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Spain witnesses rise in maternal mortality
Tuesday, 7th July 2009
A rise in maternal mortality rates has been seen in Spain since 1996, it has been reported.

Research conducted by the Carlos III Health Institute (ISCIII) in Madrid, published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, indicates that a 17 per cent increase has been witnessed.

Although mortality rates are still lower than in many other European countries, the data shows that they are increasing.

Miguel Angel Luque, lead author of the study, told SINC that the change, linked to the rise in maternal age, "clearly shows" the need for epidemiological monitoring of maternal mortality.

He added: "This is an avoidable phenomenon, and above all because it shows the importance of studying the causes in order to prevent deaths."

"While the role of changing reproductive patterns is obvious in Europe, it is still not clear what other factors, aside from maternal age, are related to the increase in deaths."

Last month, the World Health Organization reported that global maternal mortality levels failed to improve between 1990 and 2007.

Ban Ki-moon, secretary general of the United Nations, expressed his disappointment at the finding.

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