

Significant reductions in high mortality countries

Changes in countries with highest number of neonatal tetanus deaths in 1990

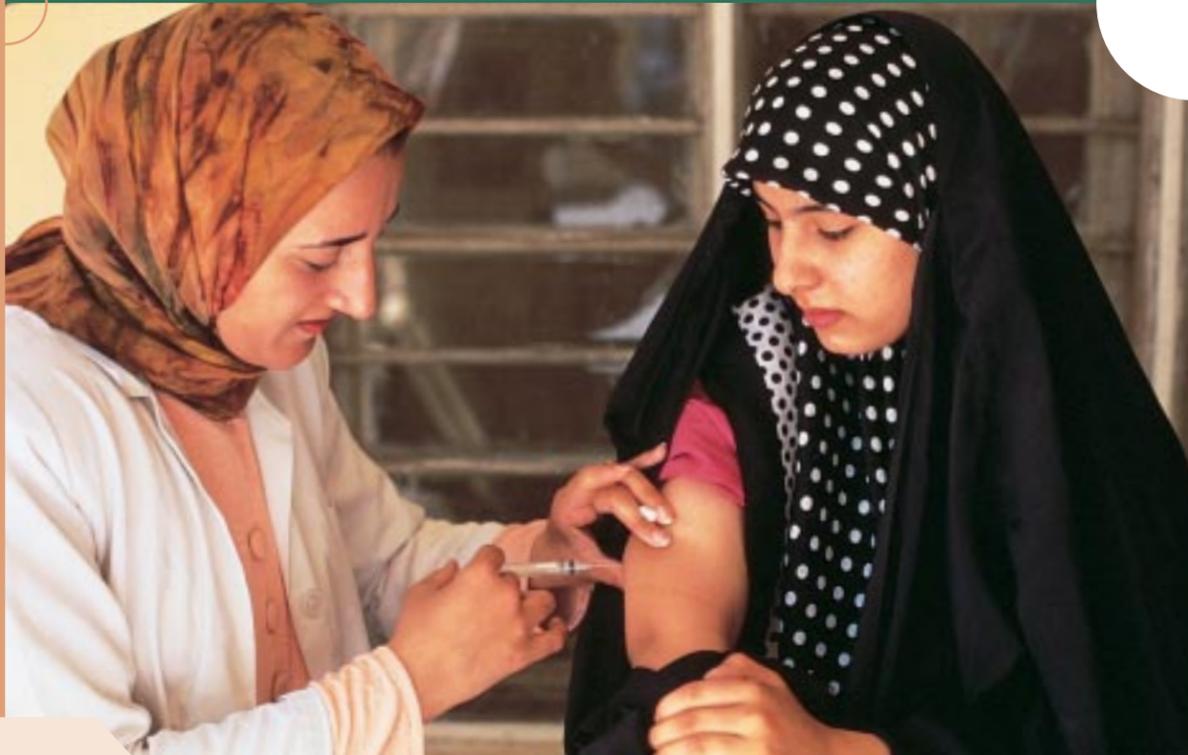


Source: WHO, 2000.

Goal

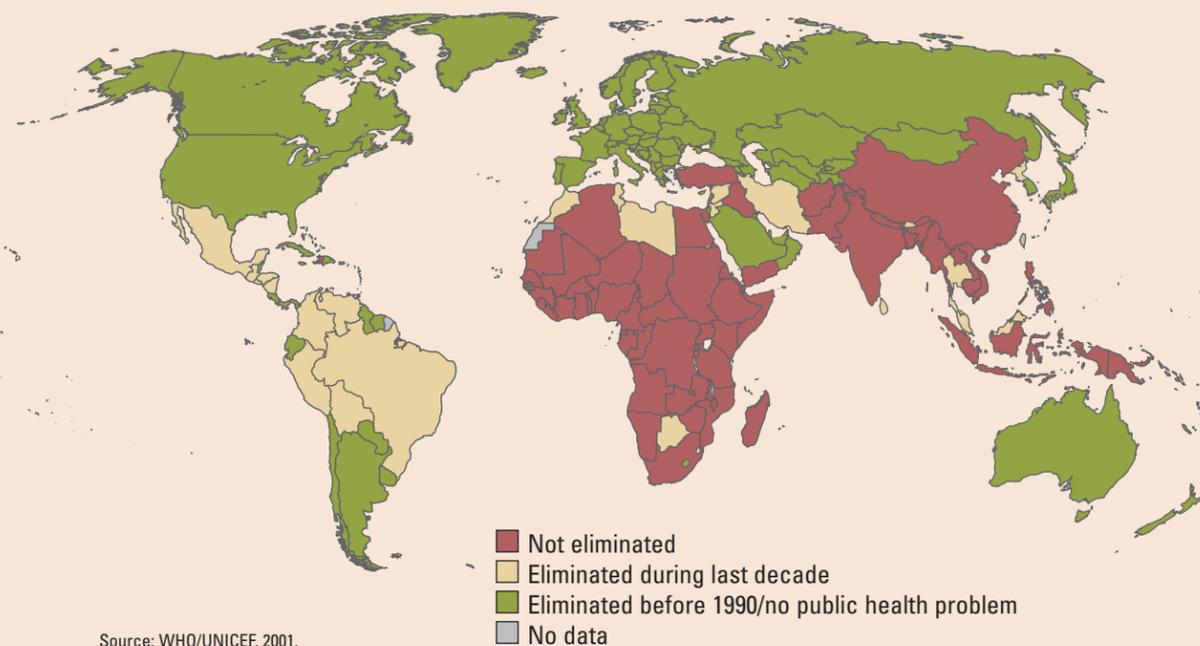
Elimination of neonatal tetanus* by 1995

» Neonatal Tetanus



Progress in neonatal tetanus elimination, 1990-2000

More than 1 million child deaths prevented



Source: WHO/UNICEF, 2001.

Result

By 2000, 104 of 161 developing countries had achieved elimination of neonatal tetanus. Another 22 countries are close to eliminating it. Neonatal tetanus deaths decreased by more than half from 470,000 to 215,000 during the 1990s as a result of increased tetanus toxoid protection and clean delivery practices.

... but

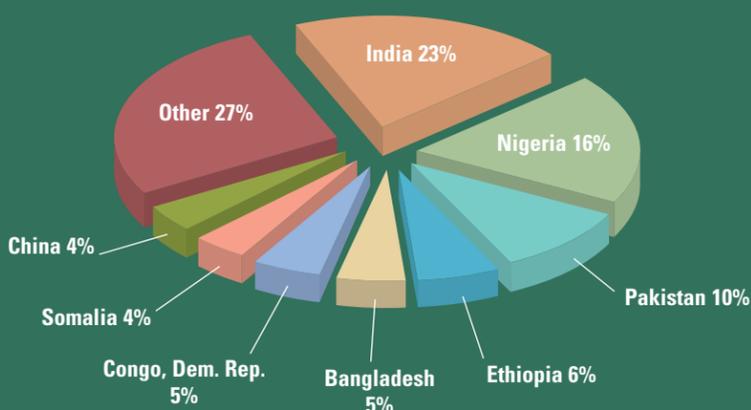
Maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) is still a public health problem in 57 developing countries. Immunizing all women of childbearing age with three doses of tetanus toxoid vaccine in high-risk areas protects women and their infants and is key to achieving elimination of MNT by 2005.

Issue

Neonatal tetanus is a preventable, often fatal condition resulting from unhygienic birth practices that expose the umbilical cord to tetanus bacteria. Pregnant women are also vulnerable to tetanus. It is most common in countries where access to basic health services is limited and hygiene conditions are poor.

*The reduction of neonatal tetanus cases to fewer than 1 case per 1,000 live births in every district of every country.

73 per cent of the developing world's estimated neonatal tetanus deaths occur in 8 countries



Source: WHO, 2000.