

BOTSWANA MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO 2019

Private Bag 0024, Gaborone **Tel:** 3671300 **Fax:** 3952201 **Toll Free:** 0800 600 200

Private Bag F193, City of Francistown Botswana **Tel.** 241 5848, **Fax.** 241 7540

Private Bag 32 Ghanzi **Tel:** 371 5723 **Fax:** 659 7506 Private Bag 47 Maun **Tel:** 371 5716 **Fax:** 686 4327

E-mail: info@statsbots.org.bw Website: http://www.statsbots.org.bw



Preface

This Stats Brief presents the Maternal Mortality Ratio for the years 2014 to 2019. Data used for this brief is provided by the Ministry of Health and wellness through reporting from the health facilities. The brief assesses the major causes of maternal mortality with a view to monitoring the effectiveness of Government interventions to ensure that no mother dies as a result of child birth. This commitment is underscored by Government subscription to the Sustainable Development Goal of 'ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all ages. The SDGs commits countries to reduce global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births. The Goals also advocates for a large proportion of births being attended to by skilled health personnel.

The brief shows that 87 maternal deaths were reported in 2019 from 52,304 live births. Maternal Mortality Ratio declined steadily from 156.6 in 2016 to 133.7 in 2018 and is estimated at 166.3 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2019. The most common direct causes were Other immediate postpartum hemorrhage (15 Cases) followed by Genital tract and pelvic infection following abortion and ectopic and molar pregnancy (11 deaths) while among the indirect causes the most common causes were, Diseases of the circulatory system complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (10 cases) followed by Other maternal infections and parasitic diseases complicating pregnancy childbirth and the puerperium (7 deaths).

We continue to note a high number of mothers are delivering in health facilities. The brief shows an overwhelming 99.8 percent of all births are estimated to have occurred in health facilities supervised by a skilled health professional.

Statistics Botswana welcomes the contributions of all stakeholders and collaborating partners who ensured that this product is made possible. We welcome suggestions on how to improve this brief to effectively monitor the SDGs and ensure that no mother dies during childbirth due to preventable causes.

Thank you

Dr Burton Mguni Statistician General January 2021

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1. Introduction

This Stats Brief provides information on Botswana Maternal Mortality Ratio for the period 2014 – 2019. Maternal Mortality Ratio is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. As part of a collaborative effort between the Statistics Botswana and Ministry of Health and Wellness Department of Public Health-Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) to enable and improve the availability and quality of maternal mortality information, the parties, ensure that data on live births and maternal deaths are provided. The data for the period 2014 to 2019 are provisional until the National Annual Health Statistics Reports are published. We hope readers and users of this information will find this brief informative and we welcome input on how to further improve the content of this publication.

2. Access to Health Services and Birth Attendants Assistance

The 2007 Botswana Family Health Survey shows that 95 percent of Botswana's population have access to health services and live within an average of 8 kilometres radius from the nearest health facility. Hence, there is a high coverage and precision on the collection of births and deaths data.

The 2007 Botswana Family Health Survey further indicated that over 99 percent of deliveries have been assisted by skilled birth attendants in cities/towns, accounting for 97.2 percent in urban villages and 90.2 percent in rural areas. The high level of birth attendance by skilled health personnel should lead to accurate identification and classification of maternal death cases, as well as certification of causes of maternal deaths. The survey further indicated that over 95 percent of all reported deliveries occur in health facilities.

3. Maternal Mortality Ratio

Botswana Maternal Mortality Ratio for the period 2014 to 2019 is shown in Table 1 and Figure 1 below. The MMR increased from 133.7 to 166.3 per 100,000 live-births between 2018 and 2019.

Table 1: Botswana Maternal Mortality Ratio 2014–2018 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 Institutional live births 47,273 54,159 52,242 52,999 52,206 57,290 Non-Institutional live-births 205 190 108 116 117 98 **Total live-births** 47,478 54,267 52,358 53,115 52,304 57,480 Maternal Deaths 72 73 85 75 71 87 127.0 133.7 143.2 Maternal Morality Ratio (per 100,000 live-births) 151.6 156.6 166.3

27.6 30.0 26.4 25.0 20.0 13.8 12.6 15.0 9.2 10.0 6.9 2.3 5.0 0.0 0.0 15-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 N/S Age Group

Figure 1: Botswana Maternal Mortality Ratio 2014-2019

3.1. Causes of Maternal Deaths

There were 87 maternal deaths in 2019 as shown in **Tables 2** and **4**. The Maternal mortality data has been divided into two categories - direct and indirect causes. Overall, over the years direct causes have been higher than indirect causes. In 2019, maternal direct causes contributed 59.8% percent of total deaths.

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	Direct	Indirect	Total	% Direct
2015	43	30	73	58.9
2016	54	31	85	63.5
2017	57	18	75	76.0
2018	52	19	71	73.2
2019	52	35	87	59.8

Table 2: Direct and Indirect Causes of Maternal Mortality

The most common causes of deaths among direct and indirect causes are indicated in Table 4. Other immediate postpartum haemorrhage (15 Cases) was the highest followed by Genital tract and pelvic infection following abortion and ectopic and molar pregnancy (11 Cases) and the third was Ectopic Pregnancy, unspecified (5 cases). Among the indirect causes of maternal mortality the most common causes were, Diseases of the circulatory system complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (10 cases) followed by Other maternal infections and parasitic diseases complicating pregnancy childbirth and the puerperium (7 cases) and the Obstetric death of unspecified cause (4 cases).

3.2. Age Distribution of Maternal Deaths

Figure 2 shows that the highest maternal deaths were reported among age groups 30-34 (27.6 percent), followed by ages 35-39 (26.4 percent) and then 25-29 (13.8%). There were two cases of maternal deaths recorded for ages 45 and above one in direct and one in the indirect causes. One was caused by Other immediate postpartum

haemorrhage and Other maternal infections and parasitic diseases complicating pregnancy childbirth and the puerperium . However, no cases were reported in less than 15 years of age.

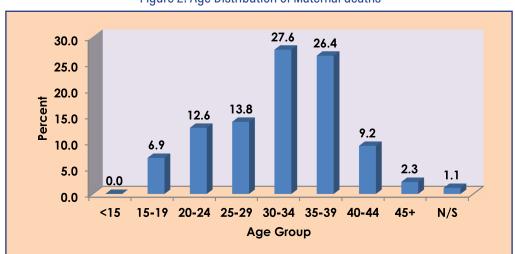


Figure 2: Age Distribution of Maternal deaths

3.3. Maternal Mortality by HIV Status

It has been realized that among the mothers dying due to specified maternal causes there are some who were found to have been living positively with HIV/AIDS. From the 87 maternal deaths reported 40.2 percent were HIV infected women, 47.1 percent HIV negative and 12.7 percent-unknown status (Figure 3 refers). The major conditions which were the cunning catalyst in the twenty direct causes who were HIV positive was Other immediate postpartum hamorrhage and Genital tract and pelvic infection following abortion and Ectopic and molar pregnancy with six cases each while among the indirect causes of death Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (5 cases) was the highest followed by Other maternal infections and parasitic diseases complicating pregnancy childbirth and the puerperium with 4 cases.

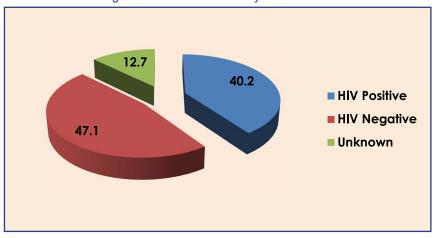


Figure 3: Maternal Deaths by HIV Status

3.4. Female Population and corresponding Live Births

The trend in the female population and the corresponding Live births are shown in **Figure 4** below. According to Botswana Population Projections, the female population in 2019 were 650,506 while the corresponding Live births were 52,304, indicating a marginal decrease of 1.5 percent in the number of Live births from the 2018 figure comparatively. Notably the female population has been substantially increasing while the Live births have been fluctuating over the period.

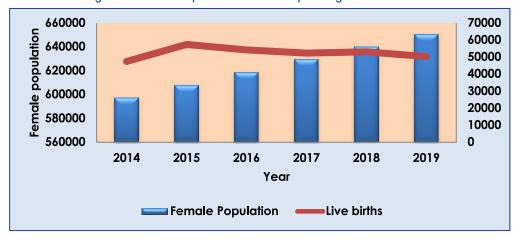


Figure 4: Female Population and corresponding Live Births

4. Institutional Births

There were 52,304 live births registered in 2019. **Table 3** shows that most births (63 percent) occurred in General Hospitals, as compared to 22 percent in primary hospitals and 15 percent in clinics respectively. This pattern has been consistent from 2017 to 2019. It is quite evident that most mothers (99.8%) prefer to deliver in health facilities than at home. The overall average length of stay in a health facility was 7 days **(Table 7)** which is skewed towards hospitals as they often handle complicated referral cases.

	201	7	201	8	2019				
Place of Birth	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent			
General Hospital	33,442	63.9	34,071	64.1	33,013	63.1			
Primary Hospital	11,285	21.5	11,689	22	11,321	21.6			
Clinics	7,515	14.4	7,239	13.6	7,872	15.1			
Non - Institutional	116	0.2	116*	0.2	98	0.2			
Total Live Births	52,358	100.0	53,115	100.0	52,304	100.0			

4.1 Born Before Arrival (BBA)

The born before arrival (BBA) refers to babies brought to the health facility within 24hrs after delivery. The BBA accounted for 3.3 percent of 52,999 Institutional live births in 2018 as compared to 3.6 percent of 52,206 in 2019 (Table 6).

4.2 Non-Institutional Births

The 2019 non-institutional Live births constituting 0.2 percent of the total births (Table 3). It has been realized that non-institutional births reported by Health Facilities to Ministry of Health were insignificant ever since Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs inaugurated the collection of births and deaths certificates.

Furthermore it is worth noting that South East district reported the highest non-Institutional births accounting for 46.9 percent, followed by Greater Gaborone with 10.2 percent, Borolong with 8 births (8.2 percent) and Francistown at 7 births (7.1 percent) respectively. However, the distribution of these non-institutional births is shown in Table 7.

5. Technical Note

The availability of data on number of live births and maternal mortality are a collaborative effort between Ministry of Health and Wellness' Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit and Statistics Botswana through its Health Statistics Unit to ensure production of quality national maternal mortality information.

6. Access to Health Services in Botswana

In Botswana, healthcare is delivered through a decentralized system with primary health care being the pillar of the delivery system. Botswana has an extensive network of health facilities (Hospitals, Clinics, Health posts and Mobile Stops) clustered in the 27 Health Districts.

7. Definition of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

As indicated earlier, Maternal Mortality Ratio is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. This indicator estimates the proportion of pregnant women or mothers who die from causes related or aggravated by pregnancy or its management. The ratio is expressed as follows:

<u>Maternal deaths * K</u> Live births Where K = 100,000

Table 4, Zuij Gat

Table 4: 2019 Causes of Maternal Mo	lortality by Age Groui	D
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Direct Cau	<u>ises</u>										
		Age group of mothers (years)									
Code	Diagnosis	<15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	N/S	TOTAL
O00.9	Ectopic Pregnancy, unspecified	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	5
O06.1	Unspecifed abortion, incomplete, complicated by delayed or excessive haemorrhage	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
O06.4	Unspecifed abortion, incomplete without complications.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
0.800	Genital tract and pelvic infection following abortion and ectopic and molar pregnancy	0	0	2	1	3	4	1	0	0	11
011	CVA secondary to superimposed pre-eclampsia	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
014.1	Severe pre-eclampsia	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
O14.2	HELLP Syndrome	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
O14.9	Pre-Eclampsia, unspecified as to time period	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
O15.1	Eclampsia in labour	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
O15.9	Eclampsia, unspecified as to time period	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
O16	Unspecified maternal Hypertension	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
O21.1	Hyperemesis gravidarum with metabolic disturbance	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
O41.1	Infection of amniotic sac and membranes	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
O62.2	Other uterine inertia	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
071.1	Rapture of uterus during labour	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
O72.1	Other immediate postpartum haemorrhage	0	1	1	1	3	5	2	1	1	15
0.680	Infection of obstetric surgical wound	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total		0	3	6	9	14	13	5	1	1	52

Indirect Causes

		Age group of mothers (years)									
Code	Diagnosis	<15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	S/N	TOTAL
O26.6	Liver disorders in pregnancy, childbirth and the pueperium	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
074.6	Other complications of spinal and epidural anaesthesia during labour and delivery	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
O95	Obstetric death of unspecified cause	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
O98.0	Tuberculosis complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
O98.7	Human immunodeficiency(HIV) disease complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium			0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
O98.8	Other maternal infections and parasitic diseases complicating pregnancy childbirth and the puerperium	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	7
O99.2	Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases complicating pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
O99.3	Mental disorders and diseases of the nervous system complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
O99.4	Diseases of the circulatory system complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	1	0	3	3	3	0	0	10
O99.5	Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
O99.6	Diseases of the digestive system complicating pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
O99.8	Other specified diseases and conditions complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Y14.9	Poisoning by and exposure to ather and unspecified drugs,medicaments and biological substances,undetermined intent	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total		0	3	5	3	10	10	3	1	0	35
Sub Totals	Direct Causes	0	3	6	9	14	13	5	1	1	52
	Indirect Causes	0	3	5	3	10	10	3	1	0	35
Grand Total		0	6	11	12	24	23	8	2	1	87

Table 5: Maternal Mortality in HIV infected women by Age Group of mother – 2019

Direct Causes

		Age group of mothers (years)									
Code	Diagnosis	<15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	N/S	TOTAL
O00.9	Ectopic Pregnancy, unspecified	0	0	0	1		1	0	0	0	2
O06.1	Unspecifed abortion, incomplete, complicated by delayed or excessive haemorrhage	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
O06.4	Unspecifed abortion, incomplete without complications.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
0.800	Genital tract and pelvic infection following abortion and ectopic and molar pregnancy	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	6
011	CVA secondary to superimposed pre-eclampsia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O14.1	Severe pre-eclampsia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O14.2	HELLP Syndrome	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O14.9	Pre-Eclampsia, unspecified as to time period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O15.1	Eclampsia in labour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O15.9	Eclampsia, unspecified as to time period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O16	Unspecified maternal Hypertension	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
O21.1	Hyperemesis gravidarum with metabolic disturbance	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
O41.1	Infection of amniotic sac and membranes	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
O62.2	Other uterine inertia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
071.1	Rapture of uterus during labour	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
O72.1	Other immediate postpartum haemorrhage	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	6
O86.0	Infection of obstetric surgical wound	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		1	0	0	2	2	8	5	1	1	20

Indirect Causes

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		Age group of mothers (years)									
Code	Diagnosis	<15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	N/S	TOTAL
O26.6	Liver disorders in pregnancy, childbirth and the pueperium	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
O74.6	Other complications of spinal and epidural anaesthesia during labour and delivery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O95	Obstetric death of unspecified cause	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O98.0	Tuberculosis complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
O98.7	Human immunodeficiency(HIV) disease complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
O98.8	Other maternal infections and parasitic diseases complicating pregnancy childbirth and the puerperium	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
099.2	Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases complicating pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O99.3	Mental disorders and diseases of the nervous system complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
099.4	Diseases of the circulatory system complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O99.5	Diseases of the respiratory system complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	5
O99.6	Diseases of the digestive system complicating pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
099.8	Other specified diseases and conditions complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Y14.9	Poisoning by and exposure to ather and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		0	2	2	0	3	3	3	2	0	15
Sub Totals	Direct Causes	1	0	0	2	2	8	5	1	1	20
	Indirect Causes	0	2	2	0	3	3	3	2	0	15
Grand Total		1	2	2	2	5	11	8	3	1	35

8. BOTSWANA MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO 2019

Table 6: Health Facilities by Patients Care Services - 2019

lable 6: Health Facilities by Pati	ents Care												
		Discha	ırged					N	lew Borns	Dischar	ged		
District Health Facility	Number of beds	Admissions	Alive	Dead	Patient Days	Occupancy Rate(%)	Length of Stay(Days)	Turnover Rate	New Born	New BBA	Alive	Dead	Total Livebirths
General Hospitals													
Letsholathebe II Memorial Hospital	340	6,025	5,846	187	79,988	64	13	15	2,262	43	2,288	14	2,305
Scottish Livingstone Hospital	350	10,474	10,305	333	68,795	54	6	24	3,216	148	3,329	33	3,364
Bokamoso Private Hospital	122	7,170	6,979	158	26,763	60	4	54	844	0	768	7	844
SDA Kanye Hospital	182	7,014	6,791	237	30,526	46	4	25	1,637	46	1,656	27	1,683
Mahalapye Hospital	320	7,306	7,052	259	63,607	54	9	24	2,327	72	2,362	37	2,399
Deborah Relief Memorial Hospital	167	4,920	4,779	142	39,826	65	8	23	1,718	44	1,748	14	1,762
Orapa Hospital	94	1,583	1,563	37	4,495	13	3	28	397	4	409	0	401
Princess Marina Referral Hospital	557	17,022	16,179	680	327,195	161	19	20	6,097	24	5,870	254	6,121
Gaborone Private Hospital	90	6,761	6,635	114	21,873	67	3	48	1,058	4	1,108	3	1,062
Nyangabwe Referral Hospital	497	21,794	20,700	957	178,922	99	8	30	5,139	41	5,084	96	5,180
Riverside Private Hospital	29	1,944	1,816	6	5,224	49	3	50	226	1	221	1	227
Bamalete Lutheran Hospital	138	5,680	5,537	127	19,047	38	3	27	1,786	13	1,791	8	1,799
Athlone Hospital	139	5,188	5,093	114	29,306	58	6	19	889	21	900	13	910
State Mental Referral Hospital	300	1,875	1,852	3	84,815	77	46	5	-	-	-	-	-
BCL Mine Hospital	15	19	19	0	38	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Selibe Phikwe Government Hospital	61	4,037	3,894	121	15,470	69	4	100	1,165	16	1,220	11	1,181
Jwaneng Mine Hospital	60	2,791	2,724	71	8,979	41	3	36	1,015	26	1,037	19	1,041
Sekgoma Memorial Hospital	386	10,590	10,312	336	76,772	54	7	21	2,586	66	2,637	15	2,652
Total	3,729	122,193	118,076	3,882	1,081,641	79	9	27	32,362	569	32,428	552	32,931
Primary Hospitals													
Masunga Primary Hospital	48	1,790	1,770	38	5,744	33	3	38	389	8	397	2	397
Palapye Primary Hospital	50	3,698	3,548	124	12,732	70	3	73	1,540	51	1,586	19	1,591
Bobonong Primary Hospital	33	3,645	3,541	85	22,960	191	6	110	849	22	862	9	871
Mmadinare Primary Hospital	31	1,191	1,168	47	4,577	40	4	39	333	15	347	2	348
Thamaga Primary Hospital	61	2,443	2,367	64	10,039	45	4	40	681	29	703	7	710
Gantsi Primary Hospital	104	3,087	2,766	106	17,767	47	6	28	984	110	1,085	17	1,094
Sefhare Primary Hospital	38	1,899	1,874	46	8,897	64	5	51	602	7	609	2	609
Kasane Primary Hospital	30	2,400	2,347	46	7,218	66	3	80	400	10	404	7	410
Tshabong Primary Hospital	33	1,774	1,709	62	7,840	65	4	54	548	11	550	10	559
Tutume Primary Hospital	42	3,771	3,678	99	10,370	68	3	90	1,040	46	1,080	7	1,086
Gweta Primary Hospital	50	1,196	1,167	38	6,739	37	6	24	291	21	308	4	312
Rakops Primary Hospital	36	1,491	1,458	40	6,936	53	5	42	325	17	339	3	342
Letlhakane Primary Hospital	25	3,009	2,949	58	10,800	118	4	120	865	128	980	13	993
Gumare Primary Hospital	42	2,692	2,556	113	11,848	77	4	64	1,062	55	1,092	26	1,117
Thebephatshwa Primary Hospital	35	21	20	0	355	3	18	1	3	1	3	10	4
Goodhope Primary Hospital	40	2,664	2,587	61	18,667	128	7	66	615	33	636	12	648
Hukuntsi Primary Hospital	63 730	1,370	1,323	42	10,940 174,429	48	8	22	405 10,932	18	417	6	423
Total	738	38,141	36,828	1,069		65	5	51		582	11,398	147	11,514
Total Clinics	709	13,878	13,841	0	12,224	5	1	20	7,024	737	7,661	53	7,761
Grand Total	5,176	174,212	168,745	4,951	1,268,294	67	7	34	50,318	1,888	51,487	752	52,206

Table 7: Non Institutional Live births by District – 2019

District of Birth	Number	Percent
Gaborone	10	10.2
Francistown	7	7.1
Lobatse	-	0.0
Selebi Phikwe	6	6.1
Orapa	-	0.0
Jwaneng	2	2.0
Sowa Town	-	0.0
Southern	3	3.1
Barolong	8	8.2
Ngwaketse West	-	0.0
South East	46	46.9
Kweneng East	2	2.0
Kweneng West	-	0.0
Kgatleng	-	0.0
Central Serowe/Palapye	4	4.1
Central Mahalapye	-	0.0
Central Bobonong	-	0.0
Central Boteti	2	2.0
Central Tutume	4	4.1
North East	-	0.0
Ngamiland East	1	1.0
Ngamiland West	1	1.0
Chobe	-	0.0
Ghanzi	1	1.0
Kgalagadi South	1	1.0
Kgalagadi North	-	0.0
Not Stated	-	0.0
Total	98	100.0



Private Bag 0024, Gaborone Tel: 3671300 Fax: 3952201 Toll Free: 0800 600 200 Private Bag F193, City of Francistown Botswana **Tel.** 241 5848, **Fax.** 241 7540 Private Bag 32 Ghanzi **Tel:** 371 5723 **Fax:** 659 7506 Private Bag 47 Maun **Tel:** 371 5716 **Fax:** 686 4327

E-mail: info@statsbots.org.bw **Website:** http://www.statsbots.org.bw

