



Special Press Release (Big Data Analytics)

HEALTHCARE Infant Mortality

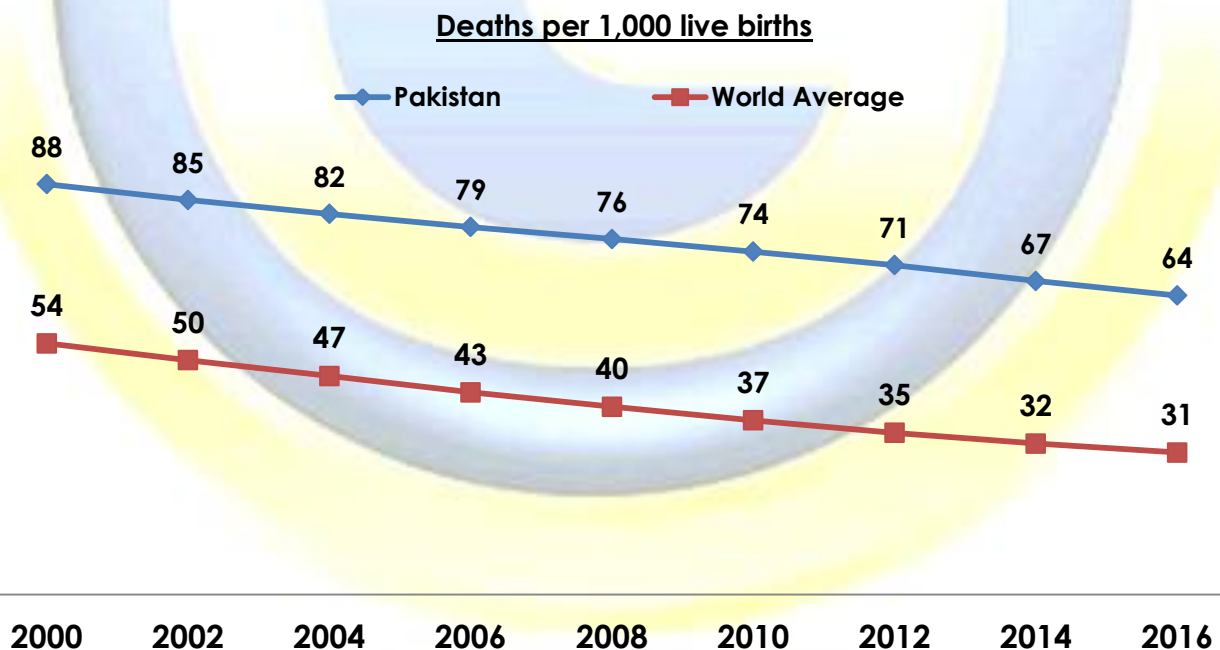
2016: Whereas global infant mortality rate has fallen by 43% in the past two decades, Pakistan's infant mortality has seen a drop of 27% only; nearly half the rate of global improvement: Gallup Pakistan Big Analytics Team

Islamabad, April 05, 2018

Infant mortality rate or IMR is defined as the probability of dying between birth and exactly one year of age, expressed per 1,000 live births. According to the estimates developed by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, 64 babies died below the age of one per every 1,000 live births in Pakistan during the year 2016.

Global Trend: *Pakistan still needs to half its infant mortality rate in order to match the global average.*

Globally, infant mortality rate has declined by 43% in sixteen years, from 54 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 31 in 2016. Meanwhile, infant mortality rate in Pakistan during this period, dropped from 88 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 64, a decline of merely 27%. Most of these deaths occur from preventable causes and treatable diseases.



Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

(<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN?end=2016&locations=PK&start=1987&view=chart>)



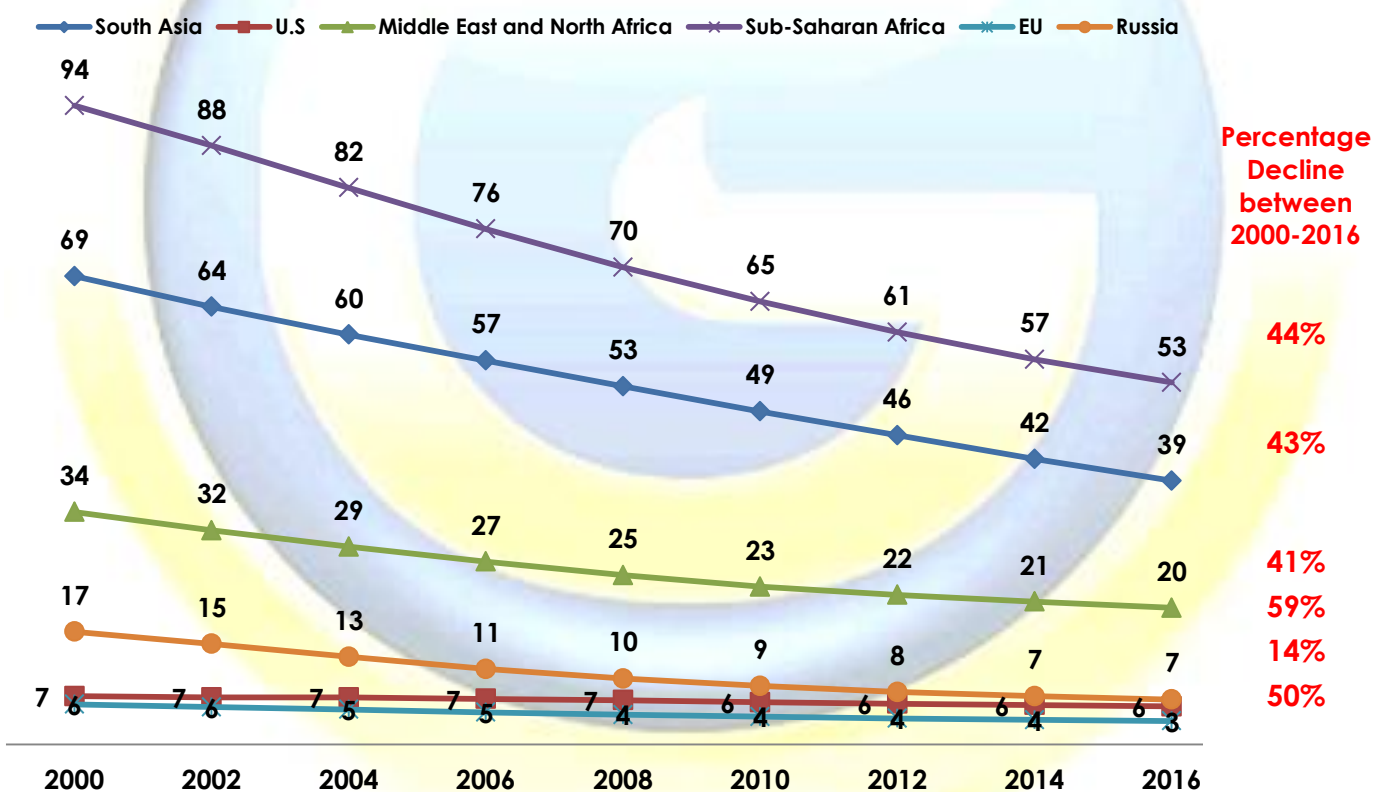
Regional Comparison: **Pakistan has the highest rate of infant mortality in the region**

In 2016, Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia accounted for more than two third (71%) global infant deaths. While European Union had the lowest infant mortality rate of 3 deaths per 1,000 live births.

On the other hand, since 2000, the greatest percentage decline in the number of infant deaths has also been observed in Russia (59%), while the lowest has been observed in the USA (14%).

In most parts of Africa and South Asia, the socio-economic conditions are still very rudimentary, thus playing a major role in these high statistics. The most dominant cause of these early deaths is the absence of healthcare facilities due to which infectious diseases such as pneumonia, diarrheal disease and malaria remain untreated among infants. Meanwhile, lack of proper nutrition as well as low levels of maternal education also play pivotal roles in majority of infant deaths.

Deaths per 1,000 live births



Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

(<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN?end=2016&locations=PK&start=1987&view=chart>)

Regional classification:

Middle east and North Africa: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, West Bank and Gaza and Yemen.

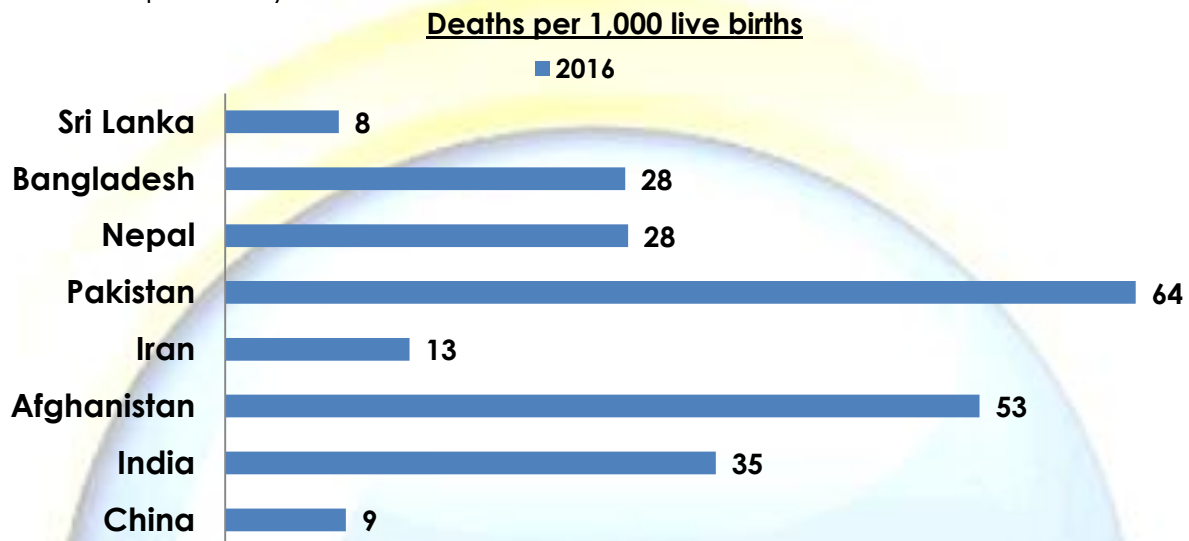
Southern Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain.



Data further shows that regionally, not only does Pakistan has the highest rate of first year of life deaths at 64 per 1,000 births but Pakistan also accounted for more than one fourth of all infant deaths in the region in 2016. This was followed by Afghanistan (53), India (35), Bangladesh and Nepal (28) and Iran (13).

Owing to the strong health systems and implementation mechanisms in China and Sri Lanka, their infant mortality rates are regionally the lowest at 9 and 8 deaths per 1,000 live births respectively.



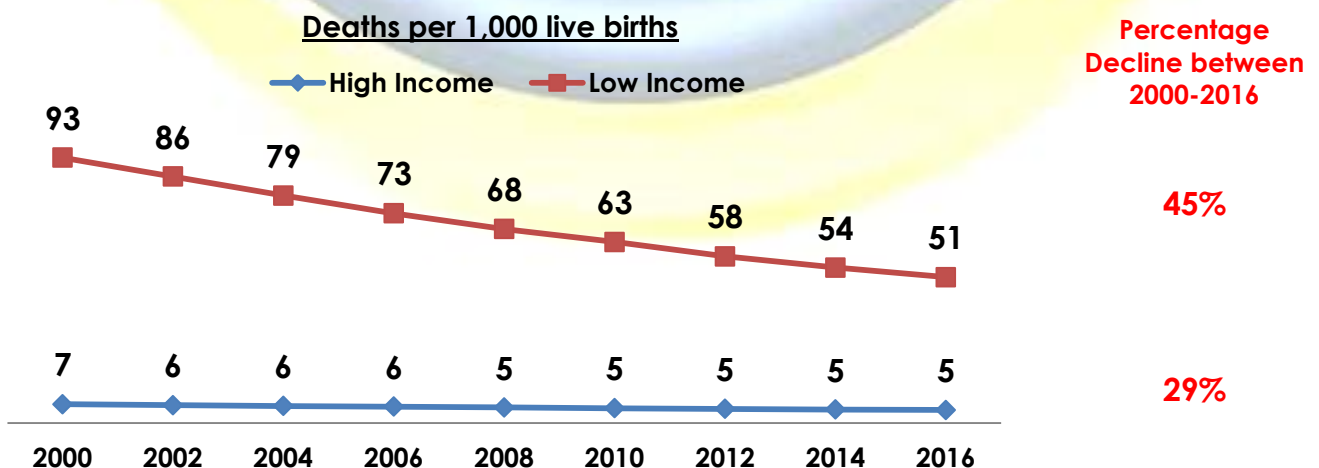
Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

(<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN?end=2016&locations=PK&start=1987&view=chart>)

Comparison between mortality rates of High income and Low income countries:

Economic and social policies of earlier decades have led to tremendous disparities in wealth and access to resources globally. An important socioeconomic determinant of infant mortality is income inequity.

Infant mortality rate in high income countries has fallen from 7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 5 in 2016. Meanwhile, infant mortality rate during the same period, in low income countries has fallen from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 51. In other words, over the past two decades, low income countries have seen a significant improvement in infant mortality rates.



Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

(<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN?end=2016&locations=PK&start=1987&view=chart>)



It is near impossible to achieve the proposed SDG 2030 target to end all preventable deaths if women in Pakistan continue to deliver outside the hospital premises, without the comfort of a bed or the supervision of trained medical professionals. The growth in health infrastructure of the country has been negligible when put in context with the population growth. By 2015, there was only 1 doctor for a population of 1,702 in Punjab, the province with the supposedly the best healthcare facilities in the country.

Efficient health investments alongside female literacy programs are required with great urgency to eliminate preventable child deaths in the country.

Big Data Analytics Series:

This press release is part of Gallup Pakistan's Big Data Analytics Project which aims to bring to public attention, piece by piece, the vast wealth of data produced in and about Pakistan but seldom used and more often than not buried in deluge of other forms of documentation and reports. In this data analytics exercise, we intend to look at all aspects of life including health, social issues, economy, trade etc. Various data sets varying in terms of producers (government, private sector) and origins (some are surveys; others are supply side transactional data) would be analysed under this initiative. The aim remains, as is the case with other Gallup and Gilani Research Foundation endeavors, a more empirical, fact and evidence based understanding of public interest issues.

Methodology: The data for this analysis is based on UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation Report 2017. [Click here to access the report.](#)

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