Adolescent pregnancy remains a major contributor to Maternal and Child mortality, and to the vicious cycle of ill-health and poverty. The Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2010, stresses the importance of addressing the health and welfare of adolescent girls in order to achieve the fifth Millennium Development Goal on Maternal Mortality reduction. We know that investing more in women’s and children’s health is not only the right thing to do; it also builds stable, peaceful and productive societies.

Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among girls aged 14-19 years in many low- and middle- income countries. Stillbirths and newborn deaths are 50% higher among infants born to adolescent mothers compared to those born to mothers aged 20-29 years. Infants of adolescent mothers are also more likely to have low birth weight, which can have a long-term impact on their health and development.

We present a ten year retrospective review of the obstetric outcomes in Teenage Mothers in the County Town of Dorset United Kingdom. Of the 19,950 deliveries in the years under review (2002 – 2011), 1578 (7.91%) were amongst Teenage Mothers. This is comparable to rates quoted by previous studies. Our population is largely White Middle Class, and controlling for the confounding effects of sociodemographic variables on reproductive outcomes, it would appear that a young age in the mother increases the risks of untoward pregnancy outcome and this trend can only be attributed to biologic immaturity.