

COVID-19 and Civil Registration

St. Kitts & Nevis

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Context

- Civil registration is important
- Provides Information on:-
 - Persons Identity
 - Disease Burden (Health Statistics)
 - Population Demographic etc
- District Registrars entrusted to record all vital events in their area in Registers
- Authentication is done at the Central Registry Office
- Process started to scan and digitize records (Birth, Deaths Adoptions & Marriages)

COVID-19 and Civil Registration

- 25th March, 2020 1st cases announced
- Borders closed in 28 March 2020
- State of Emergency Declared with rolling lock downs/curfews
- Only Essential Services allowed out (Fire, Police, Medical etc)
- Civil Registration Office was closed/suspended
- Permission had to be granted for funerals and weddings
- Only 20 - 25 persons allowed to be in attendance at these services
- Government Offices reopened June/July – Covid-19 Protocols came in place in the office setting (staff alternate working days)

Civil Registration's Efforts to deal with COVID-19

- Registration on the District continued
- Registrar/Deputy was on call

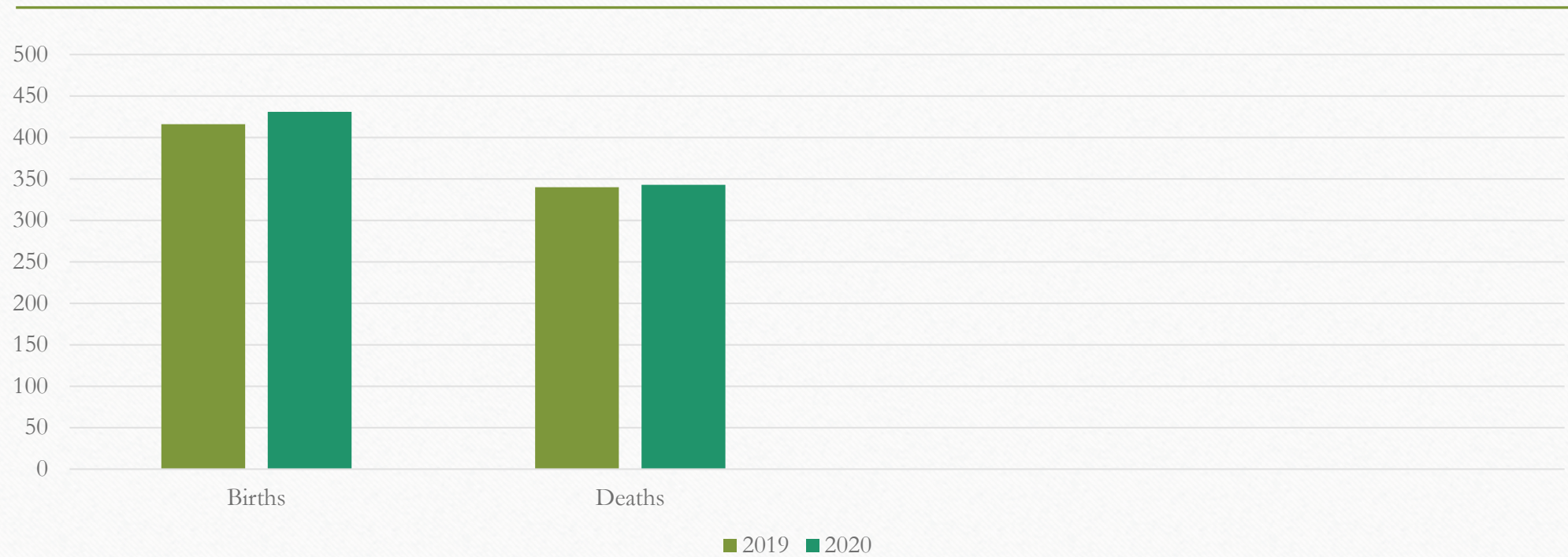
Generation of Statistics

- As mentioned before the road to our records being digitized has begun.
- Data Entry Clerks have been doing their best to capture information from as far back as 1859 for Births and Deaths and 1885 for Marriages.
- In the mean time certificates are still written up when requested.
- We are therefore faced with challenges that some of these records are very fragile and have to be handled carefully.

Generation of Statistics Cont'd

- The civil registry department although not digitized is still able to provide statistics when needed.
- These statistics are shared with the statistics department when collected.
- Yes a comparison can be made between the last ten months of 2019 and that of 2020 can be done.

Comparison of Births and Deaths



Generation of Statistics Cont'd

- Data was not readily available to make the comparison between the marriages for 2019 and 2020.
 - This is usually handled at the Court Registry.
 - Data for divorces was also not available as this information is at the Court Registry.
 - Challenges in this area lies where information is not up to date.
 - Late registration also another challenge