

TABLE 1. Levels and rates of change in numbers of live births, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR), and numbers of maternal deaths, 1990 and 2008

Region	No. of maternal deaths (in 000s)				MMR*			No. of live births (in 000s)		
	1990	2008	Average annual decline (%)	Total absolute decline	1990	2008	Average annual decline (%)	1990	2008	Average annual decline (%)
World	546,000	358,000	2.3	188,000	400	260	2.3	137,000	136,000	0.1
Developed regions	2,000	1,700	1.1	300	16	14	0.8	12,000	12,000	0.3
CIS†	3,200	1,500	4.4	1,700	68	40	3.0	4,800	3,700	1.5
Developing regions	540,000	355,000	2.3	185,000	450	290	2.4	120,000	121,000	0.0
Africa	208,000	207,000	0.0	1,000	780	590	1.6	27,000	35,000	-1.5
Northern Africa	8,600	3,400	5.2	5,200	230	92	5.0	3,800	3,700	0.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	199,000	204,000	-0.1	-5,000	870	640	1.7	23,000	32,000	-1.8
Asia	315,000	139,000	4.6	176,000	390	190	4.0	82,000	74,000	0.5
Eastern Asia	29,000	7,800	7.2	21,200	110	41	5.5	26,000	19,000	1.7
Southern Asia	234,000	109,000	4.2	125,000	590	280	4.2	40,000	39,000	0.0
South-Eastern Asia	46,000	18,000	5.2	28,000	380	160	4.7	12,000	11,000	0.5
Western Asia	6,100	3,300	3.4	2,800	140	68	4.0	4,300	4,900	-0.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	17,000	9,200	3.4	7,800	140	85	2.9	12,000	11,000	0.4
Oceania	540	550	-0.1	-10	290	230	1.4	190	240	-1.4

*Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. †Commonwealth of Independent States. Notes: Live births and maternal deaths are rounded to nearest 100 if the value is between 1,000 and 9,999 (in 000s) and to the nearest 1,000 if the value is equal or greater than 10,000 (in 000s). MMR values are not rounded if they are less than 100 (per 100,000 live births) and are rounded to the nearest 10 if they are between 100 and 999. Rates of average annual decline have been calculated using unrounded figures. Sources: MMR and maternal deaths—reference 8; births—reference 19.