Quality Assessment of the Philippine Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

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Background

- Civil Registration in the Philippines has gone through various significant developments from the time it was legally instituted as a system with ratification of Act No. 3753 (Civil Registration Law) in 1930.

- Legal and Institutional Framework:
  As a state policy, the system mandates the basic and compulsory registration of all vital events and the accompanying changes in the civil status of every Filipino citizen.
In terms of the system’s structure, the Philippines presents a robust mechanism with its legally defined operational and administrative setup, from the municipality, where the unit of vital registration is fixed to the central depository of the vital documents at the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Under Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Governance Code), civil registration is a function of the local government through the City/Municipal Civil Registrar but is under the technical supervision of the Civil Registrar General, concurrent National Statistician of the PSA.
Accomplished birth/marriage/death forms are submitted to the Local Civil Registry Office (LCRO) within 30 days following the occurrence of the event.
At the LCRO, the forms are: checked for completeness and correctness of entries, entered in the Registry Book, assigned a Registry Number, and encoded in the Philippine Civil Registry Information System (PhilCRIS).
Civil registration forms and data files are forwarded to the PSA Provincial Office. Some forms not encoded in the PhilCRIS are encoded in the Decentralized Vital Statistics System (DVSS). The forms and datafiles are then forwarded to the PSA Central Office six weeks after the reference period.
At the Vital Statistics Division of the PSA, the forms and data files are checked for completeness and consistency of entries.
The data are further evaluated for statistical purposes.
PhilCRIS

Philippine Civil Registry Information System is a windows-based software available for use by the Offices of the Local Civil Registrars.

Some features are data management and maintenance of the local civil registry database and enables encoding of relevant information from civil registry documents.
Current Processes

- DVSS

Decentralized Vital Statistics System was developed to improve the decentralized processing of the civil registry documents and generation of vital statistics at the PSA Provincial Offices.

It aims to generate vital statistics at the city/municipal, provincial, regional and national level, and facilitate data conversion specifically on the generation of indices.
Current Processes

- Checking for completeness and consistency of entries (forms vs. data files)
- 100% verification of codes of causes of death
- Data evaluation for age-sex accuracy using Age-Sex Ratio Analysis, UN Age-Sex Accuracy Index, Myer’s Index and Whipple’s Index
- Computation of level of completeness of birth and death registration
Current Processes

- Civil registration forms are reviewed in partnership with the Department of Health, selected civil registrars, physicians, and other stakeholders.
- To conform with international standards.
- To improve reporting of information.
- To provide more data for health policy and program.
Current Processes

- Human resources training
  - training on data evaluation, CR systems, ICD-10 coding
- Capacity building for civil registration stakeholders
  - conduct of conventions, seminars and trainings
Current Processes

- Partnership with Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative (D4HI)
  - Collaboration project with Vital Strategies and University of Melbourne to improve the timeliness, completeness, and accuracy of generated vital statistics from 2015 to 2019.
  - The project aims to introduce interventions and trainings available under D4HI that will support the national CRVS priorities for the systematic review of the CRVS system and improving the quality of birth and death registration systems including causes of death in the country.
Current Processes

- Partnership with Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative (D4HI)

Four objectives of the project:

1. Undertake CRVS Enterprise Architecture (EA) analysis
   EA is a diagnostic tool that can be used to provide a systematic review of the CRVS system

2. Improve quality of vital statistics data through Analysis of Causes of National Deaths for Action or ANACONDA
   ANACONDA is a tool for checking the quality of mortality data which provides a step by step approach to enable users to quickly conduct a comprehensive review of the mortality levels and causes of death
Current Processes

- Partnership with Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative (D4HI)

Four objectives of the project:

(3) Build capacity for data-driven continuous quality improvement with focus on estimating completeness of birth and death registration

Using old and latest census results

(4) Introduce and support automated coding through IRIS tool.

IRIS is another tool which provides interactive coding software specifically developed for coding of causes of death and to select the underlying cause of death.
Moving forward...
Moving forward…

Implementation of the New CR Forms
Moving forward...

Improvement and revision of CR systems to incorporate automatic coding of causes of death using IRIS.
Moving forward...

Cascading of ANACONDA to PSA provincial offices
Moving forward…

Generation of estimates of level of completeness of birth and death registration within 3 years
Moving forward…

Continue capacity building such as training of health workers, coders of death, and civil registrars.
Moving forward…

Civil Registry System Information Technology Project Phase 2 (CRS-ITP2)

- A 12-year PPP project that involves computerization of civil registry (CR) operation of the PSA
- Designed to collect, access store, maintain and manage CR documents and the specimen signatures of all city/municipality registrars using imaging technology
Moving forward...

Record Linkage Study

- Death records from civil registration with death reports for 2012-2014 from 2015 Census of Population