



IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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Title

IMPACT ON REGISTRY AND STATE



IMPACT ON VITAL STATISTICS



DIGITIZATION OF RECORDS



IMPACT
ON -
REGISTRY
AND STATE



The main impact on the Civil Registry in Antigua and Barbuda:

1. The members of staff within the Civil Registration Division at the High Court were placed on a shift system with effect from March 31, 2020. By April 2 2020, there was total closure of Office.
2. Total closure meant no registrations were being effected. Few staff members were allowed to register new deaths in order to facilitate funerals. No other registrations were being facilitated. The Birthing stations continued to prepare the notification of new births but had to hold the same until the reopening of the Office. There was a delay in registering new births during the lockdown period (April/May).

a. The main impact on the Civil Registry in Antigua and Barbuda:

3. The nature of customer service changed. In the initial stage, the public was not allowed to enter the building. This was changed to a limited number persons were allowed in the building once they wore a mask, sanitized and got their temperature checked. The drop box service and next day pickup were implemented. Currently, the next day service is still in effect.

4. The automation project got a boost as time during the curfew period was spent on sorting and boxing of documents and files in preparation for the move of the Civil Registration Department.

a. The main impact on the Civil Registry in Antigua and Barbuda:

5. The new site for the Civil Registry was renovated and made ready during the lockdown period, during the period February to May 2020. The workmen were able to work unhindered while there was little traffic in the city and after curfew hours. The new Civil Registry was launched in September 2020.

6. The new policy of no new hire throughout the Civil Service was implemented, which meant that no persons outside on the Government service could be hired. This was due to the negative impact of the pandemic on the financial and economic resources of the State.

a. The main impact on the Civil Registry in Antigua and Barbuda:

7. There was increase in staff complement was a result of the pandemic. Prior to the lockdown, some 15 persons were interviewed as potential trainees for the new Civil Registry via the Work Experience Job Programme where only 11 were to be selected. The closure of departments, schools, offices, and hotels caused many trainees to be at home without a place to work. 17 persons were sent to work at the Office between April and July 2020. To date 15 were kept and are in the process of being migrated in the Civil Service.

8. The shortage of financial resources has caused a delay in the implementation of the CRVS automation system developed by HID Global formerly De La Rue. The delay in making contractual payments exacerbated by the downturn in the economy halted the project and the projected “go live date” for the first phase of the new system was shifted from April 2020 to February 2021.

b. What are the innovations or changes implemented by the countries in order to cushion the impacts?

1. The Government implemented the following measures to cushion the impact of the pandemic on the economy:
2. Reduction in duty on food, toiletries, cleaning products, and items needed for the protocols being shipped from overseas.
3. Reduction and/or removal of taxes on cleaning products, masks, sanitizers, and other items required for the protocols sold locally.
4. Negotiated moratorium for persons with loans with Financial Institutions.

b. What are the innovations or changes implemented by the countries in order to cushion the impacts?

5. Created further incentives for persons desirous of constructing homes or commercial buildings and opportunities for construction workers. For example, 5 Government construction projects were completed during the pandemic period, boosting the construction sector.

6. Created incentives to farmers to increase local production of vegetables, fruits, eggs and livestock.

7. Backyard gardening project by providing members of the public with seedlings and plants to plant on their property.

8. Negotiated a reduction in the cost of utilities during the lockdown period.

IMPACT ON VITAL STATISTICS



Comparative Statistics for deaths throughout the 6 parishes of Antigua and Barbuda during the pandemic



Parish of St. John

| 2020 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|--|
| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | |
| 61 | 61 | 39 | 30 | 35 | 39 | 52 | 47 | 44 | 38 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2019 | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | |
| 43 | 38 | 40 | 46 | 40 | 29 | 29 | 38 | 38 | 39 | |

Total: 2019 - 446

2020 – 380

Parish of St. George

| 2019 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
| 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 2020 | | | | | | | | | |
| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
| 4 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 |

Total: 2019 - 19

2020 - 17

Parish of St. Peter

| 2020 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 |

| 2019 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |

Total: 2019 - 8

2020 - 15

Parish of St. Phillip

| 2020 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 |

| 2019 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

Total: 2019 - 8

2020 - 8

Parish of St. Mary

| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 |

2019

| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Total: 2019 - 21

2020 - 22

Barbuda

| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

2019

| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Total: 2019 - 2 2020 - 3

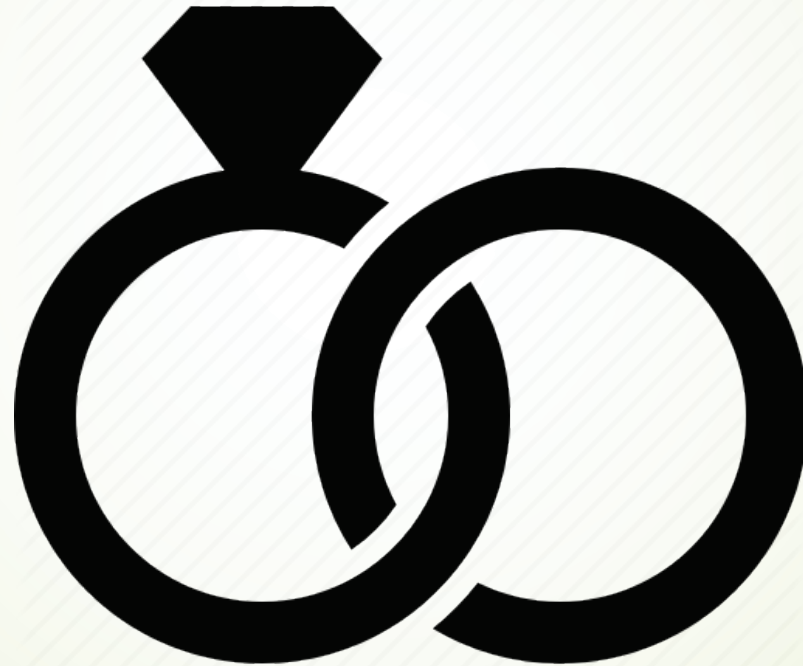
Comparative Statistics for births throughout the 6 parishes of Antigua and Barbuda during the pandemic



The impact of the pandemic on the number of births cannot accurately be measured during the subject period.

| YEAR | MONTH | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL |
|------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | |
| 2019 | 116 | 91 | 103 | 64 | 100 | 83 | 80 | 96 | 77 | 102 | 912 |
| 2020 | 69 | 92 | 83 | 39 | 127 | 108 | 97 | 72 | 110 | 132 | 929 |

**Comparative statistics for marriages performed in the
first ten months of 2019 and 2020**



| | | |
|----------------------|------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 |
| Marriages by banns | 142 | 116 |
| Marriages by Licence | 590 | 364 (destination weddings included) |


Please note that the performance of marriages was prohibited during the period April to May 2020. A few marriages were still facilitated although the ports were closed between April and June 1 2020.

| MONTH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL | |
|-------------|---------|----------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| January | | February | | March | | April | | May | | June | | July | | August | | September | | October | | Banns | Licence |
| Banns | Licence | Banns | Licence | Banns | Licence | Banns | Licence | Banns | Licence | Banns | Licence | Banns | Licence | Banns | Licence | Banns | Licence | Banns | Licence | | |
| 10 | 52 | 8 | 37 | 15 | 59 | 8 | 57 | 17 | 97 | 4 | 70 | 17 | 72 | 35 | 57 | 14 | 38 | 14 | 51 | 142 | 590 |
| 11 | 56 | 9 | 53 | 15 | 59 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 30 | 24 | 39 | 27 | 56 | 8 | 24 | 12 | 43 | 116 | 364 |
| MONTH TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL | |
| January | | February | | March | | April | | May | | June | | July | | August | | September | | October | | Banns | Licence |
| 62 | | 45 | | 74 | | 65 | | 114 | | 74 | | 89 | | 92 | | 52 | | 65 | | | |
| 67 | | 62 | | 74 | | 1 | | 7 | | 36 | | 63 | | 83 | | 32 | | 55 | | 480 | |



Comparative statistics for divorces for the first ten months of 2019 and 2020





The comparative figures for the number of petitions filed in the High Court the months January to October for both 2019 and 2020 -

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| January to October 2019 | 180 |
| January to October 2020 | 124 |



Trends noted:

There has been an increase in filings for divorces by the Legal Aid and Advice Centre as well as applicants in person since the lockdown.

The opening of a Service Bureau at the High Court to facilitate filings by applicants or Claimants in person also contributed to the increase in users of the Bureau.

This enables Petitioners to reduce legal fees for these services. This service came onstream sooner than intended because of the changes in the filing system in the High Courts throughout the OECS.

DIGITIZATION OF RECORDS



Are the civil registry and vital statistics system digitized?

ABCRCR is at the first stage of automation. Most of the records from 1925 to 2010 were digitized under the OAS Universal Civil Identity Program of the Americas, which commenced the implementation of the Caribbean Civil Registry Information System (CCRIS) in Antigua and Barbuda in 2011. CCRIS was successful in capturing majority of the birth and death records at different periods in different parishes up to 2010. It was intended to ease the load of having to conduct searches manually as well as to digitize records. However, CCRIS was limited and did not facilitate searches.

The WOLF programme was created by two staff members to give the department the ability to conduct digital searches of the births and deaths registers, digitize records and print certificates using ready-made templates.



Can the civil registry and vital statistics system generate statistics based on both on the date of occurrence and on the date of registration?

The statistics currently generated by the ABCR are done via manual search of the database as the automation of the Registry is still in its first stage, namely data entry. The registers do reflect both dates of occurrence and registration.