



HARVARD
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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WOMEN AND HEALTH
INITIATIVE

Code Blue Series: The Growing Threat of Non-Communicable Diseases on Maternal Health

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TRENDS IN MATERNAL MORTALITY, 2000-2017: Key findings

- Global number of maternal deaths 2017: 35% lower than in 2000
- Global MMR 2017: 38% lower than in 2000
- Global MMR Average annual rate of reduction (ARR): 2.9%
- Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia: 86% (254 000) of the estimated global maternal deaths in 2017

TRENDS IN MATERNAL MORTALITY, 2000-2017: Key findings

- Northern America's MMR: increase from 12 to 18 (58%), due to better data collection and larger disparities between sub-populations
- True MMR increases in the United States of America and the Dominican Republic

Key questions

- Measurement of causes of maternal morbidity and mortality
 - **Indirect causes (especially NCDs) v. direct (obstetric) causes**
- Adoption of a life course approach regarding maternal health and NCDs

Maternal health is women's health

- Gestational Diabetes Mellitus increases risk of Type II diabetes by 60%
- Peripartum depression becomes chronic in 30-50% of affected women
- Women with pre-eclampsia have increased risk of cardiovascular disease later in life