

QUALITY OF VITAL STATISTICS OBTAINED FROM CIVIL REGISTER

In order to check and bring up to date our information on the basis of tabulation and the completeness of registration of vital events in your country, and also to enable us to present in the Demographic Yearbook more detail in the quality of your vital statistics, it would be much appreciated if you would supply the following information by marking "X" in the appropriate column or specifying year as requested:

	Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths	Late foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
I. Basis of tabulation						

1.Present basis of tabulation:						
-date of occurrence.....	x	x	x	x	x	x
-date of registration.....						
2.How long has the present basis of tabulation been used?						
-since 1960 or earlier.....	x	x	x	x	x	x
-later than 1960 (please specify year).....						
II. Estimated completeness of registration						

90 per cent or more.....	x	x	x	x	x	x
75-89 per cent.....						
50-74 per cent.....						
Under 50 per cent.....						
Please specify:						
(a) year(s) to which completeness estimate refers.....	1735	1735	1838	1827	1827	1904
(b) basis of completeness estimate (*)						
-demographic analysis.....	1) x	x	x	4) x	x	x
-dual record check.....						
-other (specify below)	2) 3) x	x			x	x

(*) please include any published or unpublished reports describing completeness of registration and methods used in arriving at estimated completeness.

===== END OF QUESTIONNAIRE =====
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1) All series seem likely to stand demographic analysis as from their start (year stated) but specific studies have not been made. They correspond very closely to known circumstances such as economic situation (livestock, fish catch, irregularities in external trade) and health [epidemics, famine]. Furthermore, negligible external migration need be assumed when comparing vital statistics to census results as from 1762 up to the onset of emigration to North America in the 1870 's.

2) Since the establishment of the National Register in 1952, the same reports are used for updating of the population register as for vital statistics compilation. Receipt of vital statistics report is therefore controlled by the population itself as well as social security, tax, education, etc., authorities, as correct registration is in the interest of one or both parties.

3) Further control on older registrations comes through applications for birth, etc., certificates, issued by the National Registry, a division of Statistics Iceland. Registrations are very rarely missing. Applications for old age pension (applicants at age of 67) in previous years have given a satisfactory picture of birth register 1890-1916.

4) As a matter of course least liable to control. However, as the majority of births take place in institutions (since 1940 's at least, at present 99%) the completeness stated is assumed certain.