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Maternal Mortality Ratio

Published On: 30-11-2022

Why is in news? India achieves National Health Policy (NHP) Target for MMR

In a new milestone, there has been a significant decline in the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the country.

The significant Decline in the Maternal Mortality Ratio **from 130 in 2014-16 to 97 per lakh** live births in 2018-20.

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is defined as the **number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births**.

As per the Special Bulletin on MMR released by the **Registrar General of India (RGI)**, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India has improved further by a spectacular 6 points and now stands at 97/ lakh live births.

As per the statistics derived from **Sample Registration System (SRS)**, the country has witnessed a progressive reduction in MMR from 130 in 2014-2016, 122 in 2015-17, 113 in 2016-18, 103 in 2017-19 and to 97 in 2018-20.

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477** / Whatsapp : **09710729833**



The **National Health Policy (NHP) target** for MMR of **less than 100/lakh live births** and is on the right track to achieve the **SDG target of MMR less than 70/ lakh live births by 2030**.

The outstanding progress made in terms of the number of states which have achieved Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target, the number has now risen from six to eight leading with **Kerala (19)**, followed by Maharashtra (33), then Telangana (43) and Andhra Pradesh (45), subsequently Tamil Nadu (54), Jharkhand (56), Gujarat (57) and lastly Karnataka (69).

National Health Mission:

The National Health Mission (NHM), 2017 encompasses its two Sub-Missions, the **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)** and the newly launched **National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)**.

The main programmatic components include Health System Strengthening in rural and urban areas- **Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A)**, and **Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases**.

The NHM envisages **achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services** that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

Since 2014, under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**, India has made a concerted effort to **provide accessible quality maternal and newborn health services** and minimize preventable maternal deaths.

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The National Health Mission has made significant investments to ensure provision of healthcare services, particularly for effective implementation of the maternal health programs to accomplish the specified MMR targets. Government schemes such as “**Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram**” and “**Janani Suraksha Yojana**” have been modified and upgraded to more assured and respectful service delivery initiatives like **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan**’ (SUMAN).

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) is particularly lauded for its focus on identifying high-risk pregnancies and facilitating their appropriate management. This had a significant impact on mitigating preventable mortality.

LaQshya and Midwifery initiatives concentrate on promoting quality care in a respectful and dignified manner ensuring choice of birthing to all pregnant women.