

Highlights of Women's Health Disparities by Region of the World¹

	U.S. & Canada	Europe	Central America, South America, & the Caribbean	Africa & Middle East	Asia & Oceania
Heart Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading cause of death for non-Hispanic white and black women in the U.S.² Leading cause of death for women in Canada.³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highest % of women's deaths by cardiovascular diseases. Largest gap between women (57%) and men (44%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulatory diseases are 3 times more likely to be the cause of death for both sexes than all communicable diseases combined.⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa has the lowest rate of deaths by cardiovascular diseases. However, the rate is still higher for women than for men. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2010, 35% of all deaths in Australia and 38% in China were due to cardiovascular diseases.³
HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2007, North America had the lowest percent of HIV+ adult women (21%). NJ has one of the highest rates of women with HIV/AIDS in the U.S.: 1 in every 304 women age 13+.⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2007, Western & Central Europe tied with East Asia for the second lowest percent of women (27%) among HIV+ adults. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Central America & the Caribbean, women ages 15-24 know more about HIV than men of this age. In the Caribbean, most HIV+ adults are women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most HIV+ adults are women. 77% of HIV/AIDS orphan children live in Africa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Eastern Asia women ages 15-24 know more about HIV than men of this age.
Infectious & Parasitic Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Americas have the third lowest number of deaths by these diseases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowest percent of deaths due to infectious and parasitic diseases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Americas have the third lowest number of deaths by these diseases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa has the highest % of deaths by infectious and parasitic diseases: these are the leading cause of death. Africa has the lowest contraception use: 28% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In South-Eastern Asia, less women (16%) than men (19%) die of these diseases.
Reproductive⁶ Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraception use: 73% A woman in the U.S. is more than seven times as likely to die of a pregnancy-related cause in her lifetime than a woman in Italy or Ireland.⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraception use: 71% Highest percentage of traditional contraception (i.e. periodic abstinence, withdrawal) usage: 14%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraception use: 72% More than 20% of women of reproductive age refer to sterilization as a contraceptive method. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2005, the highest number of maternal deaths was in Sub-Saharan Africa, with more than double the global maternal mortality ratio (MMR). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraception use: 67% for Asia and 59% for Oceania Southern Asia and Oceania are second in maternal deaths. In early 2000s, India (37%) and China (33%) had the highest percent of sterilizations.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada does not have a significant difference in the rate of obesity between women and men. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancer is the second leading cause of death for women and men. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central America & the Caribbean have the highest sex gap in diabetes; prevalence in women is 11% over men. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Africa, the second leading cause of death is respiratory infections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asia has the largest gender gap between smokers, with women smoking significantly less than men.

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, source: *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*. UN Statistics Division: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW2010pub.htm>.

² Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality Tables: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mortality_tables.htm#icod.

³ Source: World Health Organization *Noncommunicable Diseases Country Profiles*: <http://www.who.int/nmh/countries/en/index.html>.

⁴ Source: *Non-communicable chronic diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean*: <http://www.healthycaribbean.org/publications/documents/NCD-in-LAC-USAID.pdf>.

⁵ Source: State of NJ Department of Health and Senior Services Data and Fact Sheets: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/aids/data.shtml>.

⁶ Data on contraceptive use as estimated in 2007 for all women in heterosexual marriage or unions by the UN Statistics Division for *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics* report.

⁷ Kimey, Samantha. *U.S. moms die at higher rate than Irish, Italian*. *We-news* May 8, 2012. http://womensenews.org/story/reproductive-health/120507/us-moms-die-at-higher-rate-irish-italian?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email.