In 2002, 125 territories recorded female life expectancy to be over 60 years; 47 territories recorded life expectancy under 60 years (the rest were missing data). Thus it is generally expected that women will live beyond their sixtieth birthday. Of all women alive in 2003, over 300 million are expected to die prematurely between the ages of 15 and 60 years old.

The highest rates of female premature mortality are in Southeastern African territories, particularly Botswana, Zimbabwe and Swaziland. These territories also have some of the highest rates of HIV prevalence in the world.

“One death is a tragedy, a million deaths a statistic.” Joseph Stalin, undated