**Reduction in maternal mortality is not equal in all areas in Sidama Regional State, southern Ethiopia: Comparing population based cross-sectional surveys**

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# **Abstract**

## **Introduction**

The aim of this study was to estimate life time risk (LTR) of maternal death and maternal mortality ratio (MMR) and assess trends and reduction in MMR in Sidama Regional State, southern Ethiopia.

## **Methods**

This is cross-sectional study employed the sisterhood method embedded with larger maternal mortality study using a retrospective 5-year recall of pregnancy and birth outcome household survey. The study was conducted from July 2019 to May 2020. We visited 8755 households and carried out an interview with 17,374 respondents: 8,884 men and 8,490 women aged 15-49 years. We estimated LTR for maternal death using sister units of risk exposure. We compared trends and reduction in MMR using two MMR estimation methods.

## **Result**

The 17,374 respondents reported 64,387 maternal sisters. 2,402 (3.7%) sisters had died, 776 (32.3%) were pregnancy related deaths. The total LTR was 3.2% with MMR; 623 (95% CI: 573-658) per 100000 live births. Comparison of MMRs revealed the MMR in Sidama Regional State declined over the past years. However, no reduction of MMR was observed in districts located distant to the centre, whereas the MMR was significantly reduced over the past year in centrally located districts.

## **Conclusion**

Districts located in remote areas with poor infrastructure and inadequate skilled health workers had persistently high MMR compared to centrally located districts with good infrastructure and adequate skilled health workers. Emergency obstetric care has to be strengthened and immediate action should be initiated in areas with persistently high MMR.

## **Presenter**

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## **Biography**

Aschenaki Kea is a public health specialist by profession and currently studying a PhD in Public Health/Epidemiology in a joint PhD program between University of Bergen, Norway and Hawassa University, Ethiopia. Aschenaki’s focus of research in his PhD work is, measuring maternal mortality and assess access to skilled delivery using geographic information system in Sidama Regional State, southern Ethiopia. This time, Aschenaki made ready three manuscripts for publication from PhD work. Previously, Aschenaki worked as a research director in REACH Ethiopia non-profit organization for REACHOUT consortium research project and published 12 articles in peer reviewed journals. After completion of his PhD study, Aschenaki has a goal to be a researcher joining academic institutions. Out of his education and research activities, Aschenaki involves in church activities, likes singing and playing a guitar. Aschenaki is married and a father of two daughters.