



did you know that...

...Hemorrhage is the leading cause of maternal death in Southern Mindanao?

Hemorrhage continues to be the leading cause of maternal deaths in Southern Mindanao. From the record of the Department of Health XI, it accounted for 63.6 percent of the total cases of maternal mortality in 2000.

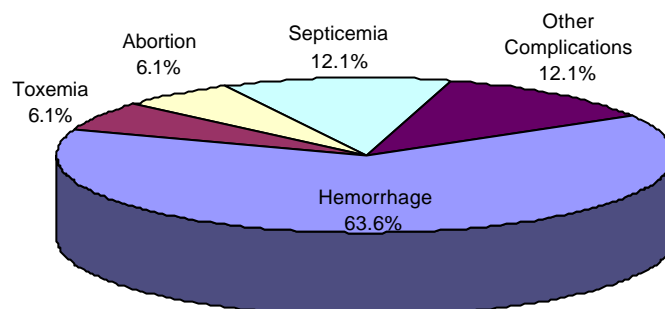
Maternal mortality refers to deaths of mothers owing to deliveries and complications arising from pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium. (NSCB, *Definitions of Terms and Concepts Used in the RSET*).

Other common causes of maternal mortality were sepsis/septicemia, toxemia of pregnancy, and abortion. In 2000, septicemia accounted for 12.1 percent of the total cases of maternal deaths. Abortion and toxemia of pregnancy each comprised 6.1 percent of the total deaths. The remaining cases were caused by different kinds of maternal complications.

Over the years, hemorrhage has been the major cause of maternal mortality. This was at peak in 1996 when it represented 70.2 percent of the total maternal deaths. Toxemia of pregnancy, on the other hand, has been consistent as one of the leading causes of maternal deaths. Twenty-five percent of the total maternal deaths in 1997 were caused by the illness. Toxemia is a condition of abnormality brought about by toxic substance in the blood during pregnancy.

Abortion became the second cause of maternal deaths in 1999. It registered 7 cases in the said year representing 16.7 percent of the total deaths.

Figure 1. Percentage Distribution of Maternal Mortality by Main Cause, Region XI: 2000



Source: Department of Health XI

Another common cause of maternal mortality is septicemia. It is a toxic condition resulting from the spread of bacteria and their products. The illness was prevalent during 1995 wherein it accounted for 33.3 percent of the total maternal deaths for that year.

A decrease in the number of maternal mortality was observed from 1994 to 2000. Within the period, the cases of maternal deaths dropped by 22.4 percent, from 85 deaths in 1994 to 66 in 2000. The highest and lowest number of maternal mortality was recorded in 1994 and 1999, with 85 and 42 cases, respectively.

Table 1. Leading Causes of Maternal Mortality, Region XI: 1994-2000 (Number of Cases)

CAUSE OF ILLNESS	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Hemorrhage	56	65.9	19	39.6	33	70.2	45	58.4	36	56.2	25	59.5	42	63.6
Toxemia	11	12.9	7	14.6	6	12.8	19	24.7	9	14.1	2	4.8	4	6.1
Abortion	5	5.9	2	4.2	-	0.0	5	6.5	7	10.9	7	16.7	4	6.1
Septicemia	7	8.2	16	33.3	5	10.6	5	6.5	8	12.5	5	11.9	8	12.1
Other Complications	6	7.1	4	8.3	3	6.4	3	3.9	4	6.2	3	7.1	8	12.1
TOTAL	85	100.0	48	100.0	47	100.0	77	100.0	64	100.0	42	100.0	66	100.0

Note: Percent totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source of data: Department of Health XI

NOVEMBER 21-28: WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK