



# 2024 State of the World Population Report

## Key Facts and Figures

### Progress since 1994:

- As of 2023, 76% of the laws needed to guarantee access to an integrated package of sexual and reproductive health care were in place across 115 countries.
- Between 2000 and 2020, global maternal mortality declined by 34%.
- From 1990 to 2021, the number of women using modern contraception doubled.
- Adolescent births have fallen by around a third since 2000.
- There has been a 7% drop in adolescents subjected to FGM in the past decade.
- More than 60 countries have improved access to safe abortion.

### Slow down or stalling of progress:

- A quarter of women still cannot make decisions about their own health care.
- A quarter of women still cannot say no to sex with their husband or partner.
- Nearly 1 in 10 have no choice over whether to use contraception.
- Between 2016 and 2020, the global annual reduction in maternal death was zero. 800 women still die every day while giving birth.
- 40% of women (in 32 countries) have seen their ability to exercise decision-making over their own bodies diminish.



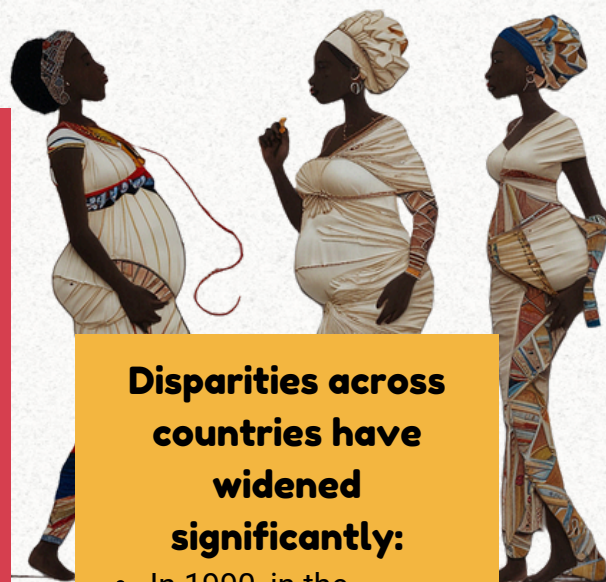
### Disparities across countries have widened significantly:

- In 1990, in the countries where the risk of women dying from pregnancy or childbirth is highest: a 15-year-old girl had a 1 in 12 chance of dying from pregnancy or childbirth. In the lowest risk countries, this was a 1 in 7000 chance.
- By 2020, a 15-year-old girl in the highest risk countries had a 1 in 34 chance of dying - an improvement - but in the lowest risk countries, the ratio was now 1 in 23,000.
- The vast majority of maternal deaths, over 70 per cent, take place in sub-Saharan Africa. An African woman who experiences pregnancy and childbirth complications is around 130 times more likely to die from them than a woman in Europe or Northern America.



## Ethnicity remains a significant factor in causing health disparities:

- In the US, higher rates of maternal deaths among ethnic minorities persist regardless of income and education levels. Maternal deaths among African American college graduates are still 1.6 times higher than among white women with less than a high school diploma.
- Across the Americas, people of African descent are more likely to experience obstetric mistreatment and maternal death when giving birth.
- In the US and the UK, the incidence of maternal death is multiple times higher for Black women than white women. In the US, Black women faced a mortality ratio of 70 deaths per 100,000 births – threefold higher than the national average. Maternal mortality risk is also higher for the country's Hispanic women.
- Out of 16 countries with data, UNFPA found that women from indigenous ethnic groups were less likely to receive antenatal care, less likely to give birth under the care of a skilled birth attendant, more likely to give birth as an adolescent and significantly more likely to die of causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.
- Women with disabilities are up to 10 times more likely to experience gender-based violence, including sexual violence.



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## **Gender equality generates enormous social and economic gains, just as not taking action comes with significant costs:**

- According to a UNFPA calculation, spending an additional \$79 billion in low- and middle-income countries by 2030 would avert 400 million unplanned pregnancies, save 1 million lives and generate \$660 billion in economic benefits.
- UNFPA research shows that increasing coverage of midwives could avert about 40% of maternal and neonatal deaths and over a quarter of stillbirths – 2.2 million deaths averted annually by 2035.
- Research in 2022 estimated a global cost of intimate partner violence at 5 per cent of worldwide gross domestic product and nearly 15% of GDP in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Homophobia costs the world \$126 billion per year, while improving the legal environment for LGBTQIA+ people is associated with a \$2,000 increase in GDP per capita.

**A \$1 investment in family planning could result in a \$60–100 return, over time, in economic growth.**

## **Humanitarian emergencies disproportionately affect women and girls, and other marginalized groups, further exacerbating pre-existing gender inequalities and discrimination:**

- Over half of all preventable maternal deaths are estimated to occur in countries with humanitarian crises and conflicts – that's nearly 500 deaths per day.
- Violence against women and girls thrives in crises. Yet in 2023, less than 20% of funding required to tackle this was delivered by the international community.
- When a crisis strikes female genital mutilation and child marriage become more common, as families struggle to meet basic needs.
- In Yemen, over 65% of girls are now married before the age of 18 compared with 50% before the conflict started.



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