



## Maternal mortality from pregnancy related infections in Turkey: a nation-based study

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### Objective

Our aim is to evaluate the maternal mortality cases related to infections in pregnancy in 2014 in Turkey.

### Methods

In the present study, case files of all pregnancy-associated deaths recorded in Turkey in 2014 were reviewed. Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) collects number of deaths and causes of death statistics by the vital registration (VR) system since 2009 in details of ICD-10 codes. All maternal deaths are then reported and evaluated in the Preliminary Investigation Committee for Maternal Deaths at the Ministry of Health of Turkey. Maternal deaths were categorized as avoidable and unavoidable. We studied maternal mortality cases with obstetrical infections in 2014.

### Results

During the study period, 212 maternal deaths were identified. Maternal mortality rate was 15.2 per 100 000 live births in 2014. Cardiovascular system disorders (25.6%) were the leading cause of maternal death. There were 14 maternal mortality cases due to pregnancy related infections. Maternal mortality due to obstetric infectious diseases was 4.1% in 2013 and 6.8% (14 cases) in 2014. Three of fourteen cases were related to cesarean sections (2 post cesarean intra-abdominal abscesses, one case with Fournier gangrene). The distributions of other cases were: 4 cases with chorioamnionitis (2 with cervical cerclage), 7 cases with sepsis after dilatation and curettage. Phase 3 delay was found in 3 cases (one due to early discharge, one due to inadequate antiseptic conditions, one due to late diagnosis of chorioamnionitis after cerclage). Four cases were identified as having phase 1 delay.

### Conclusion

In 2014, 50% of maternal mortality cases with pregnancy related infections were found to be preventable.