



GLOBAL MEASUREMENT UPDATE

Stillbirth Country and Regional Profiles

Every year an estimated 2 million babies are stillborn, a baby born at 28 weeks or more of gestation with no sign of life. Globally, over 40 percent of all stillbirths are intrapartum; almost all are avoidable with high-quality care. Limited data availability and quality have been barriers to preventing stillbirths. The United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) began consistently reporting stillbirth estimates along with child mortality in 2019 and released the first-ever profiles in 2022. The estimates are updated annually.

NEW RESOURCE

[UN IGME stillbirth profiles](#) bridge new stillbirth estimates for 2000-onwards with programmatic and advocacy efforts.

WHAT ARE THE STILLBIRTH PROFILES?

The stillbirth country, regional, and global profiles present levels and trends in stillbirths for 195 nations. The profiles track progress towards the 2030 [Every Newborn Action Plan](#) (ENAP) stillbirths target (12 stillbirths or fewer per 1,000 total births). Each profile is organized into five sections (see Table 1); the website presents interactive maps and graphs that allow country comparisons and regional and global averages. In addition to estimates, the profiles show coverage of stillbirth-related health services and indicate data availability and quality by country and coverage.

TABLE 1: INDICATORS INCLUDED IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROFILES, BY PROFILE SECTION⁺

BURDEN AND LOSS	PROGRESS 2000-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total stillbirths and % of stillbirths in the region* Total neonatal deaths and % of neonatal deaths in the region Total under-five deaths and % of under-five deaths in the region Proportion of antepartum and intrapartum stillbirths by region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stillbirth rate (stillbirths per 1,000 total births)* Stillbirth (number of stillbirths)* % change in stillbirth rate, total stillbirths, and total live births* Annual rate of reduction in stillbirth rate, maternal mortality ratio, neonatal mortality rate, and under-five mortality rate*
HEALTH SERVICES	SOURCE DATA AVAILABILITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antenatal care 4+ visits (%)* C-section rate (%)* Institutional deliveries (%)* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability, defined by data source type, completeness, and other data quality criteria* Number of data points included in model, by year*
FUTURE WE WANT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimated 2030 stillbirth rate and time to achieve 2030 ENAP target if current trends are maintained* Estimated stillbirth rate meeting ENAP 2030 targets* Observed and required annual rate of reduction to achieve ENAP target in 2030* Number of stillbirths 2020-2030 considering four future scenarios and the number of stillbirths prevented compared to the current stillbirth rate remaining constant scenario* 	

Source: <https://childmortality.org/profile>

⁺ Latest estimates are for 2019; they will be updated annually. * Interactive figure available.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE STILLBIRTH PROFILES?

A stillbirth has a long-lasting impact on women and their families, who often endure profound psychological suffering and stigma from their communities. Even though most stillbirths are preventable with health system improvements, stillbirths are often overlooked and undercounted, which has been detrimental to making progress. Currently, 56 countries are off track to meet the ENAP target by 2030.

Key Features

- Country profiles with five sections with comparisons to regional and global averages
- World maps showing key indicators
- Regional Profiles with comparisons across regions and with global averages
- Trend analyses for stillbirths from 2000 – 2019
- Downloadable data

WHO SHOULD USE THE PROFILES AND HOW CAN THEY BE USED?

- The profiles are primarily intended for **policy makers, program managers, and advocates** as a tool to raise the visibility of stillbirths using available data, in order to better integrate stillbirths within women's and children's health policies and programs. These actions have the potential to save millions of lives.
- The profiles will be helpful for **global, regional, and national maternal and newborn health experts**, including those working on MOMENTUM awards, to:
 - Determine the burden of stillbirths and the progress over time in reducing stillbirths compared to neonatal mortality and under-five mortality in children.
 - Identify the potential of stillbirth reduction and lives saved, considering different future scenarios and coverage rates for related health services to influence program planning.
 - Understand the data sources and availability within their contexts.
- The profiles include a dropdown menu that allows users to select the country or region of interest and the year of interest. The regional profiles compare some indicators with other regional and global averages, as well as some indicators between countries within a region. Data can be downloaded for further use.
- The profiles do not include subnational data or present disaggregations (e.g., by wealth quintile); these data are minimally available, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  @USAID_MOMENTUM  @USAIDMOMENTUM  USAID MOMENTUM

Reference

UN IGME. 2022. Stillbirth country and regional profiles. Accessed August 14, 2022. <https://data.unicef.org/resources/stillbirth-country-and-regional-profiles/>

Additional resources

Access the profiles at: <https://childmortality.org/profile>

Full details on the indicators and the recommended methods for their collection can be found at: <https://childmortality.org/resources>

Access the webinar launch of the profiles at: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=KzAl6cp8yj0>

Mary Kinney (consultant) and Lucia Hug (UNICEF) contributed to this fact sheet.

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