



“Webinar on the Impact of COVID-19 on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics ”

Registrar General's Department,
Jamaica

Presenter: Mr. Charlton McFarlane, Chief Executive Officer,
Registrar General & Deputy Keeper of the Records

Presentation Outline:

- Main impacts of the pandemic on RGD
- Innovations or changes implemented
- Comparison of number of deaths in 2019 with 2020
- Comparison of number of births in 2019 with 2020
- Comparison of number of marriages in 2019 with 2020
- Statistics based on date of occurrence and date of registration
- Digitisation of the civil registry and vital statistics systems

MAIN IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON RGD

- Delayed registration during the periods of lockdown in April 2020
- Decreased customer levels and revenue from our main services
- Decrease in marriage registrations – registry weddings and other types
- Brought into sharp focus the need to widen our reach and presence to our customers via online platforms

INNOVATIONS OR CHANGES IMPLEMENTED

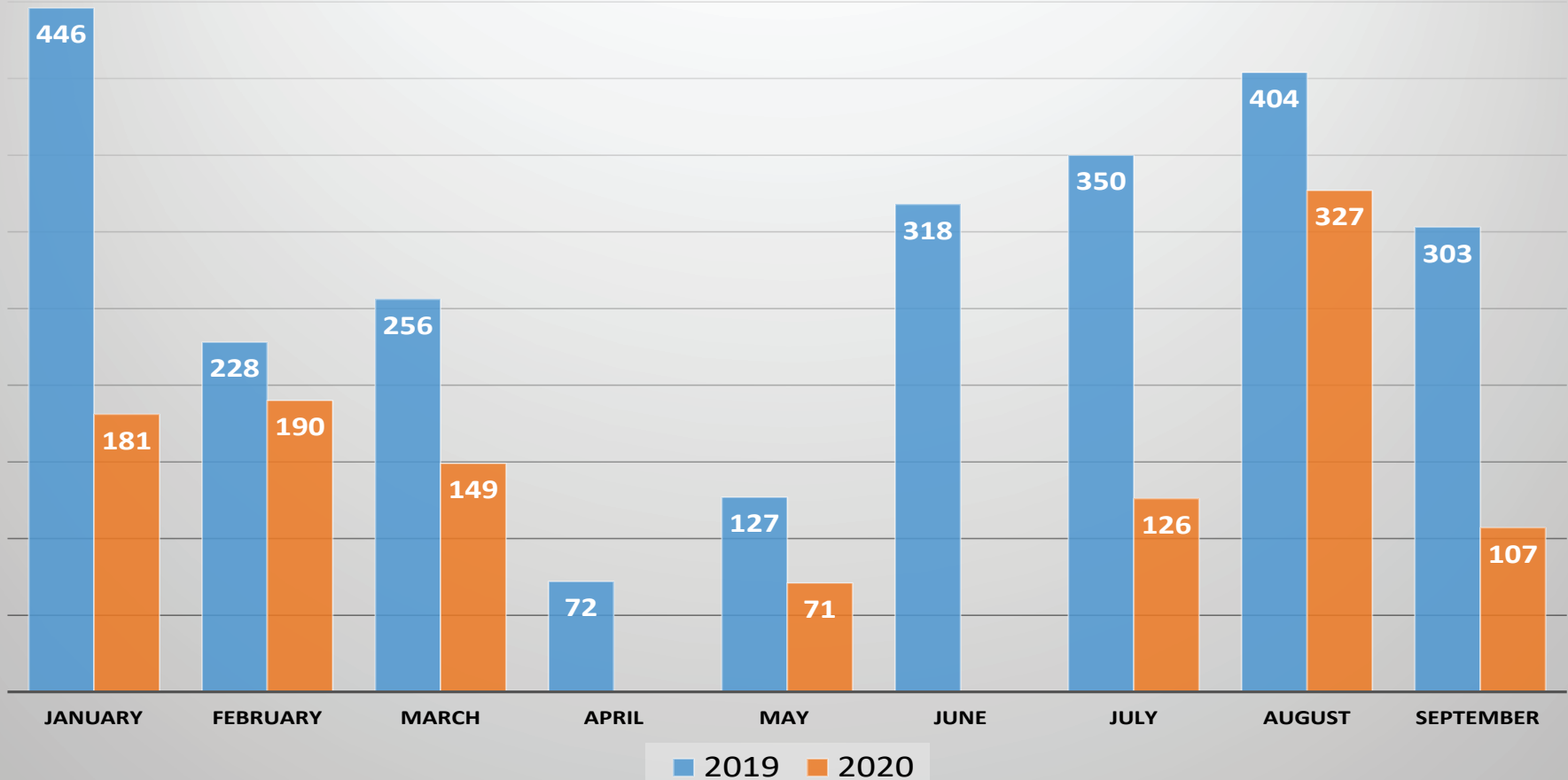
- Death and Birth Registration using Hospital as Informant
- Electronic Burial Orders
- Live streaming of Registry Weddings
- Digital Birth Certificate (in the near future)

COMPARISON OF 2019 AND 2020

COMPARISON OF REGISTRATION TOTALS FOR BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGES - 2019 VS 2020													
	MONTH OF REGISTRATION												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
BIRTHS 2019	3,273	2,626	2,658	2,468	2,674	2,754	3,044	3,144	3,511	3,657	3,481	3,220	36,510
BIRTHS 2020	3,138	2,564	2,519	2,311	2,439	2,408	2,733	3,074	3,402	NAV	NAV	NAV	24,588
% DIFFERENCE	-4%	-2%	-5%	-6%	-9%	-13%	-10%	-2%	-3%				
DEATHS 2019	1,937	1,747	1,739	1,605	1,642	1,573	1,747	1,565	1,647	1,682	1,638	1,458	19,980
DEATHS 2020	1,787	1,418	1,469	1,437	1,491	1,603	1,661	1,576	1,676	NAV	NAV	NAV	14,118
% DIFFERENCE	-8%	-19%	-16%	-10%	-9%	2%	-5%	1%	2%				
MARRIAGES 2019	1,204	1,080	1,259	1,454	1,297	1,507	1,474	1,599	932	1,131	1,258	2,031	16,226
MARRIAGES 2020	1,194	1,268	859	369	363	537	859	1,158	650	NAV	NAV	NAV	7,257
% DIFFERENCE	-1%	17%	-32%	-75%	-72%	-64%	-42%	-28%	-30%				
NAV - NOT AVAILABLE													

COMPARISON OF 2019 AND 2020

Divorce Absolute Granted for January-September 2019 and 2020



STATISTICS BASED ON DATE OF OCCURRENCE AND DATE OF REGISTRATION

RGD records both date of occurrence and date of registration on our births and deaths. On our marriages, the date of event is the same as the date of registration.

DIGITISATION OF THE CIVIL REGISTRY AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS

Only some civil records are digitised however all records from 1930 to present are scheduled to be digitised under the National Identification System (NIDS) Project.

When this is achieved, this will allow for greater ease of transacting business at the RGD:

- Reduce need for form/manual searches which are costly
- Reduce waiting time for applications for those without entry numbers
- More accurate verification service
- Allow for more complete vital statistics for archival years
- More complete and quicker genealogical searches

