



# COMMUNITY MEDICINE

## MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH ACTIVITY - FOURTH WEEK

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# Module 1

## Understanding Pregnancy-Related and Maternal Mortality Indicators



# Module 1. Episodes

- Episode 1: Definitions of pregnancy-related and maternal mortality.
- Episode 2: Measures of pregnancy-related and maternal mortality.



# Episode 1: Definitions



# Road Map

- Definitions of pregnancy-related and maternal deaths.
- Direct vs. indirect maternal deaths.
- Learning assessment.



When most people think about pregnancy-related or maternal mortality, they think about deaths from causes directly related to obstetric complications from pregnancy. However, you will see that the WHO definition of pregnancy-related and maternal mortality is tied to the timing of deaths rather than the direct cause. You will also hear us distinguish between pregnancy-related and maternal deaths. This is because pregnancy-related and maternal deaths have different definitions under ICD-11.



# Pregnancy-Related Death

under ICD-11 level

The death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy

- Termination of pregnancy includes birth, abortion or miscarriage.
- Irrespective of the cause of death.

Note that there is no mention of cause of death here.  
Pregnancy-related death is based purely on the timing of death relative to pregnancy.



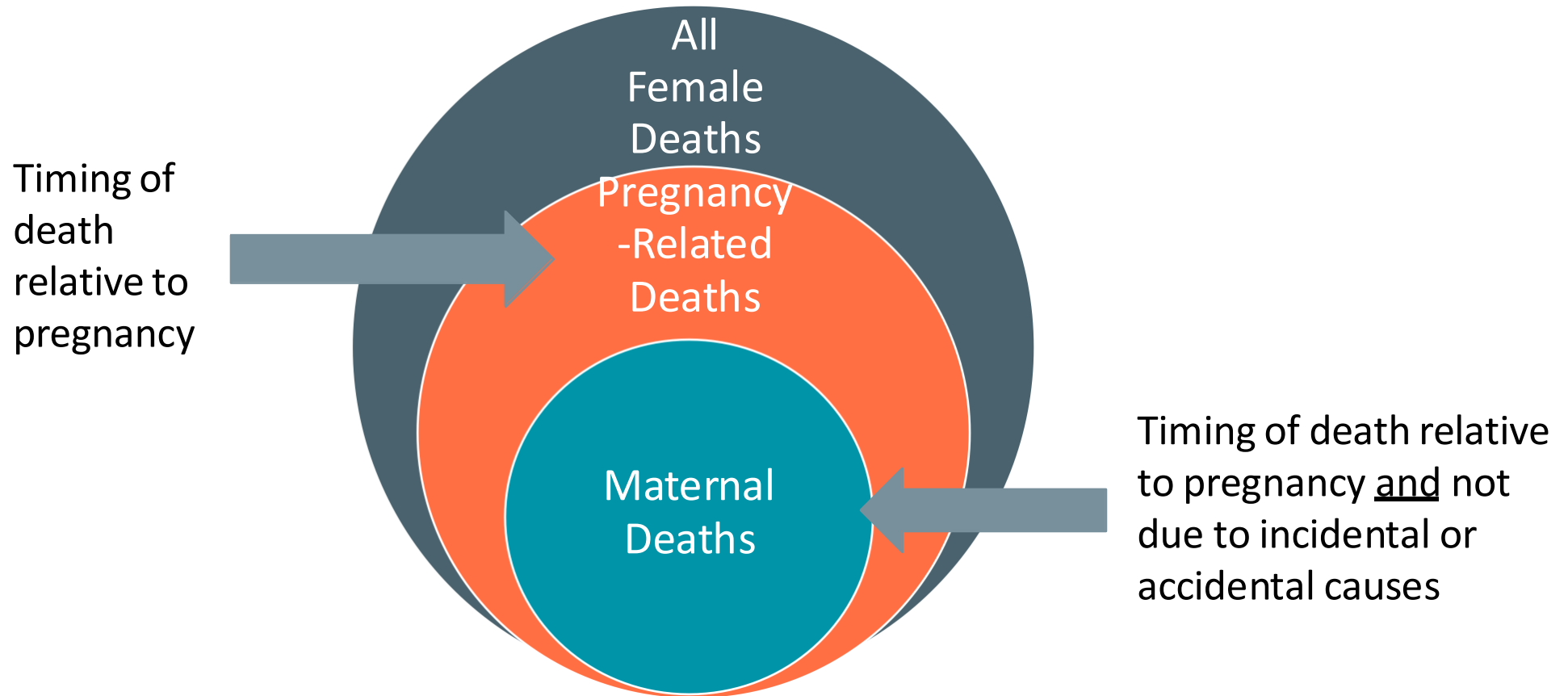
# Maternal Death

## The death of a woman

- While pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy.
- Irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy.
- From any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management.
- But not from incidental or accidental causes.

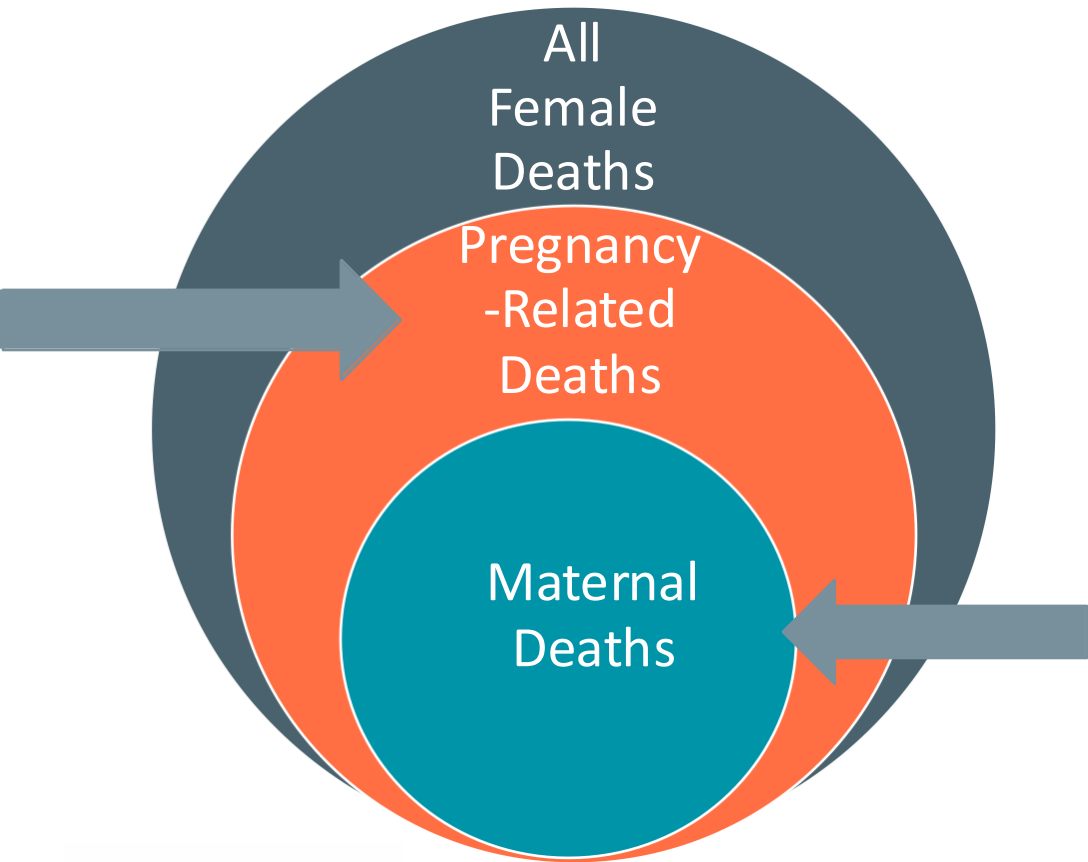


# Difference Between Maternal and Pregnancy-Related Death





# Difference Between Maternal and Pregnancy-Related Death



You can think about the difference between maternal and pregnancy-related death in this way. The big gray circle is all female deaths. A portion of that will be pregnancy-related death in the orange this is defined by the timing of death relative to pregnancy, that is while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy. A subset of the pregnancy-related deaths will be maternal deaths that is defined by timing of death relative to pregnancy and cause of death, namely that it is not due to accidents or incidental causes.



# Direct vs. Indirect Maternal Deaths

## Direct Maternal Deaths

- Due to obstetric complications of pregnancy (including delivery and 42 days postpartum).
- Examples:
  - Hemorrhage.
  - Eclampsia.
  - Sepsis.

## Indirect Maternal Deaths

- Due to other diseases or conditions when aggravated by the physiological effects of pregnancy.
- Examples:
  - Malaria.
  - HIV.

Malaria and HIV don't seem to be directly related to pregnancy classified as maternal deaths this is because these diseases may be aggravated by the physiological effects of pregnancy leading to deaths ,while deaths from malaria or HIV may not be due to obstetric complications of pregnancy, because they have the potential to aggravate, we consider deaths from these diseases as indirect maternal deaths if they occur during pregnancy or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy.



# Pregnancy-Related or Maternal Death?

Scenarios	Pregnancy-Related or Maternal Death?
A woman dies from eclampsia after giving birth	
A woman dies one month after delivery from cancer	
A pregnant woman dies in a car accident on her way to the hospital to deliver a baby	
A woman dies one day after delivery	
A woman dies 3 months after delivery from complications related to her caesarian operation	



# Pregnancy-Related or Maternal Death?

Scenarios	Pregnancy-Related or Maternal Death?
A woman dies from eclampsia after giving birth	Maternal (direct) ↓
A woman dies one month after delivery from cancer	because the death was due to obstetric complications of pregnancy.
A pregnant woman dies in a car accident on her way to the hospital to deliver a baby	
A woman dies one day after delivery	
A woman dies 3 months after delivery from complications related to her caesarian operation	



# Pregnancy-Related or Maternal Death?

Scenarios	Pregnancy-Related or Maternal Death?
A woman dies from eclampsia after giving birth	Maternal (direct)
A woman dies one month after delivery from cancer	Maternal (indirect)
A pregnant woman dies in a car accident on her way to the hospital to deliver a baby	<p>↓</p> <p>This is an indirect maternal death because the woman died due to another disease aggravated by the physiological effects of pregnancy.</p>
A woman dies one day after delivery	
A woman dies 3 months after delivery from complications related to her caesarian operation	



# Pregnancy-Related or Maternal Death?


Scenarios	Pregnancy-Related or Maternal Death?
A woman dies from eclampsia after giving birth	Maternal (direct)
A woman dies one month after delivery from cancer	Maternal (indirect)
A pregnant woman dies in a car accident on her way to the hospital to deliver a baby	<p>Pregnancy-related →</p> <p>Remember, pregnancy-related death is defined as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the cause of death. In this case, the woman was pregnant when she died. That she died of a car accident is not relevant to the definition of pregnancy-related death. Because accidental deaths are excluded from maternal deaths, this is not a maternal death.</p>
A woman dies one day after delivery	
A woman dies 3 months after delivery from complications related to her caesarian operation	



# Pregnancy-Related or Maternal Death?

Scenarios	Pregnancy-Related or Maternal Death?
A woman dies from eclampsia after giving birth	Maternal (direct)
A woman dies one month after delivery from cancer	Maternal (indirect)
A pregnant woman dies in a car accident on her way to the hospital to deliver a baby	Pregnancy-related
A woman dies one day after delivery	Pregnancy-related (cause unknown)
A woman dies 3 months after delivery from complications related to her caesarian operation	In this case, we do not know the cause of her death , since we cannot rule out accidental or incidental cause of death, the death can only be classified as a pregnancy-related death.



Scenarios	Pregnancy-Related or Maternal Death?
A woman dies from eclampsia after giving birth	Maternal (direct)
A woman dies one month after delivery from cancer	Maternal (indirect)
A pregnant woman dies in a car accident on her way to the hospital to deliver a baby	Pregnancy-Related
A woman dies one day after delivery	Pregnancy-Related (cause unknown)
A woman dies 3 months after delivery from complications related to her caesarian operation	Neither – 3 months is beyond the time frame for Pregnancy-related and Maternal Death definition 

Although the woman died from complications related to her cesarean operation, her death would not be classified as a pregnancy-related or maternal death, because it is outside of the 42-day time frame.





# Summary of Pregnancy-Related vs. Maternal Death

- Maternal death is more specific.
- Identifying maternal death requires information on whether the death was accidental or incidental.
- Most surveys and censuses only ask about the timing of death relative to pregnancy.
- Only able to measure pregnancy-related death when cause of death is not available.