

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Good policies can make the difference

References

CURRENT SITUATION

(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION

(since 1990 or closest available year)

- Significant progress
- Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ← Slight regression
- ← Significant regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births) ¹	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
	Afghanistan (—)	52	14	1900	5
	Albania (95)	81	94	55	75
	Algeria (95)	79	92	140	64 →
	American Samoa (—)		100		
	Angola (—)		47	1700	6
	Anguilla (—)		100		
	Antigua and Barbuda (—)		100		
	Argentina (94)		99	82	
	Armenia (96)	82	97	55	61
	Aruba (—)		96		
	Australia (99)		99	8	
	Austria (99+)			4	51 *
	Azerbaijan (91)	70	84	94	55
	Bahamas (—)		99	60	
→	Bahrain (99)	63 *	99	28	62 * →
→	Bangladesh (57)	39 →	13 →	380	58 →
	Barbados (99)	89	100	95	
	Belarus (97)		100	35	50 *
	Belgium (99+)			10	
	Belize (91)		84 * →	140	
→	Benin (73)	88	66 →	850	19 →
	Bhutan (69)		24 →	420	
→	Bolivia (80)	80 + →	61 →	420	58 →
	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	99	100	31	48
→	Botswana (91)	99 →	94 →	100	40 →
	Brazil (89)	84 *	88 *	260	77 * →
	Brunei Darussalam (97)		100	37	
	Bulgaria (97)		99	32	42 *
→	Burkina Faso (71)	72 →	57 →	1000	14 →
→	Burundi (56)	93	25 →	1000	16 →
	Cambodia (59)	44	32	450	24 →
→	Cameroon (70)	84 + →	62	730	26 →
	Canada (99)		98	6	75 *
	Cape Verde (92)		89 *	150	53 *
	Cayman Islands (—)		100		
	Central African Republic (—)		44	1100	28 →
→	Chad (43)	44 + →	14	1100	3 +
	Chile (99)		100	31	
←	China (93)		83	56	84 *
→	Colombia (89)	94 + →	91 →	130	78 + →
	Comoros (72)	87 *	62	480	26 →
	Congo, DR (—)	72	61	990	31
	Congo, Rep. (80)	88 +	84 +	510	44 +
	Cook Islands (—)		98		63 *
	Costa Rica (96)		98	43	80 * →
→	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	84 *	63 →	690	15 * →
	Croatia (97)		100	8	
→	Cuba (99)		100	33	73 →

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births) ¹	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
	Cyprus (99+)			47	
	Czech Republic (99)		100	9	72 * →
	Denmark (99+)			5	
	Djibouti (78)		61	730	
	Dominica (94)		100		
→	Dominican Republic (85)	99+ →	99 →	150	70 →
	Ecuador (81)	56* ←	69* →	130	66* →
→	Egypt (90)	71+ →	74+ →	84	59+ →
→	El Salvador (80)		69 →	150	67 →
	Equatorial Guinea (59)		65	880	
	Eritrea (67)	72+	28	630	8
	Estonia (99)		100	63	
→	Ethiopia (50)	29+ →	6+	850	15+ →
	Fiji (99)		99	75	
	Finland (99+)		100	6	
	France (99+)			17	75*
	French Guiana (—)		100		
	French Polynesia (—)		99*		
	Gabon (82)	94	86	420	33
	Gambia (70)	92	55	540	10
	Georgia (95)	91*	96*	32	41
	Germany (99+)			8	
→	Ghana (66)	90 →	47 →	540	25 →
	Greece (99+)			9	
	Grenada (92)		100		
	Guadeloupe (—)		100		
	Guam (—)		99		
→	Guatemala (72)	86* →	41 →	240	43 →
→	Guinea (68)	84+ →	38+ →	740	9+ →
	Guinea-Bissau (—)	89	35	1100	8
	Guyana (81)	88	86	170	37 →
→	Haiti (—)	79 →	24 ←	680	28 →
→	Honduras (76)	92+ →	67+ →	110	65+ →
	Hong Kong (—)		100		
	Hungary (97)		100	16	
	Iceland (99+)			0	
	India (71)	65*	43	540	48* →
→	Indonesia (85)	97 →	66 →	230	60 →
	Iran (91)		90	76	73* →
	Iraq (79)		72	250	
	Ireland (99+)		100	5	
	Israel (99+)			17	
	Italy (99)			5	60*
	Jamaica (95)		95*	87	66* →
	Japan (99+)		100*	10	56
→	Jordan (99)	99 →	100 →	41	56 →
	Kazakhstan (95)	82*	99*	210	66* →
	Kenya (68)	88 →	42 ←	1000	39 →
	Kiribati (88)		89 →		
	Korea, DR (—)	98	97	67	
→	Korea, Rep. (99)		100		20 81* →
	Kuwait (99)	83*	100 →	5	50*
	Kyrgyzstan (96)	88*	98*	110	60*
	Lao, PDR (58)	44	19	650	32 →
	Latvia (99)		100		42 48*
	Lebanon (96)		93 →	150	61*
→	Lesotho (69)	91+	55	550	37+ →
	Liberia (—)		51 ←	760	
	Libya (—)		94*	97	45*

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births) ¹	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
	Lithuania (97)		100	19	47 *
	Luxembourg (97)		100	28	
	Macao (—)		100		
	Macedonia, FYR (97)		98	23	
	Madagascar (63)	84 + →	45 + ←	550	27 →
→	Malawi (63)	95 + →	57 +	1800	33 + →
	Malaysia (98)		97	41	
	Maldives (86)	98	70	110	42 *
→	Mali (66)	53 →	41 →	1200	8 →
	Malta (99+)			21	
	Marshall Islands (94)		95		
	Martinique (—)		100		
	Mauritania (75)	63	57 →	1000	8
	Mauritius (99)		99 *	24	
→	Mexico (94)		86 * →	83	68 * →
	Micronesia (—)		88		
←	Moldova (96)	98 +	100 +	36	68 + ←
	Mongolia (96)		99	110	67
	Montserrat (—)		98		
→	Morocco (78)	68 + →	63 →	220	63 →
→	Mozambique (61)	85 + →	48 →	1000	17 →
	Myanmar (73)		56 *	360	37 →
→	Namibia (86)	85 →	76 →	300	44 →
	Nepal (55)	49	11	740	39 →
	Netherlands (99+)		100 *	16	
	New Zealand (99+)		100 *	7	75 *
→	Nicaragua (74)	85 →	67 →	230	69 →
→	Niger (55)	39 * →	16	1600	14 →
	Nigeria (63)	61	35	800	13 →
	Niue (—)		100		
	Northern Mariana Islands (—)		100		
	Norway (99+)			16	
→	Oman (97)	77 *	95 →	87	24 * →
→	Pakistan (60)	36 * →	23 →	500	28 →
	Palau (—)		100		
	Panama (91)		93 →	160	
	Papua New Guinea (73)		53 *	300	26 *
→	Paraguay (85)		77 →	170	73 →
→	Peru (86)	85 →	71 ←	410	69 →
→	Philippines (77)	94 →	60 →	200	49 →
	Poland (99+)		100	13	
	Portugal (99+)		100	5	
	Puerto Rico (—)		100	25	78 *
	Qatar (97)	62 *	100	7	43 * →
	Reunion (—)			41	
	Romania (96)	89 *	98 *	49	64 * →
	Russian Federation (97)	96 *	99	67	
	Rwanda (51)	95 +	28 +	1400	17 + ←
	Samoa (97)		100		
	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)	91	79		29
	Saudi Arabia (95)	77 *	93 →	23	32 *
→	Senegal (72)	94 + →	52 + →	690	12 + →
	Sierra Leone (—)	82	42	2000	4
	Singapore (—)		100	30	62 *
	Slovakia (—)		99	3	
	Slovenia (99)		100	17	
	Solomon Islands (—)		85 *	130	
	Somalia (—)		34 *	1100	
	South Africa (87)	89 *	84 *	230	56 *
	Spain (99+)			4	81 *
→	Sri Lanka (—)		97 →	92	70 →

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	WOMEN AGED 15-49 ATTENDED AT LEAST ONCE DURING PREGNANCY BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL (%)	ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (per 100,000 live births) ¹	CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY IN UNION WOMEN AGED 15-49 (%)
	St. Kitts and Nevis (99)		100		
	St. Lucia (96)		99		
	St. Vincent and Grenadines (95)		100		
	Sudan (81)		57 *	←	590
	Suriname (85)	91	85		110
	Swaziland (77)		70		370
	Sweden (99+)				2
	Switzerland (99+)				7
	Syrian Arab Republic (87)		70		160
	Tajikistan (86)	75	71		100
→	Tanzania (70)	97 * →	46	←	1500
→	Thailand (—)		99	→	44
	Timor-Leste (—)		24		660
	Togo (70)	78 * →	49	→	570
	Tokelau (—)		100 *		
	Tonga (94)		91		41 *
←	Trinidad and Tobago (98)	96	96		160
→	Tunisia (95)		90	→	120
→	Turkey (92)	67 *	83	→	70
	Turkmenistan (—)	87	97		31
	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)		100		
	Tuvalu (89)		100		
→	Uganda (63)	92 →	39		880
	Ukraine (97)	90	99 *		35
	United Arab Emirates (98)	97 *	100		54
	United Kingdom (99)		99 *		13
	United States of America (99)		98		17
	Uruguay (95)		99		27
	Uzbekistan (—)	95 *	96		24
	Vanuatu (85)		87	←	
	Venezuela (94)		94		96
	Viet Nam (90)	70	85		130
	Virgin Islands (UK) (—)		100		
	West Bank and Gaza (96)		97		100
→	Yemen (64)	34 * →	22 *	←	570
	Zambia (75)	94	43	←	750
	Zimbabwe (76)	82 * ←	73 *	→	1100

Notes: (1) Due to changes in the model of estimation, 1995 and 2000 data are not comparable.

(*) Data refers to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

Sources: Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy: Global Health Atlas, WHO (www.who.int/GlobalAtlas). Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measuredhs.com/accesssurveys).

Births attended by skilled health personnel: Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductive-health/). Except for (+) Demographic and Health Surveys - STAT compiler (www.measuredhs.com/accesssurveys).

Maternal mortality ratio: Reproductive Health Indicators Database, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO (www.who.int/reproductive-health/).

Contraceptive use among currently in union women aged 15-49: World Development Indicators 2007 website, World Bank (www.worldbank.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel (%): Percentage of women aged 15-49 years attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses or midwives). Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1990.

Births attended by skilled health personnel (%): Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses or midwives). Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1990 or closest possible year.

Estimated maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births): Annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births. Due to changes in the model of estimation, 1995 and 2000 data are not comparable (2000).

Contraceptive use among women currently in union aged 15-49 (%): Percentage of women in union aged 15-49 years currently using contraception. Last available data: 2000-2005; evolution since 1990.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Good policies can make the difference

The subject of reproductive health was put on the world agenda thanks to the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). Since that time, attention has been focused on reproductive health, particularly as regards its connection with human rights, the pursuit of gender equity, the fight against HIV/AIDS and the struggle to reduce infant and maternal mortality.

However, there is a long way to go before these problems can be solved. The reproductive health situation is still critical in many parts of the world, and this applies especially to specific regions. The situation at the start of the 21st century is not encouraging: 19 out of 20 adult deaths linked to reproduction took place in developing countries. In recent years the quality and coverage of health services have improved in the world as a whole but there are still inequalities. To tackle this problem it is important not only to undertake a redistribution of resources in the world but also to implement local and national management policies.

There are a number of success stories that could serve as a model for formulating policies. One of these is Bangladesh, whose reproductive health indicators show considerable progress, as can be seen in the previous table. In this country, the focus was put on the connection between reproductive health and poverty, and an attempt was made to gear the main effort to the most disadvantaged sectors of the population. The quality of health services was improved and special attention was paid to adolescent and maternal health, and progress in these areas was linked to family planning initiatives and the implementation of sex education programmes for adolescents. For example, specialized field workers visited newly married couples and established a dialogue with them, and this has led to a considerable fall in unplanned pregnancies in these population groups. In initiatives of this kind, local community participation and the involvement of the male population are crucial.

A comparison of the situation in the countries in the better relative situation group with the countries at the other end of the scale speaks volumes. In the former, average maternal mortality is 42 per 100,000 births, but in the latter group of countries the figure is 940 per 100,000 births, which is a staggering difference. For every case of maternal mortality in the first group, there are 22 mothers who die in the last group.

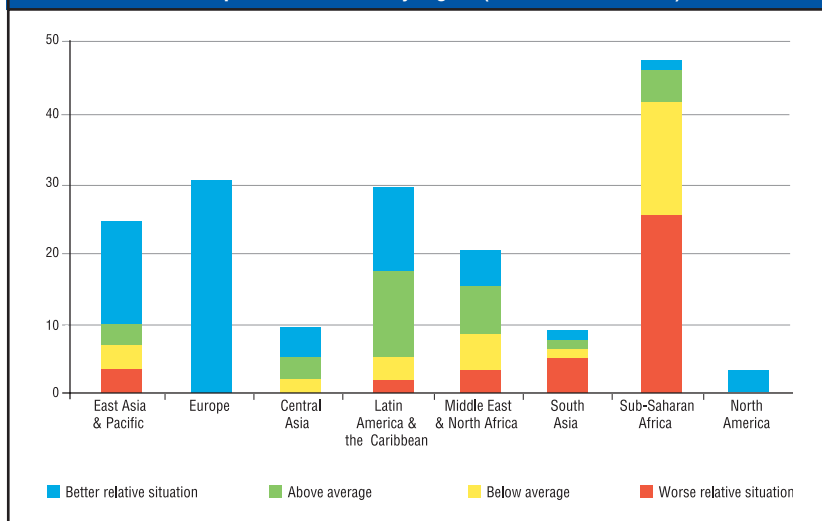
In this area there are marked differences between different regions of the world. All the European and North American countries are in the better situation group, while almost half the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are in the worse relative situation, and the same applies to the countries in South Asia.

While most countries have made progress in this dimension in recent years, there are some that are in the same situation as a decade ago. The most worrying aspect of this scenario is that there are countries in the worse relative situation, like Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda, whose evolution has stagnated. ■

Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse situations in reproductive health

		Women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel (%)	Contraceptive use among women currently in union aged 15-49	Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	Estimated maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)
Worse relative situation	Average	66	19	35	940
	Number of countries	27	30	35	35
Better relative situation	Average	92	65	98	42
	Number of countries	18	43	63	67
Total	Average	80	46	75	342
	Number of countries	89	127	159	161

Current situation in reproductive health by region (number of countries)



Current situation and evolution in reproductive health (number of countries)

	←	↔		→	→	Total
Countries in worse situation	0	0	3	9	6	18
Countries below average	0	0	5	5	7	17
Countries above average	0	1	0	4	7	12
Countries in better situation	0	2	0	4	4	10
Total	0	3	8	22	24	57