

**Title:** Reducing the Leading Cause of Maternal Mortality Globally: Maternal Haemorrhage

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**Abstract:**

Maternal mortality is a largely preventable global health problem directly impacting women of childbearing age, defined as women aged between 15 and 49 years old. The current global maternal mortality rate (MMR) of 200 maternal deaths per 100,000 births is far higher than the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 births by 2030. To address this, there is a need to investigate the underlying causes of maternal mortality as well as interventions to address these underlying factors. The leading cause of maternal mortality in low-to-middle income countries is maternal hemorrhage, especially post-partum hemorrhage. In high-income countries, despite the lower prevalence of maternal mortality, post-partum hemorrhage is still a significant complication, which contributes significantly to hospitalizations and extended illness after delivery. This literature review critically evaluates the causes and interventions against post-partum hemorrhage in both high-income and low-to-middle-income countries. The review identified several key social determinants, including poverty, ethnicity and a lack of access to quality healthcare, as leading upstream determinants of maternal mortality. Downstream determinants such as delayed identification and delayed treatment of postpartum hemorrhage have also been identified in existing literature. The review identified several interventions to prevent post-partum hemorrhage such as alterations to healthcare systems, medical interventions, access to timely treatment, and changes to the training of skilled birth

professionals. A key intervention that this review identified is early identification and diagnosis of postpartum hemorrhage.