

Maternal death WHO definitions.

A **Pregnancy – related death** is defined as a death occurring in a Woman while pregnant or within 42 days of the end of the pregnancy, irrespective of the cause of death.

A **Direct maternal death** is defined as a death resulting from obstetric complications of the pregnant state (pregnancy, labour & puerperium), from interventions, omissions, treatment, or from a chain of events resulting from any of the above.

An **Indirect maternal death** is defined as a death that results from previous existing disease, or disease that developed during pregnancy and which was not due to direct obstetric causes, but which was aggravated by the physiological effects of pregnancy.

A **Coincidental maternal death** is defined as a death that occurs from unrelated causes which happens to occur in pregnancy or puerperium e.g. road traffic accident.

A **Late maternal death** is defined as a death that occurs between 42 days and one year after abortion, miscarriage or delivery that is due to direct or indirect maternal causes.

A maternal death may therefore include those Women who die following a miscarriage, termination of pregnancy, suicide from postnatal depression, death from cardiac disease or any medical disorder, ectopic pregnancy, following a surgical procedure and following a road traffic accident.]