

AN UPDATE ON MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY IN THE UNITED STATES

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AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY, representatives from the United Nations, countries of the world, global organizations and philanthropic organizations met at the Millennium Summit of Nations to ponder the health and wellness of all global citizens. The end product of that meeting was the development of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), written with the purpose of erasing global disparities and advancing well-being for all people. MDG number 5 (MDG-5) targets maternal health, calling for a 75 percent reduction in maternal mortality from the year 1990 to the deadline of 2015 (United Nations Development Program, 2013). This article provides a brief overview of global progress on MDG-5, and then focuses on current maternal mortality and morbidity within the United States, including a discussion of factors influencing current rates, and an exploration of organizations, systems and programs that have shown promise for reducing maternal morbidity and mortality.

Abstract: Significant strides have been made in recent years to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality rates around the world. But in the United States, maternal mortality rates have increased from 6.6/100,000 live births in the 1980s and 1990s to somewhere between 13.3/100,000 live births, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and 21/100,000 live births, as reported by the World Health Organization. This article discusses factors influencing this trend, and explores organizations, systems and programs that have shown promise for reducing maternal morbidity and mortality. DOI: 10.1111/1751-486X.12061

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