

VITAL DATA OBSERVATORY DASHBOARD



2021

In efforts to reduce maternal mortality and improve maternal and child health (MCH) outcomes, the Vital Data Observatory (VDO) was initiated in 2016. The VDO monitors and evaluates health data specific to the maternal and child health population (of all nationalities) in Lebanon. This data helps drive the identification of MOPH's MCH priorities.

The VDO Network includes all hospitals that provide delivery services and midwives clinics certified by the Lebanese Order of Midwives (LOM) across Lebanon.



Fast Facts



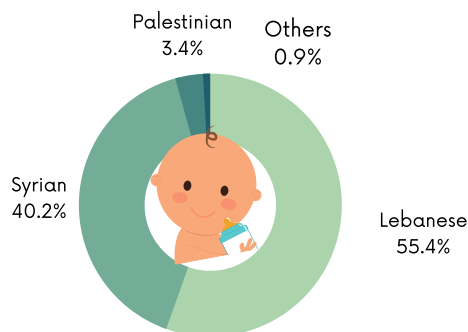
Every **5.5**
minutes a baby is
born in Lebanon



95,520
DELIVERIES



96,156
LIVE BIRTHS



48%
Girls



52%
Boys



45
MATERNAL DEATHS



404
BIRTH DEFECTS



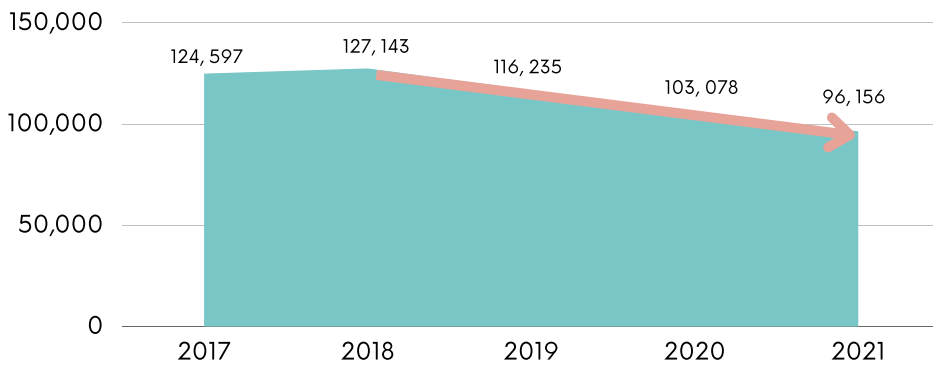
974
INTRAUTERINE
FETAL DEATH



223
STILL BIRTHS

Evolution of livebirths across the years

NUMBER OF LIVEBIRTHS ACROSS THE YEARS

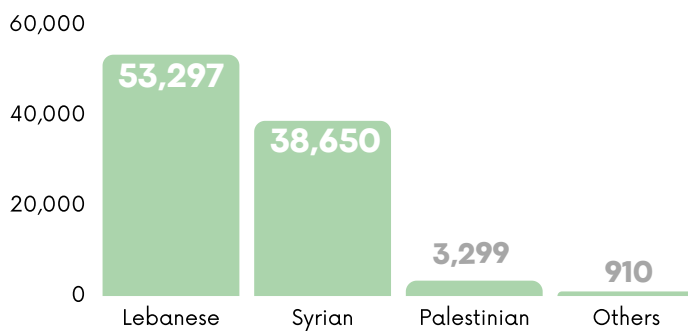


A decrease of 6.7% in live births was noted in 2021 as compared to 2020.

This decline in the number of births was witnessed across all nationalities.

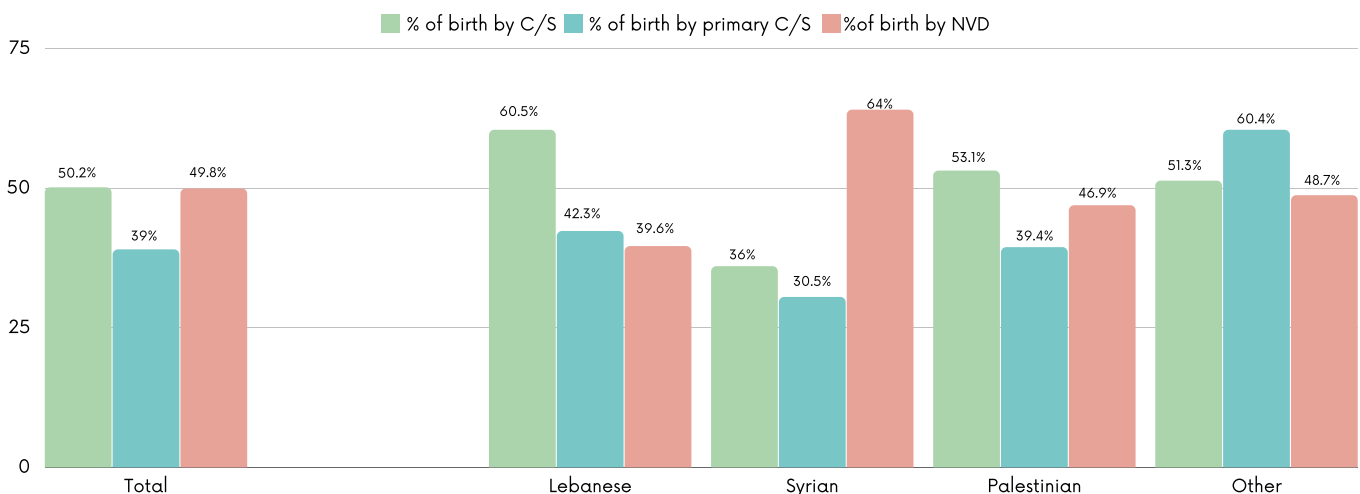
The decrease in Lebanese live births is verified by the Central Administration of Statistics and Statistics department at MOPH.

NUMBER OF LIVEBIRTHS ACROSS NATIONALITIES



Forty percent of total live births were Syrians, showing a drop from 46% in 2018. This could be explained by Syrian mothers choosing home birth or delivering out of country due to the worsening economic situation.

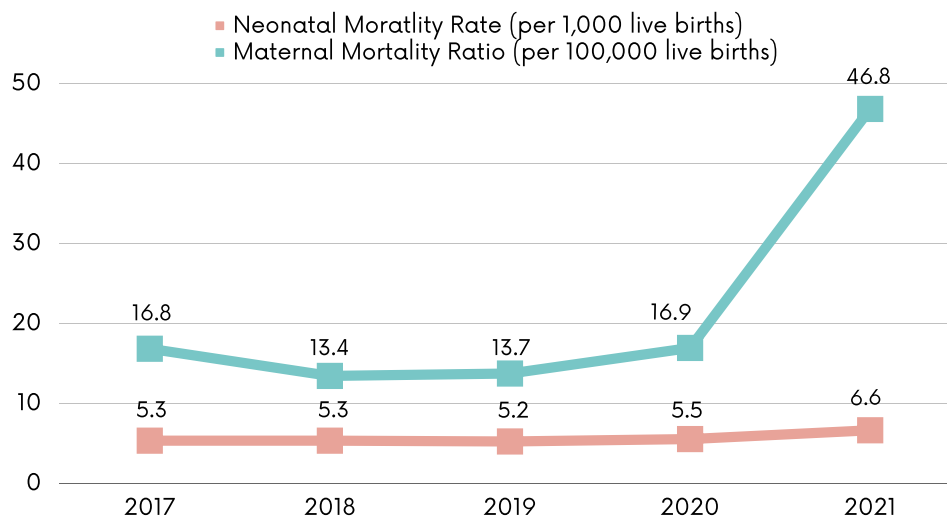
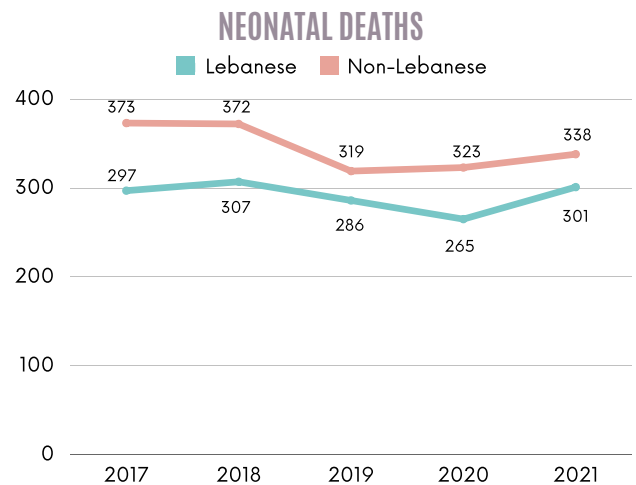
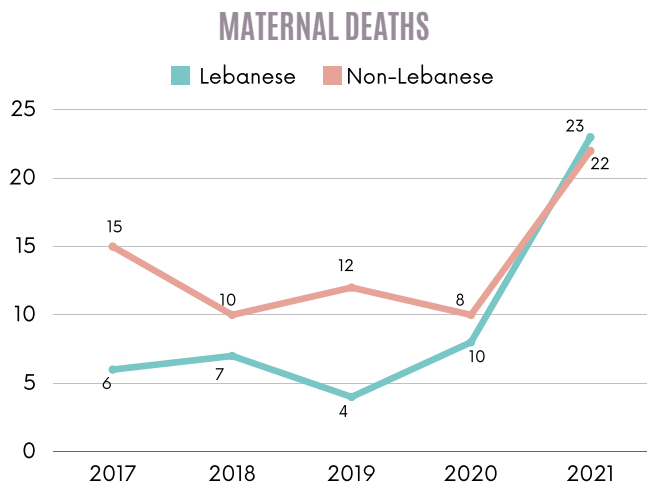
Percentage of births by caeserean section (C/S) and normal delivery (NVD)



Caeserean section can put women and babies at unnecessary risk of short- and long-term health problems if performed when there is not medical need. Worldwide caeserean section rates have risen from around 7% in 1990 to 21% today, and are projected to continue increasing over this current decade.

Half of the deliveries in Lebanon in 2021 were by C/S, a slight decrease from last year's 52%. This rate was the highest (60.5%) among Lebanese mothers and lowest (36%) among Syrian women.

Maternal and Neonatal Mortalities



A spike of 150% in maternal deaths during the pandemic reversed years of progress. In total, 45 maternal deaths occurred in 2021; of which 17 were in the first quarter of the year. Although twenty nine (64%) of the 45 maternal deaths were accompanied by COVID-19, only 21 deaths occurred from COVID-19.

The trend reversed hard-won gains in maternal health in Lebanon, which in the years before COVID-19 saw a steady decline in deaths among women before, during and immediately after childbirth.

Achievements

- Three different COVID-19 indicators were added to the VDO.
- Fifty one LOM midwives clinics were added to the VDO network to capture rural births by midwives.
- Family Planning (FP) training for all governmental hospitals on FP counseling and provision of commodities.
- Comprehensive update of the contact details of all focal persons at the hospitals.