

## Perinatal Death Auditing is Necessary to Identify Preventable Perinatal Deaths

Perinatal Mortality rate (PMR) of India remains stable at 26 per 1000 births (for the year 2013) mainly because of slower reduction in early neonatal deaths.<sup>[1-3]</sup> Problems with infrastructure and quality of care for the newborn in India have been reported.<sup>[4]</sup> It stands to reason that improvements in infrastructure and quality of care would reduce the magnitude of perinatal deaths implying that some perinatal deaths are preventable. Government of India launched the “India Newborn Action Plan” under the National Health Mission in 2014, which envisages to reduce the neonatal death and stillbirth rates to single digits by the year 2030.<sup>[5]</sup> India Newborn Action Plan seeks to improve the infrastructure and quality of care.<sup>[5]</sup> Unfortunately this would not be enough. To identify preventable perinatal deaths, it is necessary to have perinatal death auditing.<sup>[6]</sup> Such a system would identify and reduce preventable perinatal deaths. This would result in achieving the goal that India new born action plan seeks to accomplish.

### Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

**H. N. Harsha Kumar, Shantaram B. Baliga<sup>1</sup>,  
Pralhad Kushtagi<sup>2</sup>, Nutan Kamath<sup>1</sup>,  
Sucheta S. Rao<sup>1</sup>**

*Department of Community Medicine, <sup>1</sup>Pediatrics, <sup>2</sup>Obstetrics and Gynecology, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Deemed to be University, Mangalore, Karnataka, India*

*Address for correspondence: Dr. H. N. Harsha Kumar,  
Department of Community Medicine, Kasturba Medical College,  
Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Deemed to be University,  
Mangalore - 575 001, Karnataka, India.  
E-mail: [hkswamy@gmail.com](mailto:hkswamy@gmail.com)*

Received: 12 Mar 20 Accepted: 21 May 20

Published: 05 Apr 22

### References

1. Registrar General of India. Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2013. New Delhi. 2013.
2. Blencowe H, Cousens S, Bianchi JF, Say L, Chou D, Mathers C, *et al.* Stillbirth Epidemiology Investigator Group. National, regional, and worldwide estimates of stillbirth rates in 2015 with trends from 2000: A systematic analysis. *Lancet* 2016;4:e98-108.
3. Sankar MJ, Neogi SB, Sharma J, Chauhan M, Srivastava R, Prabhakar PK, *et al.* State of newborn health in India. *J Perinatol* 2016;36:S3-8.
4. Kumar H N H, Balig BS, Kushtagi P, Kamath N, Rao S. Exploratory study on maternal and child health care facilities in two districts of karnataka state A health systems research. *Int J Med Public Heal* [Internet]. 2018;8:152-7. Available from: <https://www.ijmedph.org/article/610>. [Last accessed on 2019 Mar 09].
5. National Health Mission, ministry of health and family welfare, government of India. India New Born action Plan, 2014. Available from: <https://nhm.gov.in/index4.php?lang=1&level=0&linkid=153&lid=174>. [Last accessed on 2019 Dec 15].
6. Kerber KJ, Mathai M, Lewis G, Flenady V, Erwich JJ, Segun T, *et al.* Counting every stillbirth and neonatal death through mortality audit to improve quality of care for every pregnant woman and her baby. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth* 2015;15(Suppl 2):S9.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Access this article online	
Quick Response Code: 	Website: <a href="http://www.ijpvmjournal.net/www.ijpm.ir">www.ijpvmjournal.net/www.ijpm.ir</a>
	DOI: 10.4103/ijpvm.IJPVM_65_20

**How to cite this article:** Kumar HN, Baliga SB, Kushtagi P, Kamath N, Rao SS. Perinatal death auditing is necessary to identify preventable perinatal deaths. *Int J Prev Med* 2022;13:48.

© 2022 International Journal of Preventive Medicine | Published by Wolters Kluwer - Medknow