

The under-5 mortality rate in Sub-Saharan Africa reduced by 54% between 1990 and 2015

The under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 live births in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has reduced by more than half from 181 in 1990 to 83 in 2015. Malawi, Liberia, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Niger, Uganda and Tanzania are the leading countries in the region with the greatest percentage decline in under-5 mortality rates from 1990-2015; rates in these countries decreased by more than 70%. Safer childbirth and effective pediatric care has contributed to the reduction of under-5 mortality rates deaths since 1990.

A number of newborn deaths in Africa can be attributed to infections related to the delivery process. According to the WHO, at the time of birth a baby's and the mother's chances of survival increases significantly with delivery in a health facility in the presence of a skilled birth attendant. In 2012, more than half of the births in SSA were attended to by a skilled health personnel compared to only 42% in 2000. Over the same period (between 2000 and 2012), the maternal mortality rate in SSA reduced by over 30%.

