Mortality from tetanus between 1990 and 2015: findings from the global burden of disease study 2015

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Abstract

Background: Although preventable, tetanus still claims tens of thousands of deaths each year. The patterns and distribution of mortality from tetanus have not been well characterized. We identified the global, regional, and national levels and trends of mortality from neonatal and non-neonatal tetanus based on the results from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015.

Methods: Data from vital registration, verbal autopsy studies and mortality surveillance data covering 12,534 site-years from 1980 to 2014 were used. Mortality from tetanus was estimated using the Cause of Death Ensemble modeling strategy.

Results: There were 56,743 (95% uncertainty interval (UI): 48,199 to 80,042) deaths due to tetanus in 2015; 19,937 (UI: 17,021 to 23,467) deaths occurred in neonates; and 36,806 (UI: 29,452 to 61,481) deaths occurred in older children and adults. Of the 19,937 neonatal tetanus deaths, 45% of deaths occurred in South Asia, and 44% in Sub-Saharan Africa. Of the 36,806 deaths after the neonatal period, 47% of deaths occurred in South Asia, 36% in sub-Saharan Africa, and 12% in Southeast Asia. Between 1990 and 2015, the global mortality rate due to neonatal tetanus dropped by 90% and that due to non-neonatal tetanus dropped by 81%. However, tetanus mortality rates were still high in a number of countries in 2015. The highest rates of neonatal tetanus mortality (more than 1,000 deaths per 100,000 population) were observed in Somalia, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Kenya. The highest rates of mortality from tetanus after the neonatal period (more than 5 deaths per 100,000 population) were observed in Somalia, South Sudan, and Kenya.

Conclusions: Though there have been tremendous strides globally in reducing the burden of tetanus, tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths from tetanus could be prevented each year by an already available inexpensive and effective vaccine. Availability of more high quality data could help narrow the uncertainty of tetanus mortality estimates.

Keywords: Tetanus, Mortality, Distribution, Trends

Background

Tetanus, commonly referred to as “lockjaw”, is a serious infection caused by Clostridium tetani. The bacterium is commonly found in the environment (usually in soil, dust, and animal waste). Tetanus spores can enter the body through cuts or abrasions. Newborns can become infected through contaminated instruments used to cut the umbilical cord or by improper handling of the umbilical stump [1]. Neonatal tetanus is more likely to occur in low and middle income countries especially in places such as urban slums and rural areas; in those places unhygienic deliveries at home are common, and coverage of antenatal care services and maternal tetanus toxoid immunization are usually inadequate [2–4].

During the past two decades, there has been a dramatic decline in tetanus cases and deaths due to the scale up of immunization programs [5, 6]. Despite the availability of an inexpensive and effective tetanus vaccine, many people in low and middle income countries...
continue to die from tetanus. In developed countries, tetanus is rare but occasional cases and deaths continue to occur in unvaccinated individuals. The current patterns and distribution of tetanus mortality have not been well documented. In this study, we identify the global, regional and national levels and trends of neonatal and non-neonatal tetanus mortality between 1990 and 2015, based on the findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015.

Methods
Data from vital registration, verbal autopsy, and mortality surveillance data covering 12,534 site-years from 1980 to 2014 were used for this study [7]. The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes for neonatal tetanus include ICD-10 codes (A33-A35.0) and ICD-9 codes (037–037.9, 771.3). Further details about data sources are provided in the Web Appendix. We used the Cause of Death Ensemble model (CODEm) strategy [7–10], which has been widely used for generating global estimates of cause-specific mortality. The CODEm strategy evaluates potential models that apply different functional forms (mixed effects models and space-time Gaussian Process Regression models) to mortality rates or cause fractions with varying combinations of predictive covariates [7], including DTP3 coverage proportion, educational attainment, health system access, in-facility delivery proportion, lagged distributed income, skilled birth attendance proportion, and tetanus toxoid coverage proportion. An ensemble of models that performs best on out-of-sample predictive validity tests was then selected as the best model. A complete time series of the parameters for each covariate for each location was estimated using data from household surveys, censuses, official reports, administrative data, and systematic reviews. The sources and imputation methods used to generate time series for the covariates have been published elsewhere [11].

Results
There were 56,743 (95% uncertainty interval (UI): 48,199 to 80,042) deaths due to tetanus in 2015: 19,937 (UI: 17,021 to 23,467) deaths occurred in neonates and 36,806 (UI: 29,452 to 61,481) deaths occurred after the neonatal period (Table 1). Of all neonatal tetanus deaths, 45% of deaths occurred in South Asia. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for additional 44% of deaths; 67% of these deaths occurred in eastern sub-Saharan Africa, 27% in western sub-Saharan Africa, and 6% in central sub-Saharan Africa. Of tetanus deaths after the neonatal period, 47% of deaths occurred in South Asia, 36% in sub-Saharan Africa, and 12% in Southeast Asia. Figure 1 shows the global age-sex distribution of tetanus mortality in 2015. Tetanus deaths were concentrated in neonates when they were compared with deaths in each of the other age categories (Fig. 1). More deaths occurred in males than females in most age groups (Fig. 1). Age-standardized tetanus mortality rate (per 100,000 people) among males (0.93, UI: 0.72 to 1.44) was also higher than that among females (0.63, UI: 0.50 to 0.90) (data not shown).

Between 1990 and 2015, the global mortality rate due to neonatal tetanus dropped by 90% and that due to non-neonatal tetanus dropped by 81% (Table 1). At the country level, the decline in neonatal tetanus mortality rate varied from -47% in Somalia to -95% in Angola in sub-Saharan Africa. The decline in tetanus mortality rate after the neonatal period varied from -0.12% in South Sudan to -92% in Mauritania in sub-Saharan Africa (Table 1).

There were also substantial between-country variations in tetanus mortality rates (Figs. 2 and 3). For example, neonatal tetanus mortality rates per 100,000 people varied from 3,376.4 (1,731.6 to 6,447.9) in Somalia to 1.0 (0.4 to 2.0) in Zimbabwe in sub-Saharan Africa in 2015 (Table 1). Tetanus mortality per 100,000 people after the neonatal period varied from 10.3 (3.6 to 23.7) in Somalia to 0.04 (0.03 to 0.06) in South Africa in the same year (Table 1).

Although both neonatal and non-neonatal tetanus deaths were concentrated in low and middle countries, a small number of deaths from non-neonatal tetanus continued to occur in high-income countries. We estimated 36 (UI: 28 to 51) deaths in Western Europe, 13 (UI: 11–16) deaths in high-income Asia Pacific, and 9 (UI: 8 to 11) deaths in high-income North America due to tetanus in 2015 (Table 1); most of these deaths occurred in adults, especially among elderly people. More detailed results showing the location-year-age-sex specific distributions of tetanus mortality from 1990 to 2015 in 5-year interval are viewable in an interactive online visualization tool at http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare.

Discussion
Exceptional progress has been made over the past two decades in reducing mortality from tetanus worldwide. Nevertheless, mortality from tetanus was still unnecessarily high in a number of low and middle income countries in 2015. The scale-up of immunization coverage to prevent maternal and neonatal tetanus represents a huge success of a collective effort. However, the scale-up has not been universal, with low vaccination coverage being documented in several countries [6, 12, 13]. Constraints related to financial and human resources and difficulty vaccinating people in hard-to-reach rural areas were among the factors influencing the tetanus toxoid vaccine coverage [12].
Table 1: Neonatal and non-neonatal tetanus deaths, mortality rates, and change in mortality rates between 1990 and 2015 for 21 Global Burden of Disease regions and 195 countries and territories (Regions ranked from the highest to lowest neonatal mortality rate in 2015)

| Region | 1990 | 2015 | % change in rate between 1990 and 2015 |
|--------|------|------|--------------------------------------|
|       | Deaths (UI) | Rate per 100,000 (UI) | Neontal tetanus | Non-neonatal tetanus | Neontal tetanus | Non-neonatal tetanus |
|       |       |                  |       |                    |                  |                    |
| Global | 199118 (176424 to 228,139) | 137,904 (118,003 to 201,898) | 1,919.00 (1,700.28 to 2,198.69) | 2.61 (2.23 to 3.81) | 19,937 (17,021 to 23,467) | 36,806 (29,452 to 46,181) | 187,471 (160,050 to 220,666) |
| Eastern Sub-Saharan Africa | 16642 (13,308 to 22,798) | 10,775 (7,511 to 15,087) | 2,610.92 (2,087.98 to 3,576.80) | 5.81 (4.05 to 8.14) | 5,949 (4,562 to 8,831) | 8834 (5,932 to 13,689) | 57712 (442,252 to 856,747) |
| Burundi | 505 (262 to 858) | 333 (170 to 557) | 2,441.79 (1,268.06 to 4,149.11) | 9.39 (3.04 to 9.93) | 279 (134 to 529) | 290 (98 to 639) | 76211 (364,89 to 1,444,511) |
| Comoros | 33 (18 to 54) | 16 (8 to 31) | 2,494.51 (1,351.41 to 4,112.77) | 3.81 (1.82 to 7.50) | 6 (3 to 11) | 13 (6 to 27) | 31714 (154,22 to 572,90) |
| Djibouti | 16 (4 to 33) | 12 (4 to 27) | 950.85 (244.13 to 1,927.05) | 2.06 (0.66 to 4.74) | 8 (3 to 16) | 16 (5 to 43) | 49644 (185,535 to 945,90) |
| Eritrea | 519 (256 to 919) | 325 (193 to 528) | 5,265.69 (2,595.33 to 9,315.49) | 10.37 (5.16 to 16.85) | 65 (31 to 121) | 129 (41 to 263) | 49080 (236,27 to 917,288) |
| Ethiopia | 3,574 (2,202 to 5,470) | 2,508 (1,448 to 3,803) | 2,123.05 (1,308.21 to 3,249.19) | 5.26 (3.03 to 7.97) | 736 (389 to 1,247) | 1,238 (601 to 2,358) | 30809 (162.93 to 522,16) |
| Kenya | 2,887 (1,753 to 5,846) | 2,089 (851 to 4,743) | 3,894.64 (2,365.00 to 7,885,42) | 8.94 (6.40 to 20.30) | 1,391 (621 to 5,662) | 2,592 (927 to 2,193,85) | 1,173,55 (776,38 to 2,193,85) |
| Madagascar | 492 (349 to 679) | 261 (184 to 359) | 1,256.61 (891.69 to 1,736.04) | 2.27 (1.09 to 3.12) | 83 (36 to 184) | 232 (74 to 548) | 84 (36 to 184) |
| Malawi | 655 (382 to 1,056) | 292 (152 to 509) | 1,984.98 (1,158.35 to 3,198.51) | 3.11 (1.62 to 5.44) | 147 (75 to 257) | 244 (101 to 612) | 29377 (149,48 to 514,35) |
| Mozambique | 1,175 (602 to 2,171) | 997 (493 to 1,728) | 2,537.78 (1,301.84 to 4,690.31) | 7.43 (3.67 to 12.88) | 127 (67 to 237) | 387 (143 to 710) | 15553 (82,14 to 290,088) |
| Rwanda | 396 (216 to 681) | 259 (109 to 456) | 1,658.13 (902.82 to 2,846.36) | 3.59 (1.51 to 6.31) | 123 (65 to 214) | 139 (55 to 283) | 45285 (239,79 to 784,94) |
| Somalia | 1,441 (863 to 2,388) | 1,171 (421 to 2,695) | 6,423.06 (3,846.02 to 10,645.96) | 18.36 (6.61 to 42.25) | 1,188 (609 to 2,269) | 1,114 (384 to 2,563) | 3,376.39 (1,731.55 to 6,447.88) |
| South Sudan | 787 (211 to 1,637) | 443 (90 to 1,225) | 3,985.03 (1,069.25 to 8,290,52) | 7.63 (1.56 to 21.10) | 668 (163 to 1,540) | 944 (133 to 3,693) | 2,002.54 (488.52 to 4,612.55) |
| Tanzania | 1,001 (603 to 1,539) | 775 (504 to 1,109) | 1,192.20 (717.90 to 1,832.84) | 3.06 (1.99 to 4.37) | 488 (273 to 856) | 683 (334 to 1,314) | 31372 (175.59 to 550,025) |
| Uganda | 2,231 (1,288 to 3,760) | 850 (521 to 1,344) | 3,461.47 (1,997.42 to 5,833.30) | 4.90 (3.00 to 7.74) | 424 (243 to 705) | 482 (234 to 758) | 33877 (193.95 to 562,954) |
| Zambia | 921 (480 to 1,519) | 439 (245 to 787) | 3,277.63 (1,709.24 to 5,405.20) | 5.42 (3.03 to 9.71) | 211 (123 to 341) | 385 (202 to 676) | 43425 (251.90 to 700,03) |

*Note: UI = uncertainty intervals.*
Table 1: Neonatal and non-neonatal tetanus deaths, mortality rates, and change in mortality rates between 1990 and 2015 for 21 Global Burden of Disease regions and 195 countries and territories (Regions ranked from the highest to lowest neonatal mortality rate in 2015) (Continued)

| Region                  | 1990-2015 Range | 1990-2015 Mean | 1990-2015 Median | 1990-2015 Change | 2015-2017 Mean | 2015-2017 Median |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Bangladesh              | (116,984 to 146,106) | 130,317 | 135,759 | 128,451 | 2,849,01 | 2,773,01 |
| Bhutan                  | (22,276 to 37,832) | 29,102 | 30,375 | 28,875 | 1,057,00 | 1,014,00 |
| India                   | (70,753 to 85,683) | 78,017 | 79,756 | 76,925 | 3,681,91 | 3,502,32 |
| Nepal                   | (4,586 to 11,519) | 7,519 | 7,987 | 7,459 | 14,104,21 | 12,601,59 |
| Pakistan                | (3,936 to 24,277) | 15,796 | 16,875 | 15,375 | 4,958,99 | 4,294,82 |
| Western Sub-Saharan Africa | (10,862 to 18,136) | 13,791 | 15,105 | 14,275 | 2,097,30 | 2,185,05 |
| Benin                   | (147 to 484) | 282 | 315 | 298 | 1,635,25 | 1,585,02 |
| Burkina Faso            | (547 to 1,712) | 1,012 | 1,218 | 1,065 | 3,259,31 | 3,042,16 |
| Cameroon                | (133 to 1,086) | 522 | 602 | 562 | 1,289,98 | 1,170,23 |
| Cape Verde              | (0 to 1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0,92 | 0,92 |
| Chad                    | (519 to 1,833) | 1,060 | 1,323 | 1,188 | 4,714,89 | 4,893,37 |
| Cote d’Ivoire           | (594 to 1,037) | 594 | 631 | 608 | 1,357,12 | 1,268,33 |
| Ghana                   | (632 to 1,142) | 676 | 720 | 703 | 1,590,87 | 1,365,82 |
| Guinea                  | (567 to 2,383) | 1,389 | 1,725 | 1,557 | 6,577,60 | 5,086,19 |
| Guinea-Bissau           | (47 to 133) | 82 | 108 | 95 | 2,352,61 | 2,431,01 |
| Liberia                 | (74 to 205) | 125 | 190 | 157 | 1,780,95 | 1,729,14 |
| Mali                    | (39 to 177) | 90 | 123 | 105 | 295,43 | 343,13 |
| Mauritania              | (45 to 149) | 86 | 113 | 100 | 1,407,14 | 1,370,10 |
| Niger                   | (881 to 2,844) | 1,645 | 2,026 | 1,767 | 5,075,00 | 4,692,49 |
| Country                  | Neornatal Deaths | Non-Neornatal Deaths | Mortality Rate (2010) | Change in Mortality Rate (2010) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nigeria                 | 5,550 (3,304 to 8,734) | 2,639 (1,500 to 4,451) | 1,784.94 (1,062.80 to 2,909.18) | 2.76 (1.57 to 4.66) |
| Sao Tome and Principe   | 2 (1 to 3)        | 10 (6 to 16)         | 574.98 (315.21 to 981.36) | 8.81 (4.95 to 14.07) |
| Senegal                 | 375 (219 to 628)  | 192 (94 to 324)      | 1,535.95 (898.48 to 2,571.63) | 2.57 (1.23 to 3.34) |
| Sierra Leone            | 147 (62 to 291)   | 124 (56 to 216)      | 1,133.98 (476.89 to 2,244.16) | 3.16 (1.42 to 5.52) |
| The Gambia              | 24 (16 to 36)     | 13 (7 to 21)         | 747.87 (499.97 to 1,110.26) | 1.37 (0.75 to 2.33) |
| Togo                    | 129 (72 to 221)   | 100 (57 to 145)      | 1,078.12 (601.66 to 1,851.57) | 2.64 (1.51 to 3.85) |
| Central Sub-Saharan Africa | 1,979 (1,272 to 2,959) | 1,434 (498 to 3,178) | 1,046.37 (672.61 to 1,564.55) | 2.71 (0.94 to 6.01) |
| Angola                  | 704 (305 to 1,475) | 380 (92 to 1,240)    | 1,602.73 (694.73 to 3,358.72) | 3.39 (0.82 to 11.06) |
| Central African Republic | 132 (69 to 224)   | 101 (37 to 205)      | 1,471.61 (720.47 to 2,506.44) | 3.44 (1.26 to 7.00) |
| Congo                   | 9 (3 to 19)       | 20 (4 to 45)         | 138.02 (445.2 to 282.70) | 0.82 (0.19 to 1.87) |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 1,122 (651 to 1,792) | 920 (295 to 2,179)    | 894.53 (518.84 to 1,428.11) | 2.63 (0.84 to 6.22) |
| Equatorial Guinea       | 9 (5 to 17)       | 9 (3 to 23)          | 705.17 (357.03 to 1,294.33) | 2.51 (0.81 to 6.05) |
| Gabon                   | 3 (0 to 6)        | 5 (0 to 15)          | 95.94 (1800 to 243.98) | 0.55 (0.05 to 1.61) |
| North Africa and Middle East | 10,817 (6,911 to 16,193) | 2,379 (1,513 to 3,773) | 1,275.80 (815.17 to 1,909.97) | 0.71 (0.45 to 1.13) |
| Afghanistan             | 6006 (2,430 to 10,493) | 1,075 (309 to 2,380) | 12,935.74 (5,233.49 to 22,598.70) | 8.77 (2.52 to 19.42) |
| Algeria                 | 93 (37 to 182)    | 44 (15 to 97)        | 148.02 (59.58 to 290.16) | 0.17 (0.06 to 0.37) |
| Bahrain                 | 0 (0 to 0)        | 0 (0 to 0)           | 6.95 (3.39 to 10.30) | 0.08 (0.02 to 0.04) |
| Egypt                   | 882 (368 to 1,351) | 458 (251 to 566)     | 627.55 (403.83 to 961.23) | 0.82 (0.45 to 1.01) |
| Iran                    | 100 (45 to 188)   | 55 (32 to 99)        | 72.33 (32.81 to 136.50) | 0.10 (0.06 to 0.18) |
| Iraq                    | 26 (11 to 50)     | 12 (6 to 23)         | 51.47 (22.42 to 100.64) | 0.07 (0.04 to 0.13) |
| Country          | Neonatal Deaths | Non-Neonatal Deaths | Neonatal Mortality Rate | Non-Neonatal Mortality Rate | Change in Neonatal Mortality Rate | Change in Non-Neonatal Mortality Rate |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jordan           | 0 (0 to 1)      | 0 (0 to 1)          | 3.38 (1.64 to 6.06)     | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02)        | 1 (1 to 1)                       | -95.25 (-97.86 to -87.63)          |
| Kuwait           | 0 (0 to 0)      | 0 (0 to 0)          | 1.09 (0.72 to 1.57)     | 0.01 (0.00 to 0.01)        | 0 (0 to 0)                       | -89.18 (-93.30 to -81.34)          |
| Lebanon          | 0 (0 to 1)      | 1 (1 to 1)          | 9.10 (4.23 to 16.39)    | 0.03 (0.02 to 0.04)        | 1 (1 to 1)                       | -95.99 (-98.83 to -87.68)          |
| Libya            | 3 (1 to 6)      | 2 (1 to 3)          | 27.28 (7.22 to 60.38)   | 0.04 (0.02 to 0.07)        | 1 (1 to 1)                       | -90.51 (-96.39 to -69.15)          |
| Morocco          | 989 (538 to 1,398) | 99 (57 to 159)     | 1,627.61 (874.97 to 2,533.64) | 0.40 (0.23 to 0.63)       | 24 (14 to 45)                    | 89.62 (-99.82 to -99.21)           |
| Oman             | 1 (0 to 3)      | 1 (0 to 1)          | 21.52 (6.85 to 60.75)   | 0.04 (0.02 to 0.07)        | 0 (0 to 0)                       | -91.13 (-98.68 to -79.74)          |
| Palestine        | 0 (0 to 0)      | 0 (0 to 0)          | 1.93 (0.84 to 3.46)     | 0.02 (0.01 to 0.02)        | 0 (0 to 1)                       | -90.56 (-96.29 to -70.14)          |
| Qatar            | 0 (0 to 0)      | 0 (0 to 0)          | 1.86 (0.86 to 3.50)     | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02)        | 0 (0 to 0)                       | -93.58 (-97.51 to -82.80)          |
| Saudi Arabia     | 18 (7 to 37)    | 14 (6 to 30)        | 41.89 (15.79 to 83.76)  | 0.09 (0.04 to 0.19)        | 1 (1 to 2)                       | -94.78 (-97.95 to -82.45)          |
| Sudan            | 335 (133 to 644)| 124 (38 to 254)     | 529.66 (211.04 to 1,019.34) | 0.62 (0.19 to 1.27)      | 30 (13 to 57)                    | -94.32 (-97.57 to -86.12)          |
| Syria            | 234 (135 to 373)| 37 (17 to 71)       | 694.90 (400.52 to 1,108.49) | 0.30 (0.14 to 0.57)      | 2 (1 to 3)                       | -99.29 (-99.67 to -98.54)          |
| Tunisia          | 2 (1 to 3)      | 3 (1 to 5)          | 10.74 (4.11 to 20.10)   | 0.04 (0.02 to 0.09)        | 0 (0 to 0)                       | -98.75 (-99.49 to -96.39)          |
| Turkey           | 1,477 (811 to 2,417)| 241 (114 to 475) | 1,398.68 (768.29 to 2,289.23) | 0.44 (0.21 to 0.87)      | 3 (1 to 5)                       | -99.80 (-99.92 to -99.57)          |
| United Arab Emirates | 4 (1 to 11)    | 8 (4 to 14)         | 117.59 (26.52 to 303.85) | 0.46 (0.23 to 0.75)      | 4 (0 to 1)                       | -96.91 (-99.30 to -75.06)          |
| Yemen            | 731 (317 to 1,710)| 205 (75 to 476)    | 1,549.33 (672.76 to 3,624.06) | 1.72 (0.63 to 3.99) | 21 (10 to 41)                    | -96.80 (-98.83 to -91.46)          |
| Caribbean        | 416 (236 to 679)| 310 (145 to 526)    | 614.45 (348.58 to 1,003.59) | 0.87 (0.41 to 1.47)      | 48 (23 to 101)                   | -86.93 (-94.99 to -65.08)          |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 0 (0 to 0)       | 0 (0 to 0)         | 31.99 (22.34 to 43.90)  | 0.31 (0.27 to 0.35)        | 0 (0 to 0)                       | -92.73 (-95.87 to -86.97)          |
| Barbados         | 0 (0 to 0)      | 1 (1 to 1)          | 60.34 (38.92 to 90.25)   | 0.46 (0.41 to 0.53)        | 0 (0 to 0)                       | -94.25 (-97.25 to -88.84)          |
| Belize           | 0 (0 to 1)      | 1 (0 to 1)          | 92.67 (63.37 to 133.29)  | 0.41 (0.17 to 0.52)        | 0 (0 to 1)                       | -96.45 (-98.34 to -93.04)          |
| Bermuda          | 0 (0 to 0)      | 0 (0 to 0)          | 4.26 (2.73 to 6.42)     | 0.07 (0.06 to 0.07)        | 0 (0 to 0)                       | -94.58 (-97.40 to -89.70)          |
| Country                        | Neontal Deaths | Non-neontal Deaths | Mortality Rate | Change in Mortality Rate |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Cuba                          | 0 (0 to 0)     | 2 (2 to 3)        | 1.06 (0.87 to 1.29) | 0.02 (0.02 to 0.03)       |
| Dominica                      | 0 (0 to 0)     | 1 (0 to 1)        | 98.14 (67.4 to 140.95) | 0.77 (0.36 to 0.94)       |
| Dominican Republic            | 14 (10 to 18)  | 30 (23 to 50)     | 85.97 (64.23 to 112.33) | 0.42 (0.32 to 0.70)       |
| Grenada                       | 0 (0 to 0)     | 1 (0 to 1)        | 76.71 (42.97 to 121.19) | 0.65 (0.30 to 0.79)       |
| Guyana                        | 1 (1 to 2)     | 2 (1 to 3)        | 67.75 (48.88 to 93.88) | 0.33 (0.15 to 0.40)       |
| Haiti                         | 384 (210 to 637)| 248 (93 to 457)  | 1,947.17 (1,065.07 to 3,231.50) | 3.50 (1.32 to 6.49)       |
| Jamaica                       | 3 (2 to 4)     | 5 (2 to 6)        | 64.21 (41.80 to 94.09) | 0.21 (0.10 to 0.28)       |
| Puerto Rico                   | 0 (0 to 0)     | 2 (2 to 2)        | 0.88 (0.75 to 1.03) | 0.05 (0.05 to 0.09)       |
| Saint Lucia                   | 0 (0 to 0)     | 1 (1 to 1)        | 80.36 (50.47 to 123.45) | 0.62 (0.55 to 0.70)       |
| Suriname                      | 0 (0 to 0)     | 0 (0 to 0)        | 35.86 (24.47 to 51.04) | 0.18 (0.16 to 0.21)       |
| Trinidad and Tobago           | 0 (0 to 0)     | 3 (2 to 3)        | 11.24 (8.92 to 14.23) | 0.21 (0.19 to 0.23)       |
| Virgin Islands, U.S.          | 0 (0 to 0)     | 0 (0 to 0)        | 0.95 (1.33 to 2.85) | 0.02 (0.01 to 0.02)       |
| Southeast Asia                | 10,464 (7,157 to 14,800) | 14,415 (8,364 to 23,523) | 1,118.77 (765.18 to 1,582.32) | 3.13 (1.82 to 5.11) |
| Cambodia                      | 890 (407 to 1,620) | 658 (301 to 1,340) | 3,104.97 (1,419.33 to 5,650.98) | 7.33 (3.36 to 14.92) |
| Indonesia                     | 7,288 (4,168 to 11,357) | 8,739 (4,757 to 15,096) | 2,069.37 (1,183.43 to 3,224.54) | 4.83 (2.63 to 8.34) |
| Laos                          | 572 (296 to 980) | 405 (202 to 782) | 4,276.17 (2,216.13 to 7,325.09) | 9.62 (4.79 to 18.56) |
| Malaysia                      | 4 (2 to 6)     | 22 (12 to 30)     | 9.82 (5.67 to 16.28) | 0.12 (0.06 to 0.17)       |
| Maldives                      | 1 (1 to 2)     | 1 (0 to 1)        | 195.02 (110.32 to 332.12) | 0.37 (0.18 to 0.62)       |
Table 1  Neonatal and non-neonatal tetanus deaths, mortality rates, and change in mortality rates between 1990 and 2015 for 21 Global Burden of Disease regions and 195 countries and territories (Regions ranked from the highest to lowest neonatal mortality rate in 2015)  (Continued)

| Region                  | Neonatal Deaths 1990 (95% CI) | Neonatal Deaths 2015 (95% CI) | Neonatal Mortality Rate 1990 (95% CI) | Neonatal Mortality Rate 2015 (95% CI) | Change in Neonatal Mortality Rate (95% CI) |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Mauritius               | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 1 (1 to 1)                    | 9.56 (7.45 to 12.41)                | 0.06 (0.05 to 0.07)                    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00)                    |
| Myanmar                 | 517 (97 to 954)               | 1,821 (312 to 5,948)          | 612.06 (233.38 to 1,128.90)         | 4.34 (0.74 to 14.18)                  | 21 (10 to 37)                          |
| Philippines             | 200 (163 to 244)              | 1,019 (846 to 1,188)          | 129.45 (105.46 to 158.18)           | 1.65 (1.37 to 1.92)                   | 47 (31 to 64)                          |
| Seychelles              | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 32.38 (21.75 to 47.36)              | 0.44 (0.27 to 0.58)                   | 0 (0 to 0)                              |
| Sri Lanka               | 1 (1 to 2)                    | 6 (5 to 6)                    | 4.97 (4.03 to 5.99)                 | 0.03 (0.03 to 0.04)                   | 1 (0 to 1)                              |
| Thailand                | 127 (87 to 180)               | 465 (254 to 566)              | 155.07 (106.80 to 220.44)           | 0.82 (0.45 to 1.00)                   | 2 (1 to 3)                              |
| Timor-Leste             | 50 (24 to 95)                 | 48 (20 to 103)                | 2,082.18 (964.44 to 3,898.45)       | 6.49 (2.64 to 13.73)                  | 1 (0 to 2)                              |
| Vietnam                 | 800 (380 to 1,522)            | 1,210 (609 to 1,971)          | 540.45 (256.93 to 1,028.69)         | 1.78 (0.89 to 2.89)                   | 22 (11 to 41)                           |
| East Asia               | 136,28 (11,272 to 16,125)     | 8,651 (4,719 to 10,316)       | 669.52 (553.78 to 792.19)           | 0.73 (0.40 to 0.89)                   | 231 (184 to 283)                       |
| China                   | 13,572 (11,215 to 16,085)     | 8,621 (4,703 to 10,287)       | 686.09 (566.96 to 813.15)           | 0.75 (0.41 to 0.81)                   | 222 (177 to 275)                       |
| North Korea             | 56 (20 to 134)                | 26 (11 to 44)                 | 176.26 (62.36 to 422.93)            | 0.13 (0.05 to 0.22)                   | 9 (2 to 29)                            |
| Taiwan                  | 1 (0 to 1)                    | 4 (3 to 6)                    | 2.32 (1.16 to 4.30)                 | 0.02 (0.01 to 0.03)                   | 0 (0 to 0)                              |
| Oceania                 | 6 (3 to 12)                   | 5 (2 to 12)                   | 35.91 (14.92 to 73.03)              | 0.07 (0.03 to 0.18)                   | 2 (1 to 5)                              |
| American Samoa          | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 1.13 (0.75 to 1.70)                 | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)                   | 0 (0 to 0)                              |
| Federated States of Micronesia | 0 (0 to 0) | 0 (0 to 0) | 3.31 (1.53 to 6.21) | 0.02 (0.01 to 0.04) | 0 (0 to 0) |
| Fiji                    | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 0.79 (0.45 to 1.27)                 | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)                   | 0 (0 to 0)                              |
| Guam                    | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 1.01 (0.70 to 1.49)                 | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)                   | 0 (0 to 0)                              |
| Kiribati                | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 1.99 (1.18 to 3.18)                 | 0.02 (0.02 to 0.03)                   | 0 (0 to 0)                              |
| Marshall Islands        | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 7.06 (3.33 to 13.97)                | 0.03 (0.02 to 0.04)                   | 0 (0 to 0)                              |
| Northern Mariana Islands| 0 (0 to 0)                    | 0 (0 to 0)                    | 1.66 (0.54 to 3.55)                 | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02)                   | 0 (0 to 0)                              |

Note: The mortality rates are expressed per 1,000 live births, and the change in mortality rates are calculated as the percentage change from 1990 to 2015.
| Region                                    | Neonatal Mortality Rate 2015 | Neonatal Mortality Rate 2015 | Change in Neonatal Mortality Rate | Change in Neonatal Mortality Rate |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Papua New Guinea                         | 5 (2 to 11)                 | 4 (1 to 10)                 | 2 (1 to 6)                         | 0.09 (0.03 to 0.25)               |
| Samoa                                    | 0 (0 to 0)                  | 0 (0 to 0)                  | 0 (0 to 0)                         | 0.02 (0.01 to 0.04)               |
| Solomon Islands                          | 0 (0 to 0)                  | 0 (0 to 0)                  | 0 (0 to 0)                         | 0.06 (0.02 to 0.15)               |
| Tonga                                    | 0 (0 to 0)                  | 0 (0 to 0)                  | 0 (0 to 0)                         | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02)               |
| Vanuatu                                  | 0 (0 to 0)                  | 0 (0 to 0)                  | 0 (0 to 0)                         | 0.05 (0.02 to 0.10)               |
| Andean Latin America                     | 28 (21 to 35)               | 66 (38 to 76)               | 17 (12 to 37)                      | 0.17 (0.10 to 0.20)               |
| Bolivia                                  | 1 (0 to 2)                  | 3 (1 to 5)                  | 1 (1 to 2)                         | 0.04 (0.01 to 0.07)               |
| Ecuador                                  | 8 (6 to 10)                 | 31 (16 to 36)               | 7 (4 to 21)                        | 0.30 (0.16 to 0.36)               |
| Peru                                     | 19 (13 to 26)               | 33 (20 to 40)               | 8 (6 to 15)                        | 0.15 (0.09 to 0.18)               |
| Tropical Latin America                   | 433 (379 to 496)            | 751 (411 to 833)            | 189 (119 to 263)                   | 0.49 (0.27 to 0.54)               |
| Brazil                                   | 402 (350 to 463)            | 735 (401 to 813)            | 186 (117 to 262)                   | 0.49 (0.27 to 0.54)               |
| Paraguay                                 | 31 (20 to 47)               | 17 (9 to 22)                | 3 (2 to 11)                        | 0.40 (0.22 to 0.52)               |
| Central Latin America                    | 338 (303 to 381)            | 459 (427 to 483)            | 45 (38 to 57)                      | 0.27 (0.25 to 0.29)               |
| Colombia                                 | 81 (65 to 101)              | 90 (82 to 98)               | 10 (8 to 13)                       | 0.26 (0.24 to 0.29)               |
| Costa Rica                               | 0 (0 to 1)                  | 1 (1 to 1)                  | 0 (0 to 0)                         | 0.03 (0.03 to 0.03)               |
| El Salvador                              | 18 (12 to 25)               | 31 (11 to 40)               | 2 (1 to 7)                         | 0.58 (0.21 to 0.79)               |
| Guatemala                                | 5 (4 to 6)                  | 47 (43 to 53)               | 5 (4 to 6)                         | 0.52 (0.47 to 0.58)               |
| Honduras                                 | 19 (12 to 30)               | 16 (8 to 21)                | 11 (6 to 18)                       | 0.33 (0.16 to 0.43)               |
| Mexico                                   | 200 (177 to 228)            | 246 (233 to 260)            | 10 (9 to 13)                       | 0.29 (0.27 to 0.33)               |
| Nicaragua                                | 9 (7 to 13)                 | 8 (3 to 11)                 | 1 (1 to 6)                         | 0.20 (0.08 to 0.25)               |
| Region                        | Neonatal Mortality 1990 | Neonatal Mortality 2015 | Non-neonatal Mortality 1990 | Non-neonatal Mortality 2015 | Change in Neonatal Mortality 1990-2015 | Change in Non-neonatal Mortality 1990-2015 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Panama                        | 2 (1 to 3)              | 1 (1 to 1)              | 37.28 (25.89 to 52.26)      | 0.05 (0.02 to 0.09)         | 0 (0 to 1)                             | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00)                        |
| Venezuela                     | 4 (4 to 5)               | 19 (17 to 21)           | 9.88 (8.17 to 11.86)        | 0.10 (0.09 to 0.10)         | 1 (1 to 2)                             | 5 (4 to 7)                                 |
| Southern Sub-Saharan Africa   | 31 (23 to 39)            | 58 (33 to 83)           | 24.78 (18.04 to 30.95)      | 0.11 (0.06 to 0.16)         | 3 (2 to 4)                             | 33 (24 to 60)                              |
| Botswana                      | 1 (0 to 2)               | 2 (0 to 7)              | 18.67 (6.46 to 44.78)       | 0.13 (0.03 to 0.48)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 1 (0 to 4)                                 |
| Lesotho                       | 3 (1 to 6)               | 7 (1 to 19)             | 66.37 (24.80 to 142.61)     | 0.42 (0.08 to 1.19)         | 1 (0 to 1)                             | 119.6 (45.0 to 246.9)                      |
| Namibia                       | 1 (0 to 2)               | 2 (1 to 5)              | 24.47 (12.07 to 48.83)      | 0.17 (0.05 to 0.34)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 1 (0 to 2)                                 |
| South Africa                  | 25 (17 to 33)            | 39 (22 to 55)           | 31.04 (20.66 to 40.36)      | 0.10 (0.06 to 0.15)         | 2 (1 to 3)                             | 19 (14 to 33)                              |
| Swaziland                     | 0 (0 to 1)               | 1 (0 to 3)              | 14.70 (5.14 to 34.86)       | 0.13 (0.05 to 0.30)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 1 (0 to 1)                                 |
| Zimbabwe                      | 1 (0 to 2)               | 7 (3 to 13)             | 3.18 (1.53 to 6.41)         | 0.06 (0.03 to 0.12)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 9 (4 to 19)                                |
| Southern Latin America        | 5 (5 to 6)               | 39 (35 to 42)           | 6.72 (5.72 to 8.07)         | 0.08 (0.07 to 0.09)         | 1 (0 to 1)                             | 5 (4 to 6)                                 |
| Argentina                     | 4 (4 to 6)               | 31 (28 to 35)           | 8.25 (6.84 to 10.24)        | 0.10 (0.09 to 0.11)         | 0 (0 to 1)                             | 3 (3 to 5)                                 |
| Chile                         | 1 (1 to 1)               | 5 (5 to 6)              | 3.12 (2.55 to 3.96)         | 0.04 (0.04 to 0.04)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 1 (1 to 1)                                 |
| Uruguay                       | 0 (0 to 0)               | 2 (1 to 2)              | 5.57 (4.14 to 7.60)         | 0.05 (0.05 to 0.05)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 0.38 (0.25 to 0.57)                        |
| High-income Asia Pacific      | 7 (5 to 11)              | 53 (49 to 56)           | 4.77 (3.44 to 7.12)         | 0.03 (0.03 to 0.03)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 13 (11 to 16)                              |
| Brunei                        | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0 (0 to 0)              | 9.78 (5.43 to 17.15)        | 0.10 (0.05 to 0.16)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 0 (0 to 1)                                 |
| Japan                         | 1 (1 to 1)               | 25 (24 to 26)           | 0.89 (0.81 to 0.96)         | 0.02 (0.02 to 0.02)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 7 (6 to 9)                                 |
| Singapore                     | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0 (0 to 0)              | 1.13 (0.93 to 1.38)         | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 0.12 (0.08 to 0.16)                        |
| South Korea                   | 6 (4 to 10)              | 27 (24 to 30)           | 12.44 (8.46 to 19.46)       | 0.06 (0.06 to 0.07)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 5 (4 to 7)                                 |
| Central Asia                  | 2 (2 to 2)               | 19 (13 to 21)           | 1.26 (1.11 to 1.42)         | 0.03 (0.02 to 0.03)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 8 (7 to 12)                                |
| Armenia                       | 0 (0 to 0)               | 1 (1 to 1)              | 0.79 (0.62 to 0.99)         | 0.03 (0.02 to 0.03)         | 0 (0 to 0)                             | 0 (0 to 1)                                 |

Table 1 Neonatal and non-neonatal tetanus deaths, mortality rates, and change in mortality rates between 1990 and 2015 for 21 Global Burden of Disease regions and 195 countries and territories (Regions ranked from the highest to lowest neonatal mortality rate in 2015) (Continued)
Table 1 Neonatal and non-neonatal tetanus deaths, mortality rates, and change in mortality rates between 1990 and 2015 for 21 Global Burden of Disease regions and 195 countries and territories (Regions ranked from the highest to lowest neonatal mortality rate in 2015) (Continued)

| Country                  | Neonatal Mortality Rate | Non-neonatal Mortality Rate | Change in Mortality Rate |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Azerbaijan               | 0 (0 to 0)              | 2 (1 to 3)                  | 2.05 (1.53 to 2.63)      |
| Georgia                  | 0 (0 to 0)              | 2 (1 to 3)                  | 0.77 (0.59 to 0.99)      |
| Kazakhstan               | 0 (0 to 0)              | 6 (6 to 7)                  | 0.86 (0.71 to 1.03)      |
| Kyrgyzstan               | 0 (0 to 0)              | 1 (0 to 1)                  | 0.83 (0.66 to 1.03)      |
| Mongolia                 | 0 (0 to 0)              | 0 (0 to 1)                  | 1.02 (0.54 to 1.69)      |
| Tajikistan               | 0 (0 to 0)              | 1 (1 to 1)                  | 2.06 (1.54 to 2.71)      |
| Turkmenistan             | 0 (0 to 0)              | 1 (1 to 1)                  | 3.72 (2.71 to 5.05)      |
| Uzbekistan               | 0 (0 to 1)              | 4 (3 to 4)                  | 0.77 (0.59 to 0.97)      |
| **High-income North America** | 3 (3 to 3)              | 42 (40 to 44)               | 0.89 (0.82 to 0.96)      |
| Canada                   | 0 (0 to 0)              | 3 (3 to 3)                  | 0.83 (0.71 to 0.98)      |
| Greenland                | 0 (0 to 0)              | 0 (0 to 0)                  | 1.21 (0.77 to 1.72)      |
| United States            | 3 (3 to 3)              | 39 (37 to 41)               | 0.89 (0.83 to 0.97)      |
| **Central Europe**       | 3 (2 to 3)              | 77 (69 to 86)               | 1.90 (1.44 to 2.65)      |
| Albania                  | 0 (0 to 0)              | 1 (0 to 1)                  | 3.72 (2.50 to 5.35)      |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina   | 0 (0 to 0)              | 1 (1 to 2)                  | 0.79 (0.52 to 1.21)      |
| Bulgaria                 | 0 (0 to 0)              | 3 (3 to 4)                  | 0.95 (0.79 to 1.16)      |
| Croatia                  | 0 (0 to 0)              | 6 (5 to 7)                  | 0.87 (0.73 to 1.02)      |
| Czech Republic           | 0 (0 to 0)              | 2 (1 to 2)                  | 0.90 (0.74 to 1.08)      |
| Hungary                  | 0 (0 to 0)              | 15 (13 to 17)               | 0.97 (0.82 to 1.13)      |
| Macedonia                | 0 (0 to 0)              | 0 (0 to 1)                  | 1.28 (0.84 to 1.78)      |
| Country          | Deaths     | Cases       | Mortality Rate | Confidence Interval 95% | Mortality Rate | Confidence Interval 95% |
|------------------|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Montenegro       | 0 (0 to 0) | 0 (0 to 0)  | 0.89 (0.35 to 1.84) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)     | 0.00 (0 to 0)  | 0.10 (0 to 0)  |
| Poland           | 0 (0 to 1) | 32 (27 to 37) | 1.06 (0.90 to 1.29) | 0.08 (0.07 to 0.10)     | 0.10 (0.06 to 0.16) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)  |
| Romania          | 1 (0 to 1) | 10 (9 to 10) | 2.41 (1.86 to 3.15) | 0.04 (0.04 to 0.04)     | 0.25 (0.15 to 0.39) | 0.03 (0.02 to 0.04)  |
| Serbia           | 1 (0 to 2) | 7 (2 to 12)  | 7.26 (2.50 to 16.55) | 0.07 (0.02 to 0.13)     | 0.25 (0.16 to 0.40) | 0.03 (0.01 to 0.04)  |
| Slovakia         | 0 (0 to 0) | 1 (1 to 1)   | 0.85 (0.61 to 1.14) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02)     | 0.11 (0.07 to 0.16) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)  |
| Slovenia         | 0 (0 to 0) | 1 (1 to 1)   | 1.95 (1.56 to 2.40) | 0.04 (0.04 to 0.03)     | 0.15 (0.07 to 0.20) | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.01)  |
| Western Europe   | 6 (5 to 7) | 205 (189 to 223) | 1.83 (1.62 to 2.14) | 0.05 (0.05 to 0.06)     | 0.13 (0.11 to 0.17) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)  |
| Andorra          | 0 (0 to 0) | 0 (0 to 0)   | 0.49 (0.25 to 0.91) | 0.02 (0.01 to 0.03)     | 0.04 (0.02 to 0.07) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)  |
| Austria          | 0 (0 to 0) | 1 (1 to 2)   | 0.88 (0.74 to 1.05) | 0.02 (0.02 to 0.03)     | 0.13 (0.09 to 0.17) | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00)  |
| Belgium          | 0 (0 to 0) | 3 (2 to 3)   | 0.89 (0.74 to 1.08) | 0.03 (0.02 to 0.03)     | 0.12 (0.09 to 0.16) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)  |
| Cyprus           | 0 (0 to 0) | 0 (0 to 0)   | 1.99 (1.27 to 3.12) | 0.02 (0.01 to 0.03)     | 0.15 (0.10 to 0.22) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)  |
| Denmark          | 0 (0 to 0) | 1 (1 to 1)   | 0.93 (0.78 to 1.12) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02)     | 0.14 (0.09 to 0.19) | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00)  |
| Finland          | 0 (0 to 0) | 1 (1 to 1)   | 0.92 (0.76 to 1.11) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02)     | 0.12 (0.07 to 0.16) | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00)  |
| France           | 1 (0 to 1) | 60 (48 to 74) | 0.90 (0.76 to 1.05) | 0.11 (0.08 to 0.13)     | 0.11 (0.07 to 0.17) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)  |
| Germany          | 1 (0 to 1) | 12 (11 to 14) | 0.87 (0.74 to 1.03) | 0.02 (0.01 to 0.02)     | 0.12 (0.08 to 0.17) | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00)  |
| Greece           | 0 (0 to 0) | 3 (3 to 3)   | 1.76 (1.39 to 2.29) | 0.03 (0.03 to 0.03)     | 0.45 (0.30 to 0.70) | 0.02 (0.01 to 0.03)  |
| Iceland          | 0 (0 to 0) | 0 (0 to 0)   | 0.81 (0.66 to 0.97) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)     | 0.09 (0.06 to 0.13) | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00)  |
| Ireland          | 0 (0 to 0) | 0 (0 to 0)   | 0.90 (0.74 to 1.08) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)     | 0.10 (0.07 to 0.13) | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00)  |
| Israel           | 0 (0 to 0) | 0 (0 to 0)   | 0.91 (0.76 to 1.10) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01)     | 0.11 (0.08 to 0.15) | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00)  |
| Italy            | 0 (0 to 1) | 60 (52 to 70) | 1.15 (0.95 to 1.39) | 0.11 (0.09 to 0.12)     | 0.13 (0.09 to 0.20) | 0.03 (0.02 to 0.05)  |
| Region                  | Neonatal Deaths (0 to 0) | Neomortality (0 to 0) | Mortality (0 to 0) | Change (0 to 0) | Change (0 to 0) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Luxembourg              | 0 (0 to 0)               | 1.62 (1.33 to 2.02)   | 0.04 (0.04 to 0.05) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.01) |
| Malta                   | 0 (0 to 0)               | 6.80 (5.16 to 9.05)   | 0.15 (0.13 to 0.17) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01) |
| Netherlands             | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0.90 (0.75 to 1.08)   | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Northern Ireland        | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0.88 (0.73 to 1.04)   | 0.02 (0.01 to 0.02) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Norway                  | 1 (0 to 1)               | 0.93 (0.78 to 1.09)   | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Portugal                | 2 (1 to 2)               | 17 (15 to 20)         | 0.17 (0.15 to 0.20) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.01 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Scotland                | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0.85 (0.72 to 1.00)   | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Spain                   | 2 (1 to 2)               | 32 (28 to 36)         | 0.08 (0.07 to 0.09) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.01 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Sweden                  | 0 (0 to 0)               | 1.23 (1.03 to 1.43)   | 0.02 (0.02 to 0.02) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Switzerland             | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0.92 (0.77 to 1.13)   | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| United Kingdom          | 1 (0 to 1)               | 8 (7 to 8)            | 0.84 (0.77 to 0.92) | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.01) | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Australasia             | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0.89 (0.77 to 1.02)   | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Australia               | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0.89 (0.75 to 1.05)   | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| New Zealand             | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0.88 (0.74 to 1.04)   | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Eastern Europe          | 2 (2 to 2)               | 92 (82 to 104)        | 0.80 (0.71 to 0.91) | 0.04 (0.04 to 0.05) | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Belarus                 | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0.82 (0.60 to 1.11)   | 0.04 (0.01 to 0.04) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.01 (0.00 to 0.02) |
| Estonia                 | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0.97 (0.76 to 1.20)   | 0.02 (0.02 to 0.03) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Latvia                  | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0.88 (0.72 to 1.05)   | 0.02 (0.02 to 0.02) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.00 (0.00 to 0.00) |
| Lithuania               | 0 (0 to 0)               | 0.83 (0.68 to 0.99)   | 0.04 (0.04 to 0.05) | 0.0 (0 to 0)    | 0.01 (0.00 to 0.01) |
Table 1 Neonatal and non-neonatal tetanus deaths, mortality rates, and change in mortality rates between 1990 and 2015 for 21 Global Burden of Disease regions and 195 countries and territories (Regions ranked from the highest to lowest neonatal mortality rate in 2015) (Continued)

| Country   | Neonatal Deaths (1990) | Neonatal Deaths (2015) | Neonatal Mortality Rate (1990) | Neonatal Mortality Rate (2015) | Change in Mortality Rate (1990-2015) |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Moldova   | 0 (0 to 0)             | 1 (1 to 1)             | 0.77 (0.61 to 0.96)             | 0.01 (0.01 to 0.02)             | 0.08 (0.05 to 0.13)                |
| Russia    | 1 (1 to 1)             | 33 (29 to 39)          | 0.79 (0.67 to 0.93)             | 0.02 (0.02 to 0.03)             | 0.12 (0.09 to 0.15)               |
| Ukraine   | 0 (0 to 1)             | 52 (45 to 61)          | 0.82 (0.63 to 1.04)             | 0.10 (0.09 to 0.12)             | 0.11 (0.06 to 0.19)               |
Tetanus mortality rates were the highest among neonates in low and middle income countries, indicating failures of health systems to provide immunization, antenatal care, and clean deliveries for all births. Mortality rates from tetanus after the neonatal period were much higher in low and middle income countries compared with high income countries, but a small number of deaths continued to occur in high income countries due to low vaccination coverage in adults [14, 15]. Our findings showed that age-standardized mortality from tetanus was higher among males than females globally. Previous studies have also reported male sex as a risk factor for both neonatal and non-neonatal tetanus [16, 17]. Although the exact reason is not clear, possible explanation for the increased risk of tetanus among newborn boys include medical-care seeking for boys, differential cord care, maternal recall, and
circumcision practices [13, 16]. Among adults, occupational exposure and relatively lower vaccination coverage in men were among the reasons for the increased risk [17].

A main limitation of this study concerns the poor availability of data in many sub-Saharan African countries where tetanus mortality is most common. For countries without reliable vital registration systems, our analysis relies on verbal autopsy data. Variations in analytical methods and the instrument used for collection of verbal autopsy data may also introduce measurement bias and reduce the comparability of tetanus cause-of-death data across countries. Estimating tetanus mortality for every geography over time is challenging especially for those with sparse or no data. We applied sophisticated modeling methods, borrowing strength across geography and covariates to help predict for locations and years with limited data. Accordingly, the estimates for a geography with sparse data are reflected by wider uncertainty intervals.

Conclusions

Up-to-date information on the levels and trends of tetanus mortality is critical to guide prevention and intervention efforts. Despite the availability of a safe, inexpensive, and effective vaccine, our findings on tetanus mortality suggest that the vaccine is not fully utilized. Despite the general decline in tetanus mortality, tens of thousands of lives could still be saved by scaling up interventions.

Additional file

Additional file 1: Tetanus data sources and citations. (XLS 114 kb)

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Availability of data and material

The data sources that support the findings of this study are available as Additional file 1. The datasets generated during the current study are available through the GBD Results Tool (http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-results-tool). Additionally, metadata for all sources of raw data analysed in the current study are available in the GBD Data Input Sources Tool (http://ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-2015/data-input-sources), which includes information about the data provider where interested parties can inquire about data access. Some restrictions apply to the availability of unpublished data, which were used under license for the current study, and so are not..
publicly available. Unpublished data are however available from the authors upon reasonable request and with permission of the providers of those data.

Authors’ contributions
HHK, JEM, TV, and MN prepared the first draft of the manuscript. HHK performed the data analyses with support from RMB, CJLM and MN. All authors contributed to the interpretation of the data and writing of the article. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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Not applicable.

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