



## Weekly News Review – 12 May 2017

A week of important numbers.

[Gutmacher](#) released an encapsulation of what US international family planning assistance does and how it could be damaged by the Trump administration's proposals: "In FY 2017, **\$607.5 million** made it possible to achieve **26 million** women and couples receiving contraceptive services and supplies; **8 million** unintended pregnancies, **including 3 million** unplanned births, averted; **3.3 million** induced abortions averted (the majority of which are provided in unsafe conditions); and **15,000** maternal deaths averted... All the benefits detailed above would be erased if U.S. assistance for international family planning and reproductive health programs was eliminated. Moreover, each decrease of **\$10 million** in U.S. funding would result in **433,000** fewer women and couples receiving contraceptive services and supplies; **128,000** more unintended pregnancies, including **57,000** more unplanned births; **55,000** more abortions (the majority of which are provided in unsafe conditions); and **250** more maternal deaths."

Domestically, an NPR investigation shows the ["U.S. Has The Worst Rate of Maternal Deaths in The Developed World"](#) (MMR 26.4). Forbes cites [3 ways "Trumpcare" would end abortion](#).

A sobering report from the UNFPA that [300,000 women die during pregnancy](#) globally. So many people are working hard around the world to reduce that number including [these 4 women](#) supported by USAID in Africa and Asia.

Social Good Moms notes [5 maternal health interventions](#) that can save lives, while an article in the Huffington Post looks at [4 ways FP investments](#) can reduce maternal deaths.

And the birth control pill was released [57 years ago](#) and "never stopped being radical."

The week following International Day of the Midwife is International Nursing Week, so many articles continued to look at their essential frontline importance, in [Ethiopia](#), [Ghana](#), [Liberia](#) and [Nigeria](#), as well as a brave Zambian woman who travelled to [South Sudan](#) to serve the refugee population there.

194 nations will attend the World Health Organization World Health Assembly will get under way May 22, where in addition to discussing the new Ebola threat in DRC, the most important decision may be the election of the new WHO Director-General. Global Health Now concluded its excellent series of articles about the three candidates: [Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#), [David Nabarro](#) and [Sania Nishtar](#). [UNAIDS](#) had its particular questions for the candidates, while the White Ribbon Alliance is calling for the new D-G to promote ["self-care" solutions](#) and the Guardian asks for [reform and courage](#).

U-M's Michelle Moniz published research that shows ["Access to Long-Lasting Contraception After Childbirth Lags Behind Demand"](#) in the US, concluding "We need to remove the barriers that prevent women from getting their preferred method of contraception in a way that's most convenient for them... Expanding access to reversible contraception after childbirth will have a far-reaching impact."

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