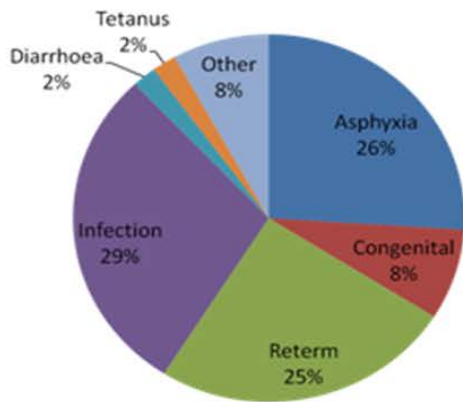
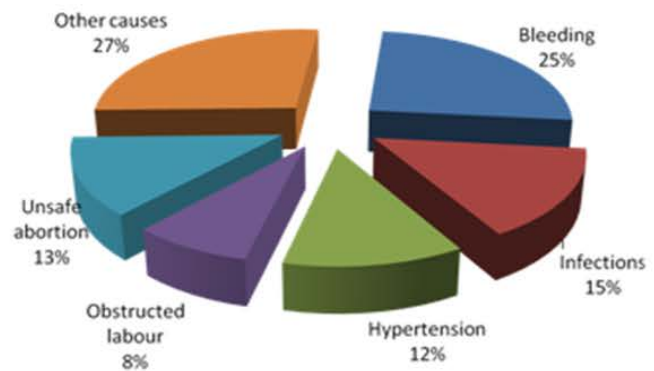


INFANT/ MATERNAL MORTALITY

Estimated causes of Neonatal Deaths in 2000



Causes of maternal mortality in Ghana



Because of African exclusion from the medical services, problems of maternal and child health in Africans were ignored by the Medical Department until 1915 when Dr. F. V. Nanka-Bruce gave prominence to the need for the proper training of African midwives and the construction of a properly equipped maternity hospital to reduce the high loss of lives among mothers and babies.

Governor Clifford appointed a committee to enquire into the causes of maternal and infant mortality but was unable to do much about the committees recommendations because of the First World War.

Governor Guggisberg appointed another committee in 1920 to consider the construction of a maternity hospital and training centre for midwives. In keeping with the committees recommendations the construction of a maternity block in Korle Bu was commenced in 1924, and the foundation stone of a children's hospital laid by Princess Marie Louis in 1925.

During the period 1998 to 2003 infant mortality rate rose from 57 per 1000 live births to 64 per 1000 live births. It has dropped to 50 (2008).

Maternal mortality ratio in Ghana is estimated at between 256 and 540 per 100,000 live births with a lifetime risk of 1 in 35.