



INDEPTH Network

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A cross site comparison of maternal deaths using Kenya national census and HDSS data.

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Background: Information on maternal mortality is useful in monitoring progress towards achieving millennium development goal 5 on maternal health. However, data on maternal mortality in developing countries, where most of these deaths occur, are generally poor. For the first time in Kenyan history, the 2009 Kenya National Census (KNC) included a question on maternal deaths. Using these and similar data from four Kenyan Health Demographic Surveillance Systems (HDSS) sites, we aim to conduct a cross-site data comparison of maternal mortality showing where and when they complement each other.

Methods and findings: In the last national census, female deaths aged 12-49 years for the period between 24 August 2008 and 24 August 2009 that occurred during pregnancy, delivery or within two months after delivery, and also the number of live births born in each household were recorded. Similar data will be abstracted for the HDSS over the same period and maternal mortality ratio calculated. Comparative analysis will be presented by age at sub-location level. In addition, verbal autopsies (VA) will be used to ascertain the cause of death, using the InterVA-4 model.

Conclusion: Comparative analysis of maternal deaths from similar but independent sources may provide viable insights into maternal mortality patterns useful to the health policy makers and planners in developing countries.