

India

India's population, the second largest in the world, is 70 percent rural. The percentage of the population living in poverty has declined in recent decades, but differences persist between and within regions. The status of women is low and measures are in place to halt discriminating practices against girls. Maternal mortality has been reduced by 59 percent since 1990, with greater successes in some states. National and state governments are committed to expanding coverage of health services to excluded populations. A conditional cash transfer programme is promoting institutional delivery. India has a strong body of midwives. However, in some regions the majority of midwifery services are provided by auxiliary nurse midwives, who lack the full set of ICM competencies. Ensuring availability of human resources for skilled attendance at birth in remote facilities remains a challenge.

▶ COUNTRY INDICATORS*

Total population (000); % urban	1,214,464; 30
Adolescent population (15-19 yrs) (000); % of total	121,243; 10
Number of women of reproductive age (age 15-49) (000); % of total	310,624; 26
Total fertility rate (children per woman)	2.7
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	23
Births per year (000)	26,929
% of all births registered	41
Number of maternal deaths	63,000
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	34
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 births)	22
Number of pregnant women tested for HIV	5,717,819
Midwives are authorized to administer a core set of life-saving interventions	Partial
Density of midwives, nurses and doctors per 1,000 population	1.9
Estimated workforce shortage to attain 95% skilled birth attendance by 2015	25,620
Gross secondary school enrolment (male; female) %	61; 52
Literacy rate (age 15 and over) (male; female) %	75; 51

▶ MDG INDICATORS

Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	230
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	47
Contraceptive prevalence rate (modern methods) (%)	56
Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women age 15-19)	45
Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit; at least four visits) (%)	74; 37
Unmet need for family planning (%)	13
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	68

▶ MIDWIFERY WORKFORCE¹

Midwives (including nurse-midwives) ²	324,624
Other health professionals with some midwifery competencies ³	–
General practitioners with some midwifery competencies	Unavailable
Obstetricians	28,000
Community health workers with some midwifery training	–
A live registry of licensed midwives exists	No

▶ MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

Midwifery education programmes (direct entry; combined; sequential)	No; Yes; No
Number of midwifery education institutions (total); number of private	4,271; 3,820
Duration of midwifery education programmes (in months)	6 to 9
Number of student admissions (first year)	–
Student admissions per total available student places (%)	–
Number of students enrolled in all years (2009)	–
Number of graduates (2009)	–
Midwifery education programmes are accredited	Yes

▶ REGULATION

Legislation exists recognizing midwifery as an autonomous profession	Yes
Midwives hold a protected title	Yes
A recognized definition of a professional midwife exists	Yes
A government body regulates midwifery practice	Yes
A licence is required to practise midwifery	Yes
Midwives are authorized to prescribe life-saving medications	Yes



MIDWIFERY BAROMETER

Midwives per 1,000 live births	–	○
Birth complications per day; rural	10,976; 7,683	●
Lifetime risk of maternal death	1 in 140	●
Intrapartum stillbirth rate (per 1,000 births)	13	●
Neonatal mortality as % of under-5 mortality	52	●

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

A midwives association exists	Yes
Number of midwifery professionals represented by an association	269,113
Association(s) affiliated with ICM; ICN	Yes; No

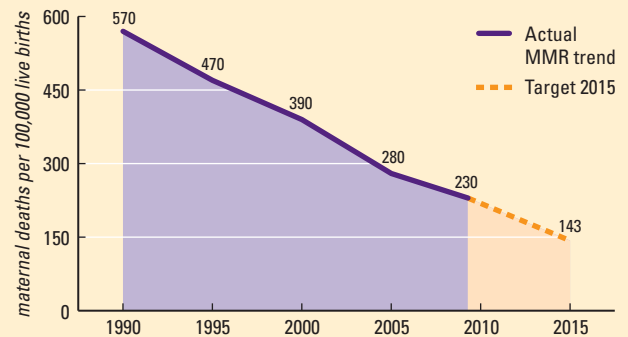
POLICIES

A national maternal and newborn health plan exists that includes the midwifery workforce	Yes
The plan is costed	Yes
The national health workforce plan specifically addresses midwifery	No
Compulsory notification of maternal deaths	Yes
Systematic maternal death audits and reviews	Yes
Confidential enquiry for maternal deaths	No
Compulsory registration of all births	Yes
All maternal and newborn health services are free (public sector)	Yes

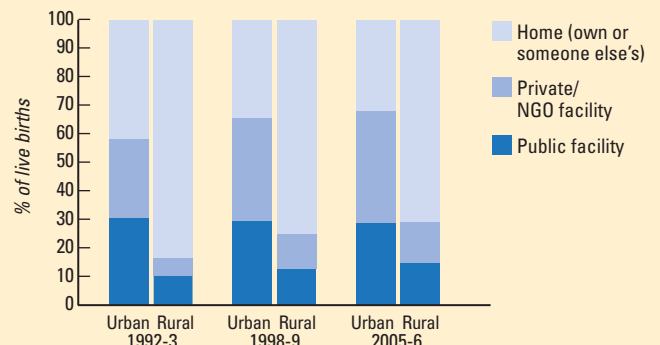
SERVICES

Number of facilities providing essential childbirth care	Unavailable
Number of Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) facilities	8,324
Number of Comprehensive EmONC facilities	2,463
Facilities per 1,000 births	–

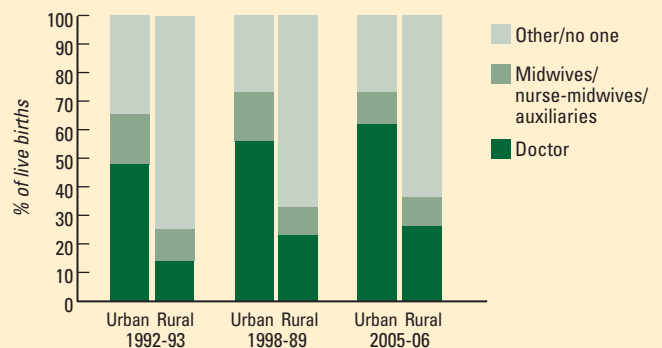
Trends in maternal mortality: 1990–2015



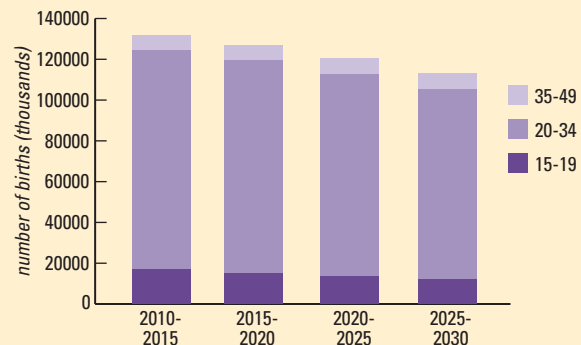
Where women give birth: urban vs. rural



Who attends births: urban vs. rural



Projected number of births, by age of mother



Explanatory notes: * 'Annex 2. Data Dictionary' provides a complete list of source data. All data sources are from 2008 unless otherwise stated. Where country respondents stated that data was not available, the term 'Not available' is used. In all other instances, '–' is used to denote a nil response or data that could not be validated. 1. Numbers refer to those currently practising (all figures are taken from publicly available information and have not been verified by the GoI). 2. Includes nurse-midwives, nurses and auxiliary nurse midwives with full midwifery competencies. These figures do not necessarily reflect midwife numbers as per the ICM definition.