

BETTER ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE NOT ABORTION REDUCES MATERNAL MORTALITY

According to a report from the World Economic Forum (WEF), "Approximately 80% of maternal deaths could be averted if women had access to essential maternity and basic healthcare services."

Women in developing countries need better access to health care, not abortion.

According to the WEF report, the following numbers show that many of the countries with the lowest maternal mortality rates also have the most restrictive abortion laws.

EUROPE

- ✿ Ireland has the lowest maternal mortality rate in the world at one death per 100,000 live births, and has very restrictive abortion laws.
- ✿ Malta and Poland, which also have restrictive abortion laws, each have eight maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.
- ✿ Russia, which has very permissive abortion laws, has 28 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

NORTH AMERICA

- ✿ The United States has 11 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

AFRICA

- ✿ Mauritius, which has some of the continent's most restrictive abortion laws, has 15 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. It has the lowest maternal mortality rate in Africa.
- ✿ Ethiopia, which has made its abortion laws less restrictive over the years, has a maternal mortality rate of 720 deaths per 100,000 live births.

SOUTH AMERICA

- ✿ Chile, which has restrictive abortion laws, has the lowest maternal mortality rate in South America, with 16 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- ✿ Guyana, which has hardly any restriction on abortion in order to promote "safe motherhood," has a maternal mortality rate of 470 deaths per 100,000 live births.

ASIA

- ✿ Singapore, which has restrictive abortion laws, has 14 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.
- ✿ China, which does not have restrictive abortion laws, has 45 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.
- ✿ Nepal, which has no restriction on abortion, has a maternal mortality rate of 830 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Source: Hausmann, Ricardo, Laura D. Tyson and Saadia Zahidi.

"The Global Gender Gap Report 2009." World Economic Forum. www.weforum.org.

