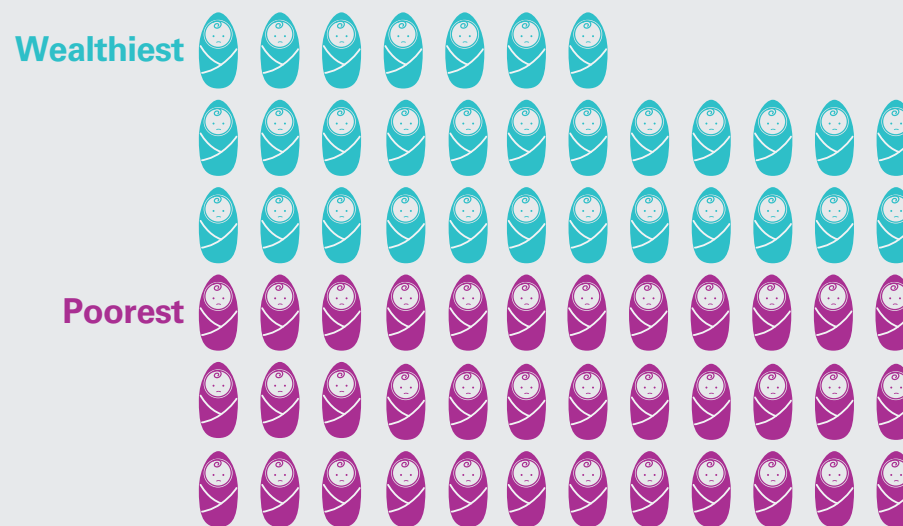
NMR⁵ in rural areas is 40 deaths per 1,000 live births and 35 deaths per 1,000 live births in urban areas for an urban-to-rural ratio of 0.9.²

NMR⁵ among the poorest households is 36 neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 31 deaths per 1,000 live births among the richest households.²

Neonatal mortality rates, by background characteristics, 2014



Neonatal mortality rate by wealth quintile



The NMR for those in the **poorest quintile** (36 per 1,000 live births) is 1.2 times higher than for the **wealthiest quintile** (31 per 1,000 live births).²

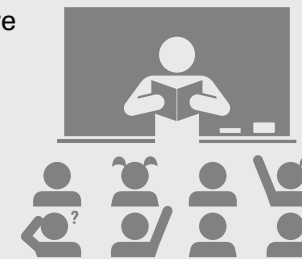
1 in 5
young women
(aged 20-24) have
given birth by age 18.²



Newborns with less educated mothers are

1.1x

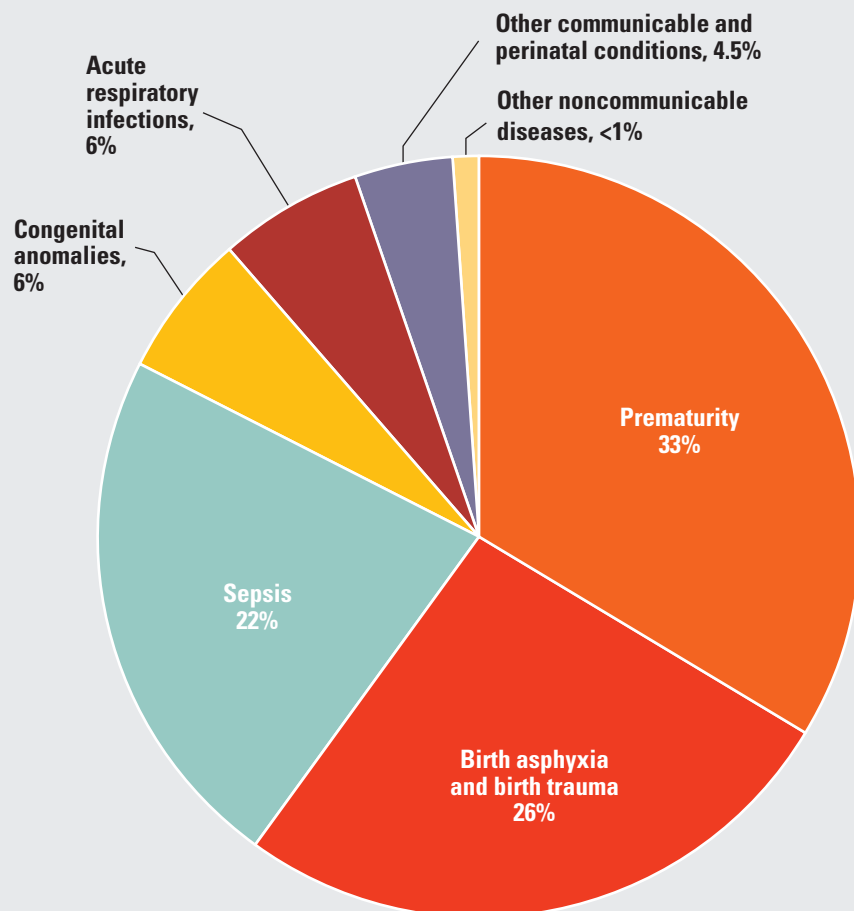
more likely to die during the first month
compared to those born to mothers
with higher education.²



Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities in Benin

Benin — Causes of Neonatal Mortality, 2016

In Benin, the main causes of neonatal deaths in 2016 were prematurity (33 per cent), birth asphyxia and birth trauma (26 per cent) and sepsis (22 per cent).¹¹



Source: WHO-MCEE, 2017

Maternal and newborn health coverage indicators

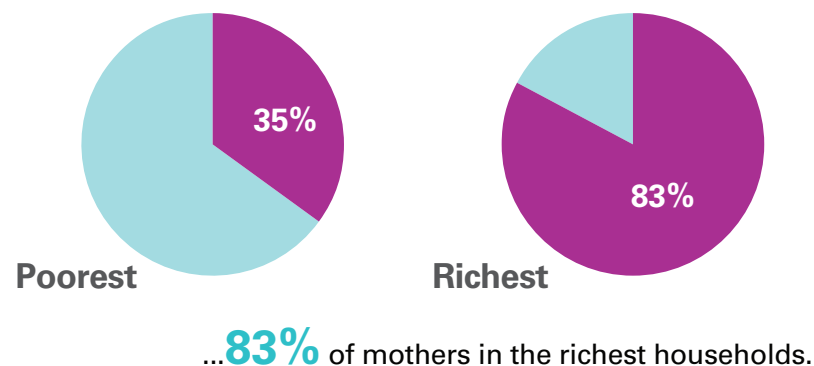
By residence:²

- In rural areas, 54 per cent of women made at least 4 antenatal care visits, compared to 66 per cent in urban areas.
- Coverage of skilled attendance at birth is 83 per cent in rural areas, compared to 73 per cent in urban areas.
- 78 per cent of newborns in rural areas receive postnatal care (PNC) within 2 days of birth, compared to 84 per cent in urban areas.

By household wealth:²

- Most mothers among richest households (83 per cent) made at least 4 antenatal care visits, compared to 35 per cent of mothers from the poorest households.
- Only 61 per cent of mothers in the poorest households had a skilled attendant at birth, compared to 91 per cent of mothers in the richest households.
- 91 per cent of newborns in the richest households receive PNC within 2 days of birth, compared to 66 per cent among the poorest households.

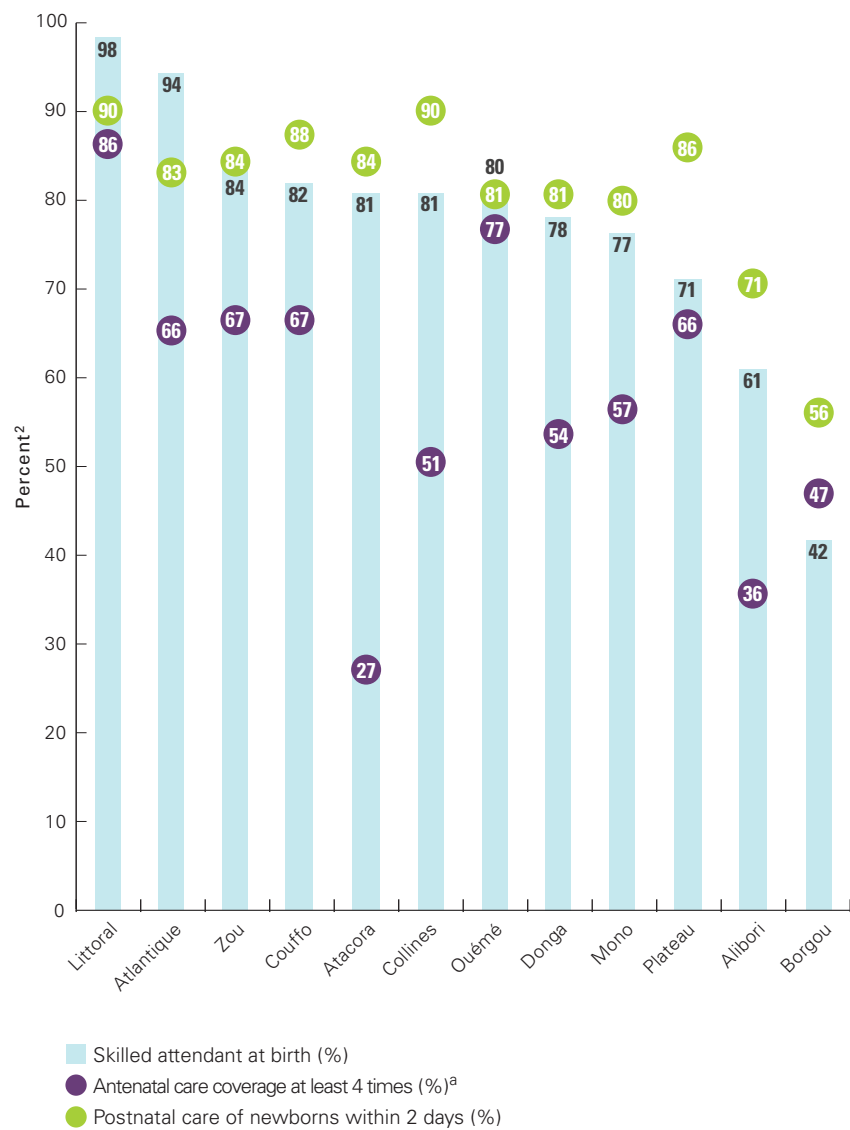
Only **35%** of mothers in the poorest households had **4 antenatal care visits** compared to...



Source: MICS 2014

Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities in Benin

Selected maternal and newborn health indicators, by region, 2014



Source: MICS 2014

Maternal and newborn health coverage indicators

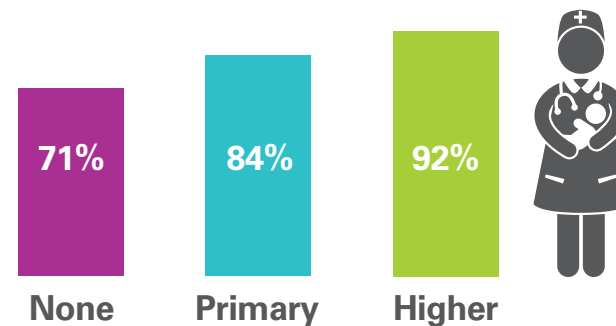
By mother's age:²

- 60 per cent of mothers aged 20-34 made at least four ANC visits, compared to 53 per cent among younger mothers (aged less than 20).
- Mothers aged 20-34 and younger mothers have similar levels of skilled attendance at birth (77 per cent and 76 per cent, respectively).
- Their newborns receive low levels of postnatal care: 80 per cent and 79 per cent, respectively.

By mother's education:²

- 87 per cent of mothers with higher education made at least four ANC visits, compared to 51 per cent of mothers with no education.
- 71 per cent of mothers with no education had a skilled attendant at birth, compared to 84 per cent with primary education and 92 per cent for mothers with higher education.
- 76 per cent of newborns are checked within 2 days of birth if their mothers have no education, compared to 87 per cent of mothers with a primary education and 93 per cent of mothers who received higher education.

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



Percentage of women having a skilled birth attendant relative to their education level

Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities in Benin

Disparities in key maternal and newborn health interventions

	Coverage – care for mothers						Coverage – care for newborns								Other
	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 (%)	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
National estimate	35	59	77	87	5	78	80	76	47	41	90	86	70	85	19
Alibori	45	36	61	68	3	68	71	51	41	45	82	77	63	83	38
Atacora	39	27	81	81	2	82	84	70	60	46	91	90	61	82	27
Atlantique	30	66	94	98	8	81	83	92	46	35	95	87	81	91	11
Borgou	46	47	42	62	3	54	56	45	51	42	74	73	52	75	31
Collines	33	51	81	88	4	88	90	81	31	38	93	90	74	85	23
Couffo	42	67	82	91	4	86	88	73	36	52	86	80	82	82	7
Donga	20	54	78	77	3	79	81	67	48	46	83	82	65	86	23
Littoral	39	86	98	97	16	89	90	96	49	32	97	95	74	94	9
Mono	29	57	77	94	8	80	80	85	36	30	94	89	76	87	16
Ouémé	37	77	80	99	6	80	81	91	58	52	97	93	77	91	16
Plateau	32	66	71	91	2	81	86	74	30	18	90	83	59	84	16
Zou	22	67	84	93	5	80	84	87	61	47	96	96	69	79	19

Key for tables:

0-24%

25-49%

50-74%

75-100%

Data not available

Source: MICS 2014

Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities in Benin

Disparities in key maternal and newborn health interventions

		Coverage – care for mothers					Coverage – care for newborns									Other
		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 (%)	Postnatal care of newborns within 2 days (%)	Newborn weighed at birth (%)	Early initiation of breastfeeding (%)	Exclusive breastfeeding (<6 months) (%)	BCG vaccine for newborn (%)	DPT1 vaccination received (%) ^{**}	Tetanus protection for newborns (%)	Birth registration (%)	Births by age 18 (%) ^{#,a}
National estimate		35	59	77	87	5	78	80	76	47	41	90	86	70	85	19
Residence	Urban	38	66	83	93	8	83	84	85	46	41	92	88	72	88	14
	Rural	32	54	73	83	3	75	78	70	47	42	89	85	69	82	26
Residence ratio (urban to rural)		1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	2.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.5
Household Wealth	Richest	45	83	91	98	13	91	91	93	50	39	98	97	77	96	9
	Poorest	29	35	61	69	2	64	66	57	47	40	75	71	56	69	33
Household wealth ratio (richest to poorest)		1.5	2.4	1.5	1.4	8.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.3
Mother's age	Less than 20	31	53	76	87	5	77	79	76	41	30	90	88	66		44
	20-34	35	60	77	87	5	78	80	77	47	41	89	86	71		25
	35-49	36	56	78	86	6	79	81	75	48	50	93	86	67		
Mother's education	No education	33	51	71	81	3	73	76	69	49	44	86	82	66	81	30
	Primary	35	66	84	95	7	86	87	85	44	35	94	90	75	90	19
	Secondary	39	73	88	97	10	84	87	91	44	39	99	94	80	93	13
	Higher	55	87	92	99	22	94	93	97	40	49	100	100	81	97	3
Mother's education ratio (highest to lowest)		1.7	1.7	1.3	1.2	8.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.1

Key for tables: 0-24% 25-49% 50-74% 75-100% Data not available

Source: MICS 2014

Sources:

- 1 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision.
- 2 Benin Enquête par grappes à indicateurs multiples (MICS) 2014
- 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 Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2015: estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division. 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 2015 with time trends since 1990 for selected countries: a systematic analysis and implications.
- 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, 2000-2016.

Notes:

- a MMR estimates have been rounded according to the following scheme: < 100 rounded to nearest 1; 100–999 rounded to nearest 10; and ≥ 1000 rounded to nearest 10.
 - b Life time risk has been rounded according to the following scheme: < 100 rounded to nearest 1; 100–999 rounded to nearest 10; and ≥ 1000 rounded to nearest 100.
- ^ Reference period: five years preceding the survey.
≠ Reference period: ten 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.

Email: data@unicef.org

Website: data.unicef.org

Prepared by: UNICEF Data and Analytics, Division of Data, Research and Policy in collaboration with Health Section Programme Division. March 2018.