

Maternal Mortality

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of the Global
Burden of Disease 2024



PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of the Global Burden of Disease 2024

Between 1985 and 2020, Pakistan saw a 37.9% decline in number of maternal deaths; India recorded an 86.4% decline in this number in the same time period – **Maternal Mortality –**

Global Burden of Disease 2024

Islamabad, August 23rd, 2024

Gallup Pakistan, as part of its Big Data Analysis initiative, is looking at Maternal Mortality for Pakistan. This data is part of a study conducted using the ‘Global Burden of Disease 2024’.

The current edition looks at data from Global Burden of Disease 2024, which can be found [HERE](#).

What is the Big Data Analysis Series by Gallup?

Gallup Pakistan’s Big Data series was started by Bilal I Gilani, Executive Director of Gallup Pakistan. Bilal explains the rationale of the series: “The usual complaint from academics and policy makers is that Pakistan does not have data availability. Our experience negates that. Pakistan has lots of data, but it is not available in a usable form and not widely accessible. At Gallup we plan to bridge this gap in terms of accessibility and use of data. The Gallup Big Data series has earlier worked with data sets such as [PSLM](#), [Labour Force Survey](#), and [Economic Survey reports](#) as well as [National Census Reports](#) and [Election Commission Data sets](#). The current series is using the [Global Burden of Disease 2024](#), which provides a variety of health statistics. We hope that these series are useful, and we welcome both feedback as well as possible collaborations as we create a public good in the form of useful data sets in Pakistan.”

What data points this current edition covers:

This series aims to present the important learnings from the Global Burden of Disease 2024, for policy makers, the public, as well as for marketers in an easy and understandable way. This edition looks at Maternal Mortality statistics for Pakistan. The series’ main aim is to provide data. Implications of these data points for development sector as well as wider socio-political ramifications is something we would like to trigger in relevant circles.

Maternal Mortality

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Sustainable Development Goals Target 3.1:

As of 2020, the countries in Asia that had not met the SDG target for maternal mortality included India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Indonesia.



Maternal Mortality Ratio:

As of 2020, the global maternal mortality ratio was 212 deaths per 100,000 live births. For Asia, this number was 99, but for Pakistan it was 154.

Pakistan

154

Per 100,000 Live Births

Asia

99

Per 100,000 Live Births

Number of Maternal Deaths:

9,809 maternal deaths were recorded in Pakistan in 2020, with the number peaking in 1995 at 25,249 deaths. Between 1985 and 2020, the country saw a 37.9% decline in number of maternal deaths.



9,809

Maternal deaths in 2020



25,249

Maternal deaths in 1995

Maternal Deaths by Cause:

In 2021, maternal **hypertensive disorders** were the top cause of maternal deaths for Pakistan, contributing to **5,464** deaths, followed by maternal **hemorrhages** (**2,848** deaths).

Source: Gallup Pakistan Analysis
of the Global Burden of
Disease 2024



Today's topic is “**Maternal Mortality in Pakistan**” from the Global Burden of Disease 2024

Key Findings:

1. **Sustainable Development Goals Target 3.1:** As of 2020, the countries in Asia that had not met the SDG target for maternal mortality included India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Indonesia.
2. **Maternal Mortality Ratio:** As of 2020, the global maternal mortality ratio was 212 deaths per 100,000 live births. For Asia, this number was 99, but for Pakistan it was 154.
3. **Number of Maternal Deaths:** 9,809 maternal deaths were recorded in Pakistan in 2020, with the number peaking in 1995 at 25,249 deaths. Between 1985 and 2020, the country saw a 37.9% decline in number of maternal deaths.
4. **Maternal Deaths by Cause:** In 2021, maternal hypertensive disorders were the top cause of maternal deaths for Pakistan, contributing to 5,464 deaths, followed by maternal hemorrhages (2,848 deaths).

Sustainable Development Goals Target 3.1

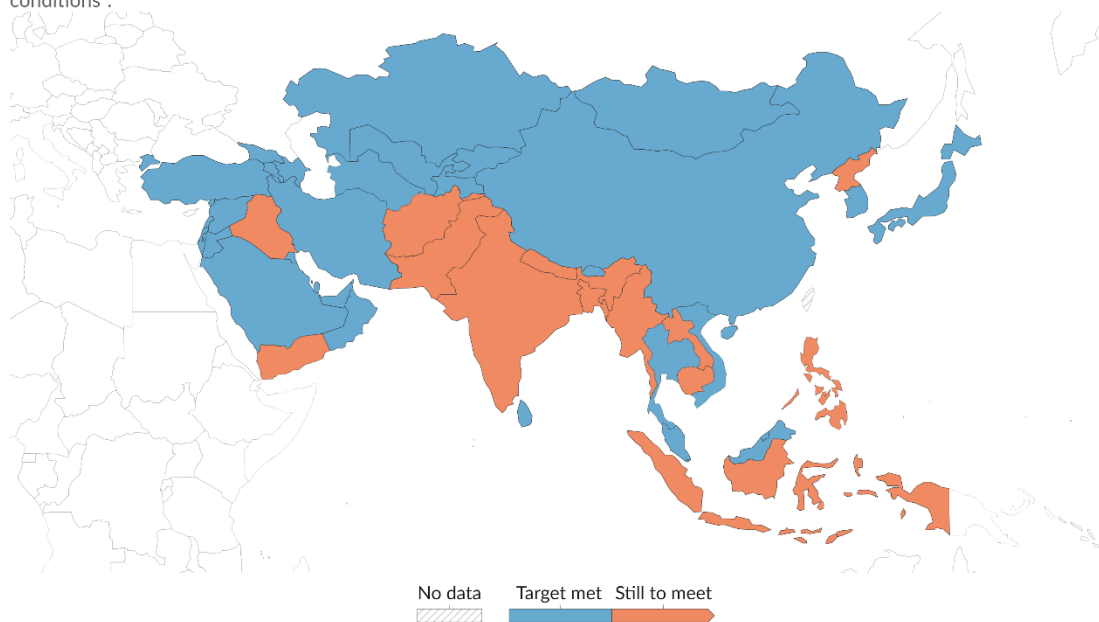
Maternal mortality is defined as women who die from maternal conditions. It relates to the death of women during or shortly after pregnancy. Target 3.1 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births.

As of 2020, the countries in Asia that had met the SDG target included China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia and Japan, among others. On the other hand, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Indonesia made the list of those who had not.

Has country already reached SDG target on maternal mortality? 2020

Target 3.1 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births. Maternal mortality is defined as women who die from maternal conditions¹.

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in Data



Data source: UN MMEIG (2023)

OurWorldInData.org/maternal-mortality | CC BY

(Fig 1) Source: United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Interagency Group, 2023

Maternal Mortality Ratio

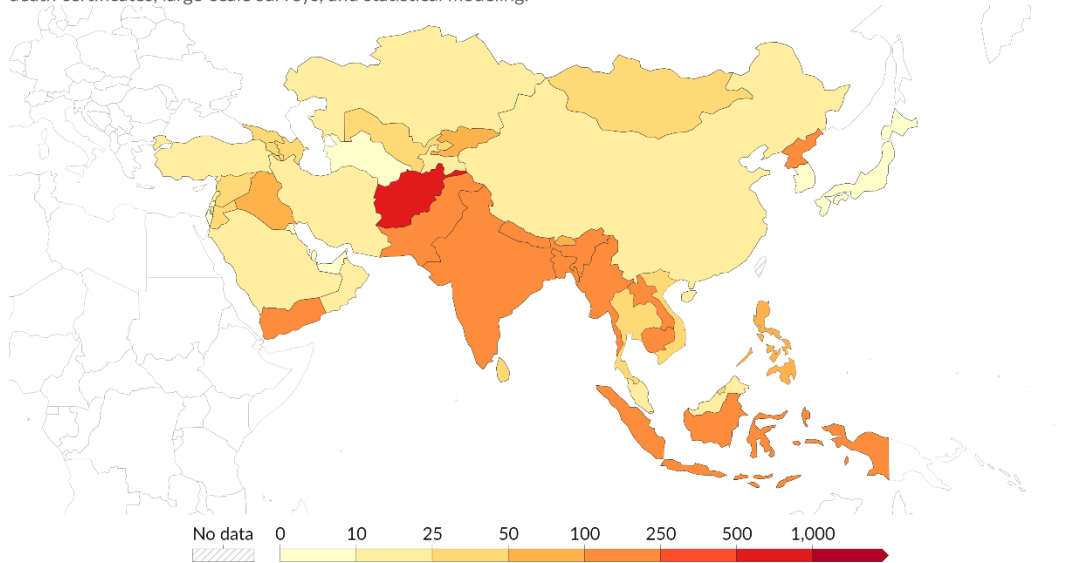
One way of studying maternal mortality is through the maternal mortality ration. It is the estimated number of women who die from maternal conditions per 100,000 live births, based on data from death certificates, large-scale surveys, and statistical modeling.

It is not surprising that the countries in Asia that have not met their SDG target for maternal mortality are also the ones with maternal mortality ratios higher than the rest of the region. As of 2020, the highest ratio was recorded for Afghanistan, at 620 deaths per 100,000 live births. The majority of South Asia falls in the 100 to 250 death bracket, which is significantly higher than the SDG target of 70 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Maternal mortality ratio, 2020

The estimated number of women who die from maternal conditions¹ per 100,000 live births, based on data from death certificates, large-scale surveys, and statistical modeling.

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Data source: UN MMEIG (2023) and other sources

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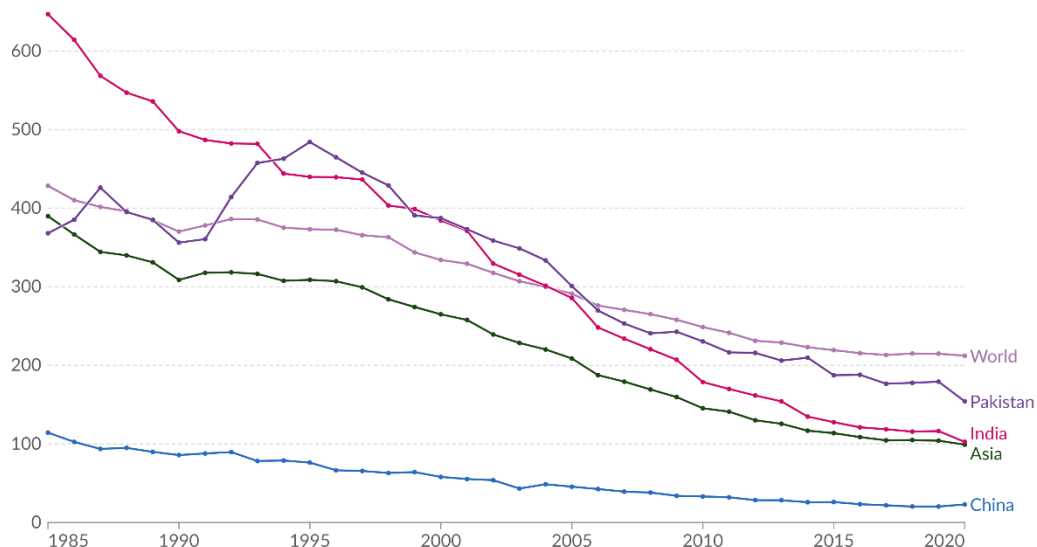
(Fig 2) Source: United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Interagency Group, 2023

As of 2020, the global maternal mortality ratio was 212 deaths per 100,000 live births. For Asia, this number was 99, but for Pakistan it was 154. In comparison, the ratio was 103 for India and 23 for China. These figures indicate that population size alone does not impact maternal mortality, and factors like GDP per capita, equitable access to resources and overall quality of life also play a major role in the health of new mothers.

Maternal mortality ratio, 1985 to 2020

The estimated number of women who die from maternal conditions per 100,000 live births, based on data from death certificates, large-scale surveys, and statistical modeling.

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Data source: UN MMEIG (2023) and other sources

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(Fig 3) Source: United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Interagency Group, 2023

Number of Maternal Deaths

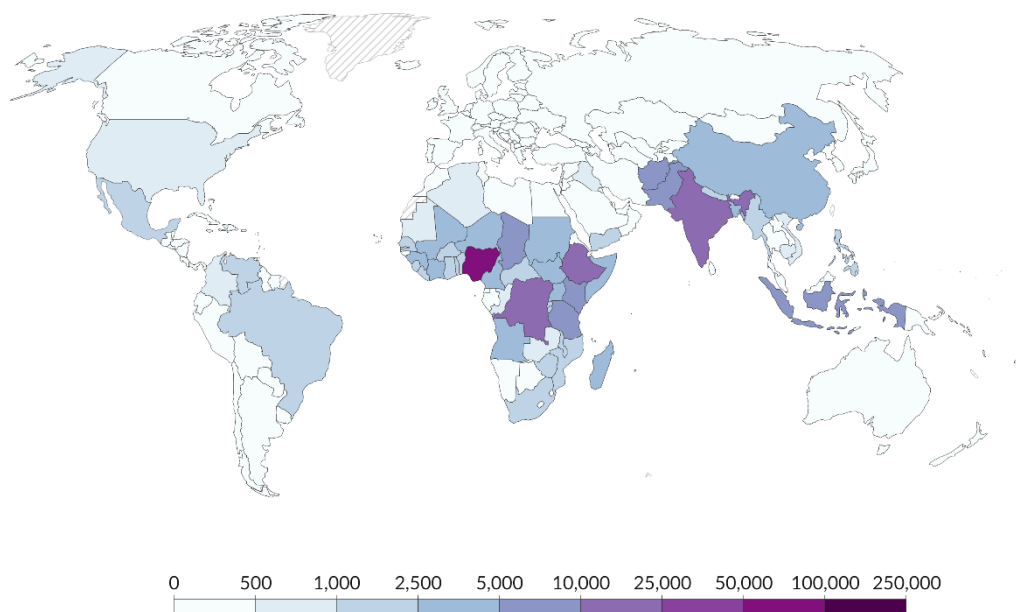
Another way of looking at maternal deaths is by studying the total number of deaths that have occurred in a specific period of time. The World Health Organization defines number of maternal deaths as the annual number of female deaths from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management (excluding accidental or incidental causes) during pregnancy and childbirth or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy¹.

Looking at a map of the world reveals that apart from central Africa, the South Asian region recorded the highest number of maternal deaths in 2020. For Pakistan, this number was 9,809 deaths in 2020, with the number peaking in 1995 at 25,249 deaths. Between 1985 and 2020, Pakistan saw a 37.9% decline in number of maternal deaths. While this is impressive, neighboring country India recorded an 86.4% decline in its number in the same time period.

Number of maternal deaths, 2020

Estimated number of women who die from maternal conditions¹.

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Data source: World Health Organization - Global Health Observatory (2024)

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(Fig 4) Source: World Health Organization – Global Health Observatory, 2024

Maternal Deaths by Cause

In 2021, maternal hemorrhages (46,874 deaths) were the highest cause of maternal death globally, followed by maternal hypertensive disorders (38,147 deaths). In Pakistan, maternal hypertensive disorders were the top cause of maternal deaths, contributing to 5,464 deaths, followed by maternal hemorrhages (2,848 deaths). In order to cater to maternal health and work towards reducing the ratio of deaths to meet the Sustainable Development Goal target,

¹ <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/number-of-maternal-deaths>

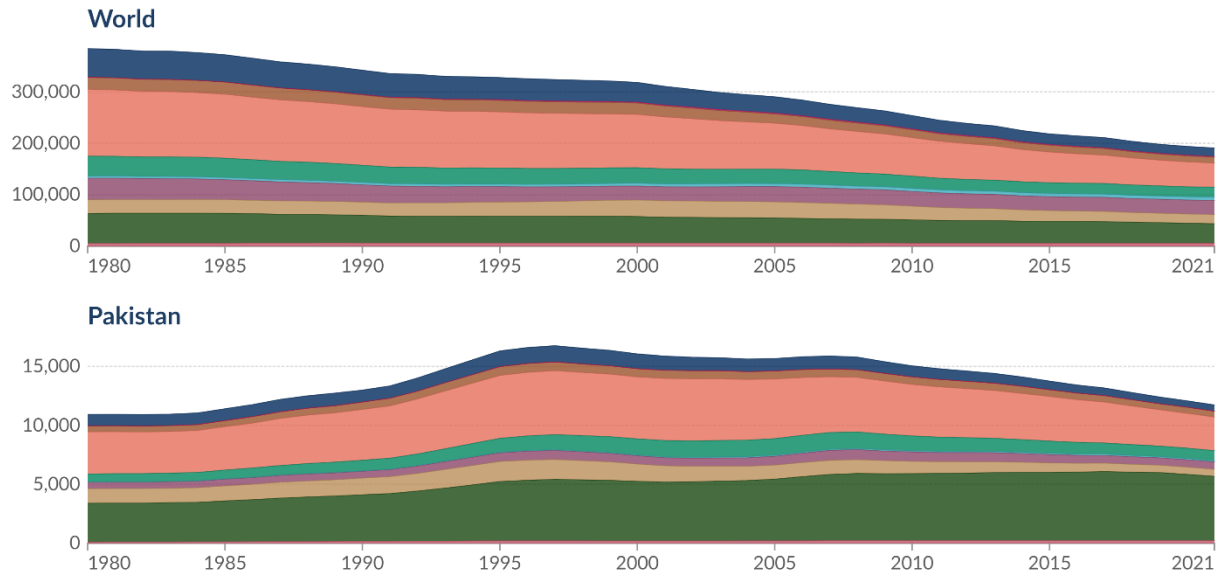
it is important to understand the main causes of maternal death at a regional, national and sub-national level.

Maternal deaths by cause

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Estimated number of deaths from maternal conditions¹, by cause. This includes late maternal deaths that occur up to 1 year after the end of pregnancy.

■ Abortion and miscarriage
 ■ Maternal deaths aggravated by HIV/AIDS
 ■ Maternal obstructed labor & uterine rupture
 ■ Maternal hemorrhage
 ■ Indirect maternal deaths
 ■ Ectopic pregnancy
 ■ Other maternal disorders
 ■ Maternal sepsis & other maternal infections
 ■ Maternal hypertensive disorders
 ■ Late maternal deaths



Data source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (2024)

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(Fig 5) Source: Global Burden of Disease, 2024

Wish to Contribute to Gallup Big Data Analysis?

Gallup Pakistan is looking for collaboration with researchers to expand both the Big Data Analysis project as well as this study of Public Health in Pakistan. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director, Big Data Analysis at Gallup Pakistan.

Wish to know more about the Global Burden of Disease?

The Global Burden of Disease Study is a comprehensive regional and global research program of disease burden that assesses mortality and disability from major diseases, injuries, and risk factors. GBD is a collaboration of over 3600 researchers from 145 countries.

You can find more information on Maternal Mortality, and complete tables, on <https://www.healthdata.org/research-analysis/gbd>

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