ABSTRACT

Characteristics of Maternal Deaths in Berau Regency, Indonesia, 2026

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Background : Maternal mortality remains a major public health concern, reflecting challenges in obstetric care and access to maternal health services. Describing maternal deaths can provide information for evaluating maternal healthcare delivery.

Objective: To describe maternal characteristics, clinical classifications, timing and location of death, and referral-related circumstances among maternal deaths in Berau Regency in 2026.

Methods: A descriptive study was conducted using secondary records of maternal deaths reported in Berau Regency from January to September 2026. All seven recorded cases were included. Maternal characteristics, clinical classifications, timing and location of death, referral status, and residential area were summarized using frequencies and percentages.

Results: Seven maternal deaths were recorded. Four women (57.1%) were aged 17–35 years, and six (85.7%) had experienced four or fewer pregnancies. Four deaths (57.1%) occurred during pregnancy and three (42.9%) during the postpartum period. Clinical classifications included non-obstetric complications (57.1%), other obstetric complications (28.6%), and hypertension (14.3%). Six deaths (85.7%) occurred in government hospitals, four (57.1%) involved referrals, and five (71.4%) involved residents of remote areas.

Conclusion: Among seven recorded maternal deaths, most occurred in government hospitals and six from seven cases from remote and very remote areas. These descriptive findings characterize the recorded deaths but cannot establish determinants of maternal mortality or the quality of referral services.

Keyword : maternal mortality; maternal deaths; obstetric complications; maternal healthcare; referral system