Worldwide 62% of births are attended by skilled health personnel. This ranges from 6% in Ethiopia, to practically 100% birth attendance in Japan.

The total number of births attended, shown on the map, depends partly on how many women there are and how many babies they have.

In the graph below, the ‘percentage attended’ indicates the proportion of total births attended in each region. For instance, if you were recently born in Cambodia, there is twice the chance your birth would have been attended than if you were born in Chad.

This map shows the worldwide distribution of all attended births.

“...how many of us realize that, in much of the world, the act of giving life to a child is still the biggest killer of women of child-bearing age?”

Liya Kibede, 2005