

**United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics Division, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch**

United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* review

National reporting of fertility data

Implications for international recommendations

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Implications for international recommendations

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NOTE

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The term “country” as used in the text of this report also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

This report has been issued without formal editing.

Preface

United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* review technical reports

1. The present report, on national reporting of fertility data, is one of a series of technical reports reviewing the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system. The system is designed to collect, store and disseminate official national demographic and social statistics at the international level, and provides a selection of these data to a wide range of users through print publications, such as the annual *Demographic Yearbook*, CD Rom on special topics¹, and the Internet².

2. Earlier drafts of these technical reports served as input to the United Nations Expert Group Meeting to Review the *Demographic Yearbook* System³ which aimed to assess the continued relevance and responsiveness of the system to the emerging needs of a variety of users. Information on the Expert Group Meeting can be found on the website of the United Nations Statistics Division at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/workshop/EGM_dyb/index.htm. The reports review the instruments used by the *Demographic Yearbook* system to collect data from national statistical offices in terms of how well they adhere to relevant international guidelines in terms of concepts, definitions and classifications used.

3. Furthermore, the technical reports review the experience of countries with regard to reporting of the requested data to the *Demographic Yearbook* system for the period 1961 to 2000, and relate national practices with respect to classifications to relevant international recommendations for the topics being reported. The main international recommendations that are the focus of the assessment are, as appropriate, the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1*⁴, the *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 2*⁵, and *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*⁶.

4. The reviews, as well as the discussion at the Expert Group Meeting, have highlighted a number of issues including the fact that the questionnaires for the *Demographic Yearbook* system need to be reviewed and revised to bring them in line with international guidelines in terms of concepts and classifications used as well as the content of the tables. Furthermore, the

¹ Two CD-ROMs have so far been issued: the *Demographic Yearbook Historical Supplement*, which presents demographic statistics for the period 1948 to 1997, and the *Demographic Yearbook: Natality Statistics*, which contains a series of detailed tables dedicated to natality and covering the period 1980 to 1998.

² For example, data on capital cities and cities with population of 100,000 or more are available at <http://www.un.org/depts/unsd/demog/index.html>; and, data from the *Population and Vital Statistics Report* are available to subscribers at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/seriesa/index.asp>.

³ Held in November 2003, in New York.

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.8.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVII.10.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.14.

review of reported data based on the experience of previous censuses has pointed to the need for a review and updating of international recommendations.

5. At its thirty-fifth session, the United Nations Statistical Commission⁷ recommended the formation of an Expert Group to consider critical issues related to planning the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, and to set plans for a world programme including use of common definitions, concepts, classifications, tabulations and dissemination mechanisms for population and housing censuses. This mandate requires a review and possible revision or supplementation of the current census recommendations which were developed for the 2000 census round. These technical reports contribute to that review. They also provide some indication of the capacity of countries and areas to report their national data to the *Demographic Yearbook* system.

⁷ *Report on the thirty-fifth session (2-5 March 2004)*. Economic and Social Council, Official Records 2004, Supplement No. 4. E/2004/24: E/CN.3/2004/33. <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc04/report-submitted.pdf>; paragraph 2 (a).

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Executive summary

The report was prepared for the Expert Group Meeting to Review the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* System held in New York from 10 to 14 November 2003. Its main objective is to evaluate the efficiency/suitability of the data collection and dissemination of official national fertility statistics done through the *Demographic Yearbook* system. Efficiency/suitability have been measured: a) by comparing the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires on fertility with the United Nations principles and recommendations with respect to concepts, definitions, classification and tabulations; b) by calculating the level of response for the period 1961-2000 to each fertility table; and c) by analysing the dissemination of fertility data since the first issue of the *Demographic Yearbook* in 1948.

Several issues have emerged from the review. Among these: a) the lack of conformity of the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires with the latest United Nations principles and recommendations especially in terms of classifications used; b) the non-compliance of some countries with international classifications of age, in particular at the lower and upper age categories; c) the need for adjusting the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaire on vital statistics to take into account the collection of national data obtained from other sources than civil registration thus addressing the issue of collection of fertility statistics from countries still developing their civil registration system; and d) the need to disseminate all available data regularly, or periodically with a time series.

At the end of each chapter and in the concluding remarks the report makes suggestions on how to address specific issues raised by the analysis. Annexes at the end of the report provide in depth results of the analysis done on forty years of national fertility data collected, processed and disseminated through the *Demographic Yearbook* system.

Collection and dissemination of the Demographic Yearbook system (DYB)

1. The objective of this report is to review the collection and dissemination of fertility data within the *Demographic Yearbook* (DYB) system and assess the adequacy and performance of the system. The review a) checks the consistency of the definitions, classifications and tabulations of the current questionnaires used to collect fertility data with the United Nations recommendations; b) assesses the level and frequency of response, completeness and recency of fertility data provided by countries and stored in the system and c) reviews the dissemination of available fertility data.

2. The Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) has the responsibility for the collection, processing and dissemination of demographic and social statistics. UNSD collects these data from national statistical offices through a series of questionnaires. It then disseminates these official statistics mainly through the *Demographic Yearbook*.

3. UNSD sends six questionnaires to national statistical offices on a regular basis. These are:

- Population census
- Population Census -Economic characteristics
- Population Census - Household characteristics
- Vital statistics
- Population estimates
- International migration and travel statistics

4. Of these six questionnaires, two are used to collect information relevant to the study of fertility: the Vital Statistics questionnaire (VS questionnaire) collects direct information on fertility and derived variables (birth order, birth weight, etc) while the Population census questionnaire (PC questionnaire) contains the question on children ever born used for indirect estimates of fertility. The Vital statistics questionnaire collects data obtained from civil registers and is sent to countries on an annual basis. The Population Census questionnaire collects national data from censuses and is sent periodically, after a country has completed a population census. These two questionnaires are the ones examined here.

5. The following list presents the fertility tables of the Vital statistics questionnaire (VS questionnaire) and of the Population Census questionnaire (PC questionnaire) that are further analysed in this report. The questionnaire on Vital Statistics is the most important as it contains 12 of the 13 relevant tabulations to the study of fertility.

Table 1 - List of fertility tables in the Demographic Yearbook questionnaires

Table Number	Title
VS-1.	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence
VS-2	Live births by month of birth
VS-3	Live births by legitimacy and sex
VS-4	Live births by live birth order
VS-5	Legitimate births by duration of marriage
VS-6	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence
VS-7	Live births by age of father: distinction between total and legitimate
VS-8	Live births by age of mother and birth order
VS-9	Live births by birth weight
VS-10	Live births by gestational age
VS-11	Live births by type of birth
VS-12	TFR, GRR, and NRR
PC-13	Female population 15 years of age and over by age and number of children born alive: by urban/rural

Note: "VS" stands for Vital statistics questionnaire and "PC" stands for Population Census questionnaire.

6. Chapter one of the report covers the issue of consistency between the definitions, classifications and tabulations used in each table and those recommended in the last United Nations recommendations on vital statistics and population censuses⁸.

7. Chapter two presents the response rates for each of the fertility tables in the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires and 4 consecutive decades (from 1961 to 2000). Response rates are calculated according to three dimensions: (i) coverage, measured as the number of countries that

⁸ *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, rev. 2* (United Nations publication, series N. 01.XVII.10, New York 2001).

Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, rev. 1 (United Nations publication, series N. 98.XVII.8, New York 1998).

have provided data at least once in a given decade; (ii) completeness, measured as the percentage of countries providing “all” the requested information; (iii) recency of data, defined as the average time lag between the reference year of the data and the year the data were provided to UNSD. The last part of the section presents results of a deeper analysis on regional variation carried out on selected basic fertility tables.

8. Chapter three presents the tables that are generated and disseminated from the information collected in the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires.

Consistency between the current United Nations recommendations and the *Demographic Yearbook*

Introduction

9. The purpose of this chapter is to compare the definitions, classifications and list of tabulations included in the DYB questionnaires, to the most recent recommendations issued by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)⁹.

10. The main variable under study is the number of *live births*, cross-classified by :

- *sex of child*,
- *legitimacy*,
- *area of residence* (of mother),
- *age of mother*.

Other variables of interest are: *birth order, age of father, month of birth, birth weight, type of birth, duration of marriage, gestational age and number of children ever born*.

Consistency in the definitions

Live Birth

11. The definition of Live birth used in the vital statistics questionnaire is consistent with the United Nations guidelines where live birth is defined as:

“The complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered live-born”¹⁰.

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ *ibid.*

Live births within/out of wedlock

12. Fertility tables in the vital statistics questionnaire are not consistent with the last United Nations recommendations that recommend the use of the new categories “born within wedlock” and “born out of wedlock” as substitute to the old categories “legitimate” and “illegitimate” used in the vital statistics questionnaire.

13. The definition of legitimacy status has changed over the years. In the 1973 *Principles and Recommendations for Vital Statistics System*, legitimacy status was defined as:

“The status of the child or dead foetus with respect to being legitimate, that is, considered to be the lawful issue of a couple within the particular culture concerned”.¹¹ (Para. 21)

Although “legitimacy status”, “legitimate” or “illegitimate” are not explicitly defined in the DYB questionnaire, it is probable that the 1973 Principles and Recommendations were used in designing the tables relevant to legitimacy.¹²

14. In the 2001 *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* a new set of definitions were introduced which shifted the emphasis from the child’s legitimacy status to the wedlock status of the mother. These changes were introduced to avoid the stigmatisation of the child (or individual).

15. According to the 2001 *Principles and Recommendations*, therefore, live births or foetal deaths should be labelled as “born in wedlock” if the mother is married at the time of the birth or “born out of wedlock” if the mother is not married at the time of the delivery. The *Principles and Recommendations* further recommend that the term “illegitimate” should not be used

¹¹ In the 1973 *Principles and Recommendations for Vital Statistics System*, the categories “legitimate” and “illegitimate” are defined as:

- Legitimate: Persons born to parents who were married at the time of birth in accordance with the laws of the country or area.
- Illegitimate: Children of parents who according to national law, were not married at the time of birth, regardless of whether these children have been recognized or legitimized after birth.

¹² The most recent DYB CD-ROM on natality statistics cites the 1973 definition of legitimate and illegitimate persons.

except as a statistical term for describing the number of births out of wedlock¹³. In Table LB-12 *Live births by place of usual residence and age of mother and legitimacy status* of the 2001 *Principles and Recommendations* the categories “legitimate” and “illegitimate” are substituted with the categories “born in wedlock” and “born out of wedlock”.

16. In the Vital statistics questionnaire, there is no explicit definition of legitimacy even though, in a note to the table 4 “Live births by live birth order”, it is stated that: “Live birth order is the numerical order of the child in relation to all previous live-borne issues of the mother, irrespective of whether *pregnancies were nuptial or extra-nuptial*”.

Place of residence: Urban/Rural

17. In the Vital statistics questionnaire countries are requested to provide, when possible, data cross-classified by place of urban/rural *residence*. No definition of residence is given and this is consistent with the latest recommendations on vital statistics and population census that state respectively:

“... Because of national differences in the characteristics which distinguish urban from rural areas, the distinction between urban and rural population is not amenable to a single definition applicable to all countries. For this reason, each country should decide which areas are to be classified as urban and which as rural in accordance with their own circumstances”, (Para. 100).

“... Because of national differences in the characteristics which distinguish urban from rural areas, the distinction between urban and rural population is not amenable to a single definition that would be applicable to all countries or, for the most part, even to the countries within a region. When there are no regional recommendations on the matter, countries must establish their own definitions in accordance with their own circumstances”, (Para. 2.52).

Date of occurrence / date of registration

18. Fertility tables in the vital statistics questionnaire are consistent with the United Nations recommendations regarding guidelines on this issue.

¹³ The use of the term “legitimate / illegitimate” for statistical purposes will be discussed in the next revision of the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations*.

19. In the last vital statistics recommendations it is stated that the “ *Total number of live births [...] should be based on date of occurrence, which is the recommended basis for the time reference of all vital statistics tabulations*” (Para. 91). In terms of tabulations, both statistics by date of occurrence and by date of registration are important for the calculation of delays in registration (Table LB.3).

20. The vital statistics questionnaire is consistent with the United Nations recommendations. In the instructions to table “VS-1 Vital statistics summary”, it is requested to provide statistics tabulated by date of occurrence rather than date of registration, and in a note to table “VS-2: Live births by month of birth”, it is requested to specify if data refer to date of occurrence or date of registration.

De facto / de jure population

21. In the instruction to table 1 of the vital statistics questionnaire, it is specified that population estimates should correspond in time and coverage to the vital statistics to assure correspondence between numerator and denominator when calculating vital rates. It is also stated that all statistics should relate to the “*de facto population, i.e., all persons within the borders of the geographic area during the year specified*”, and this is consistent with the basic principle of *Universality* of the vital statistics recommendations “*A vital statistics system should include all vital events occurring in every geographic area and in every population group comprising the national area*” (par. 58).

Consistency in the classifications

Age

22. The age classification used in fertility tables of the vital statistics questionnaire is consistent with the classification recommended in the last vital statistics recommendations, composed of the following categories:

Total	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+	Unknown
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The age classification used in the fertility table of the population census questionnaire, table 13: *Female population 15 and over by age and number of children born alive*, should include

the categories: 75-79, 80-84, 85+, in order to be consistent with the latest population census recommendations.

Countries' compliance with United Nations recommended definitions and classifications

23. Frequency of reply for a given country may depend on the availability of data, as well as on countries' capacity or willingness to provide data according to the definitions and classifications used in the DYB questionnaires. For instance, a country could have a low response rate to a specific question because the required data are not available or because these national data are based on a different definition or classification and they do not fit in the DYB table. For this reason, a study of the response rates of selected DYB tables is presented below.

Live births within/out of wedlock

Table 2 – Number of countries reporting *Live Births by Legitimacy*, total number of countries and response rate, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	15	58	25.9	10	58	17.2	4	56	7.1	3	56	5.4
America, North	32	36	88.9	29	37	78.4	22	37	59.5	16	37	43.2
America, South	13	14	92.9	10	15	66.7	8	14	57.1	6	14	42.9
Asia	7	47	14.9	13	45	28.9	11	43	25.6	14	50	28.0
Europe	30	37	81.1	28	38	73.7	30	38	78.9	41	48	85.4
Oceania	12	25	48.0	12	29	41.4	9	28	32.1	6	25	24.0
TOTAL	109	217	50.2	102	222	45.9	84	216	38.9	86	230	37.4

Source: Table VS-3: *Live births by legitimacy and sex* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

Note:

Replying = number of countries providing data at least once on legitimacy in table VS-3

Total = total number of countries in a given region/decade,

Rate = response rate: $\text{Replying}/\text{Total} \times 100$.

24. Over the decades fewer countries have provided data on legitimacy status. The percentage of countries replying to table VS-3 of the vital statistics questionnaire dropped from 50 per cent in the decade 1961-1970 to 37 per cent in the decade 1991-2000. Results of a deeper analysis on table VS-3 are presented in the next chapter on “Level of response to Demographic Yearbook questionnaires”.

Place of residence

Table 3 - Number of countries reporting *Live Births by Urban/Rural*, total number of countries and response rate, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	6	58	10.3	7	58	12.1	7	56	12.5	7	56	12.5
America, North	10	36	27.8	13	37	35.1	12	37	32.4	11	37	29.7
America, South	4	14	28.6	4	15	26.7	5	14	35.7	5	14	35.7
Asia	5	47	10.6	15	45	33.3	16	43	37.2	21	50	42.0
Europe	18	37	48.6	18	38	47.4	20	38	52.6	28	48	58.3
Oceania	1	25	4.0	5	29	17.2	3	28	10.7	2	25	8.0
TOTAL	44	217	20.3	62	222	27.9	63	216	29.2	74	230	32.2

Source: Table VS-1B: *Live births by sex and urban/rural residence* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

Note:

Replying = number of countries replying to the question on births by urban/rural residence at least once in the decade,

Total = Total number of countries in the given region/decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying/Total} * 100$,

25. Even if an increasing number of countries provided information on live births by urban/rural residence of mother, the response rate on this topic is still rather low. Over the decades, the percentage of countries reporting on this information rose from 20 per cent in the 1961-1970 period to 32 per cent in 1991-2000.

Date of occurrence/date of registration

Table 4 - Number of countries reporting *Total live births*, and percentage of countries tabulating live births by *date of occurrence or date of registration*, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Date of occur.	Date of registr.	Replying	Date of occur.	Date of registr.	Replying	Date of occur.	Date of registr.	Replying	Date of occur.	Date of registr.
Africa	26	88.5	11.5	24	87.5	8.3	22	90.9	9.1	18	83.3	11.1
America, North	34	55.9	44.1	35	54.3	42.9	35	57.1	42.9	32	62.5	34.4
America, South	14	64.3	35.7	14	64.3	28.6	12	75.0	25.0	13	76.9	23.1
Asia	24	83.3	16.7	29	82.8	13.8	30	83.3	16.7	36	86.1	13.9
Europe	37	89.2	10.8	37	89.2	8.1	36	91.7	8.3	47	93.6	6.4
Oceania	19	68.4	31.6	20	70.0	30.0	21	71.4	28.6	16	75.0	25.0
TOTAL	154	76.0	24.0	159	75.5	21.4	156	78.2	21.8	162	81.5	17.3

Source: Table VS-1: *Live births by sex and urban/rural residence* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

Note:

Replying = number of countries replying at least once in the decade,

Date of occur. = percentage of countries reporting statistics tabulated by date of occurrence,

Date of registr. = percentage of countries reporting statistics tabulated by date of registration.

26. As recommended in the United Nations recommendations, data tabulated by date of occurrence remain the preferred way of tabulating statistics over the decades with a percentage of countries tabulating live births by date of occurrence increasing slightly from 76 per cent in 1961-1970 to 81 per cent in 1991-2000.

Age

Table 5 - Number and percentage of countries complying with the United Nations recommended age group classification, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Complying	Total	%	Complying	Total	%	Complying	Total	%	Complying	Total	%
Africa	3	8	37.5	3	12	25	4	11	36.4	4	11	36.4
America, North	14	29	48.3	15	30	50	9	32	28.1	8	28	28.6
America, South	8	10	80	8	12	66.7	8	11	72.7	6	11	54.5
Asia	10	15	66.7	10	19	52.6	10	22	45.5	11	16	68.8
Europe	24	33	72.7	23	31	74.2	12	31	38.7	13	42	31
Oceania	10	15	66.7	9	12	75	7	14	50	2	8	25
TOTAL	69	110	62.7	68	116	58.6	50	121	41.3	44	116	37.9

Source: Table VS-6: *Live births by age of mother, sex, urban/rural residence and legitimacy* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

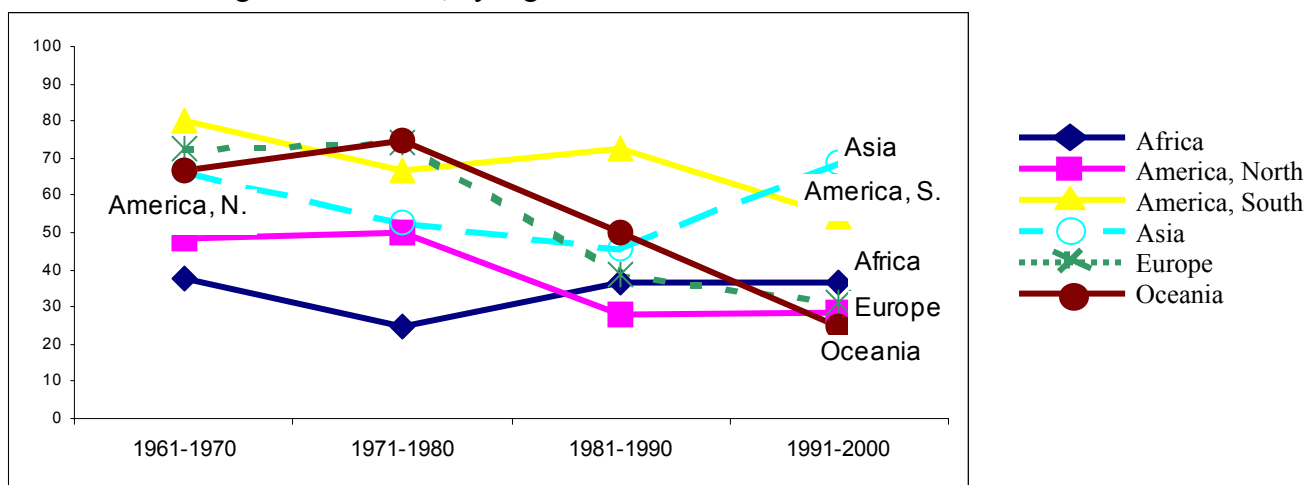
Note:

Complying = number of countries using the same age classification as the recommended one,

Total = number of countries providing data on births by age of mother from table VS-6,

% = percentage of countries complying with the recommended age classification.

Graph 1 - Distribution over decades of percentage of countries using United Nations recommended age classification, by region



Source: based on data collected through table VS-6 *Live births by age of mother, sex, urban/rural residence and legitimacy*, of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

27. Over the decades a lower number of responding countries have followed the United Nations recommended age classification. The percentage of countries using the suggested age groups declined from 63 per cent in 1961-1970 to 38 per cent in 1991-2000.

28. From a regional standpoint, two main patterns are visible from the above graph. First, North America and Africa are consistently at the bottom of the graph, meaning that there is a higher percentage of countries from these two regions using a different age classification from the recommended one. Second, there is a decreasing trend in the use of the recommended age classification for Europe and Oceania with the proportions dropping respectively from 73 per cent and 67 per cent in the decade 1961-1970 to 31 per cent and 25 per cent in the 1991-2000. Asia has the highest percentage in the last decade. The significant drop in the decade 1981-1990, that happened almost everywhere (with the exception of South America), should also be noted.

29. The most frequently reported age groups that are not consistent with the United Nations recommendations are:

Table 6 – Number and percentage of countries that used non-recommended categories at least once in the period 1961-2000

Non- recommended categories		Number of countries	Percentage of countries
Lower limit	0-19	44	25
Upper limit	40+	25	14
	45+	98	56

Source: based on data collected through table VS-6 *Live births by age of mother, sex, urban/rural residence and legitimacy*, of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire

30. Annex 2 provides details on how many times each country has used a different age classification from the one recommended and points out the differences.

Consistency in the tabulations

31. The United Nations *Principles and Recommendations* were developed to assist countries in conducting their census and vital statistics programmes and therefore do not always coincide exactly with applications in the Demographic Yearbook (DYB).

Vital Statistics questionnaire

32. The vital statistics questionnaire is modelled on the 1973 *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*. The current DYB questionnaire on Vital Statistics includes 6 out of the 11 primary tabulations recommended in the 1973 *Principles and Recommendations* and 10 out of 14 topics listed as first priority.

Table 7 - Tabulations included in the DYB questionnaire on Vital Statistics and in the three editions of the UN *Principles and Recommendations for Vital Statistics Systems (P&R)*

Table number	Table code	Title	1953 P&R	1973 P&R	2001 P&R
VS-1	E01	Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence			✓*
VS-2	E03	Live births by month of birth	✓	✓*	✓*
VS-3	E02	Live births by legitimacy and sex	✓	✓*	✓ ^a
VS-4	E07	Live births by live birth order	✓	✓	✓*
VS-5	E12	Legitimate live births by duration of marriage		✓*	
VS-6	E04	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence		✓ ^b	✓ ^c
VS-7	E06	Live births by age of father : distinction between total and legitimate		✓	✓ ^d
VS-8	E08	Live births by age of mother and birth order	✓	✓*	✓*
VS-9	E13	Live births by birth weight		✓*	✓*
VS-10	E14	Live births by gestational age		✓	✓*
VS-11	E15	Live births by type of birth	X	X*	X*
VS-12	F01	TFR, GRR, and NRR			

Notes:

The symbol “✓” indicates a complete match between the tabulation listed in the DYB questionnaire and in the various editions of the Principles and Recommendations.

The symbol “*” indicates a primary tabulation.

- a. In the 2001 recommendations, legitimacy is no longer cross-classified by sex. It is now cross-classified by age of mother.
- b. In the 1973 recommendations, live births are cross-classified by “age of mother and sex of child” or by “age of mother and legitimacy of child” or by “age of mother, place of birth of mother (not place of residence) and legitimacy of child”.
- c. In the 2001 recommendations, This information is split over two tables: LB-9. “*Live births by place of usual residence and age of mother, sex of child and live-birth order*” and LB-12. “*Live births by place of usual residence and age of mother and legitimacy status*”.
- d. The information on this table is incomplete in the 2001 recommendations making it difficult to do a true comparison. It is not clear if age of father is cross-tabulated by legitimacy status of child.

33. Comparing the DYB questionnaire to the 2001 *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* it is clear that many of the tabulations have not been updated recently. For example, table VS-5. ***Legitimate live births by duration of marriage***, which was recommended in the 1973 *Principles and Recommendations*, are still included in the DYB questionnaire, although it was removed from the 2001 minimum list of tabulations. Likewise, table VS-3. *Live births by legitimacy and sex* included in the DYB questionnaire on Vital Statistics have been modified in the most recent *Principles and Recommendations*¹⁴ but these changes have not been introduced in the DYB questionnaire yet.

34. Of the 21 tables listed as first priority in the current vital statistics *Principles and Recommendations 2001*, only 6 are included in the DYB questionnaire (and with fewer cross-tabulated variables). One of the tables included in the DYB questionnaire (VS-6. ***Live births by age and residence of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate***) was never recommended, in the way it is phrased in the questionnaire, in any edition of the *Principles and Recommendations (PR)*. In the 1973 PR, live births are cross-classified by “age of mother and sex of child” or by “age of mother and legitimacy of child” or by “age of mother, place of birth of mother (not place of residence) and legitimacy of child” while in the

¹⁴ See note a. of table 7.

2001 PR, this information is split over two tables: LB-9. “*Live births by place of usual residence and age of mother, sex of child and live-birth order*” (no legitimacy) and LB-12. “*Live births by place of usual residence and age of mother and legitimacy status*” (no sex of the child).

35. There are additional tables, indicated in the 2001 *Principles and Recommendations for a vital statistics system* relevant to the study of fertility, that are not included in the DYB questionnaire. Annex 3 shows the list of “missing” tabulations.

36. A discussion on the suitability of including some of these tables in the vital statistics questionnaire might need to be undertaken even if it is also important to acknowledge that the *Principles and Recommendations* and the DYB may not always have the same purposes.

Population Census Questionnaire

37. The second questionnaire, which collects information on fertility, is the DYB questionnaire on Population Census. This questionnaire contains one table relevant to this report: Table 13- *Female population 15 and over by age and number of children born alive*, which is useful for the calculation of indirect estimates of fertility.

Table 8 - Tabulations included in the DYB questionnaire on Population censuses and in the three editions of the UN *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (P&R)

Table number	Table code	Title	1969 P&R	1980 P&R	1998 P&R
PC-13	B25	Female population 15 and over by age and number of children born alive	✓*	✓*	✓*

Notes:

The symbol “✓” indicates a complete match between the tabulation listed in the DYB questionnaire and in the various editions of the Principles and Recommendations.

The symbol “*” indicates a primary tabulation.

38. Table PC-13 has been indicated as a tabulation of first priority since the 1969 *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*. It is important to observe that, although the 1980 *Principals and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* are cited as the source for the tabulations listed in the DYB *Population Census* questionnaire, the table on female population by children ever born alive in the DYB

questionnaire does not conform to these recommendations. The number of children ever born alive in the DYB questionnaire goes from 0, 1, ..., 7 up to the category 8-9 and 10+, while in the population census *Principles and Recommendations* 1980 the number can go up to the category 9 and then 10+.

39. When compared with the latest census recommendations, again the DYB questionnaire is not in line with the recommendations in two aspects. First, the age-groups reported in the DYB questionnaire are different from those presented in the 1998 *Principles and Recommendations*, the later reaching 85+ instead of the DYB's 75+ (as in the previous census recommendations of 1980). Second, the number of children ever born alive in the latest census recommendations of 1998, goes up to the category 12+.

40. It should also be noted that in the table on children ever born of the DYB questionnaire, data are requested for the total and for the urban/rural residence, while in the last PR, for the first time, the distinction by sexes is also recommended. We should consider updating the DYB questionnaire to take into account of this change.

41. A series of additional tables, indicated in the 1998 *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* as tables relevant for the study of fertility are not included in the DYB questionnaire. A complete list of "missing" tables is presented in Annex 3.

Conclusions

42. As seen in the above section, several changes would have to be introduced in the DYB tabulations on fertility to make them consistent with UNSD recommendations. Here is a list of the main issues which need to be addressed.

43. The DYB questionnaires contain a table that is not recommended in the latest vital statistics recommendations and a number of DYB tabulations need to be modified to match United Nations guidelines. An appropriate decision on the suitability of including or modifying these tables in the DYB data collection process needs to be made.

Table 9 - Tabulations included in DYB questionnaires that are not currently recommended in United Nations guidelines or need revision

Table number	Code	Title	In the last VS recommendations
VS-3	E02	Live births by legitimacy and sex	No sex; legitimacy cross-tabulated by residence and age of mother
VS-6	E04	Live births by age and residence of mother, legitimacy and sex	Split in 2 tables: (age*sex*residence*order) (age*residence*legitimacy)
VS-7	E06	Live births by age of father and legitimacy	Not clear if legitimacy is considered
VS-5	E12	Legitimate live-births by duration of marriage	Missing
PC-13	B25	Female population 15 and over by age and number of children born alive	Age of mother up to 85+, No. of children up to 12+, Distinction for male/female

44. A number of additional tables have been recommended in the most recent United Nations guidelines. An appropriate, discussion on the suitability of including these tables would have to be undertaken. Annex 3 presents the list of table recommended in the United Nations guidelines that are not used in the DYB questionnaires.

Level of response to Demographic Yearbook questionnaires

Introduction

45. The analysis of the level of response, by countries or areas, to the fertility tables of the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires tries to answer the following main questions : (a) How many countries provide fertility data? How frequently do countries provide data for different DYB questions on fertility? (b) Do the countries provide all the information required or only part of it? (c) What is the time lag between the year in which data are provided to UNSD and the year to which the data refer?

- (a) The **coverage** and **frequency** of reply have been calculated for each fertility table covering four decades (1961-1970, 1971-1980, 1981-1990 and 1991-2000). The coverage is calculated as the number (and percentage) of countries or areas providing the requested data at least once in the given decade. The frequency of reply, is calculated as the number (and percentage) of countries or areas that have provided the requested data *consistently* (between 8 and 10 times), *regularly* (between 4 and 7 times) and *rarely* (between 1 and 3 times) in the given decade.
- (b) The **level of completeness** of data reported on each fertility table has been investigated, per decade, by calculating the number (and percentage) of countries or areas providing, at least once in a given decade, “all” the requested information. Among those countries or areas providing the complete tabulation, the frequency of replying has been calculated by identifying the countries that provided a complete tabulation *consistently*, *regularly* and *rarely*;
- (c) The **recency** of data has been calculated as the average time lag between the reference year of the data and the year in which data have been provided to UNSD.

Coverage and frequency

46. This section presents the **coverage and frequency of replies** on each of the 12 fertility tables of the vital statistics questionnaire for the last decade (1991-2000) and an analysis of **trends in the coverage and frequency of responses** by comparing, by table, coverage and frequency of reply over the four decades considered (1961-2000). Annex 4 provides detailed information for the other three decades analysed (1961-1970, 1971-1980, 1981-1990).

47. Coverage for the table on *children ever born* from the population census questionnaire is calculated at two stages: (a) as the number (and percentage) of countries providing data for this table among those that provided “any” data for their population census and (b) as a percentage of countries that provided the required data on children ever born among those that carried out a census in the last round of censuses (1995-2004) and in the preceding round (1985-1994). The table on *children ever born* is presented alone because of the differences in the time coverage and definition of frequency of response.

Table 10 - Coverage of reply with respect to the fertility tables in the vital statistics questionnaire, 1991-2000

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Number and percentage of countries or areas that provided data at least once in the period 1991-2000		Non-response	
		Total No.	Percentage	Total No.	Percentage
Table number	Question				
VS-1	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	163	71	67	29
VS-2	Live births by month of birth	114	50	116	50
VS-3	Live births by legitimacy and sex	87	38	143	62
VS-4	Live births by live birth order	97	42	133	58
VS-5	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	51	22	179	78
VS-6	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence	127	55	103	45
VS-7	Live births by age of father: distinction between total and legitimate	80	34	152	66
VS-8	Live births by age of mother and birth order	94	41	136	59
VS-9	Live births by birth weight	64	28	166	72
VS-10	Live births by gestational age	40	17	190	83
VS-11	Live births by type of birth	82	36	148	64
VS-12	TFR, GRR, and NRR	116	50	114	50

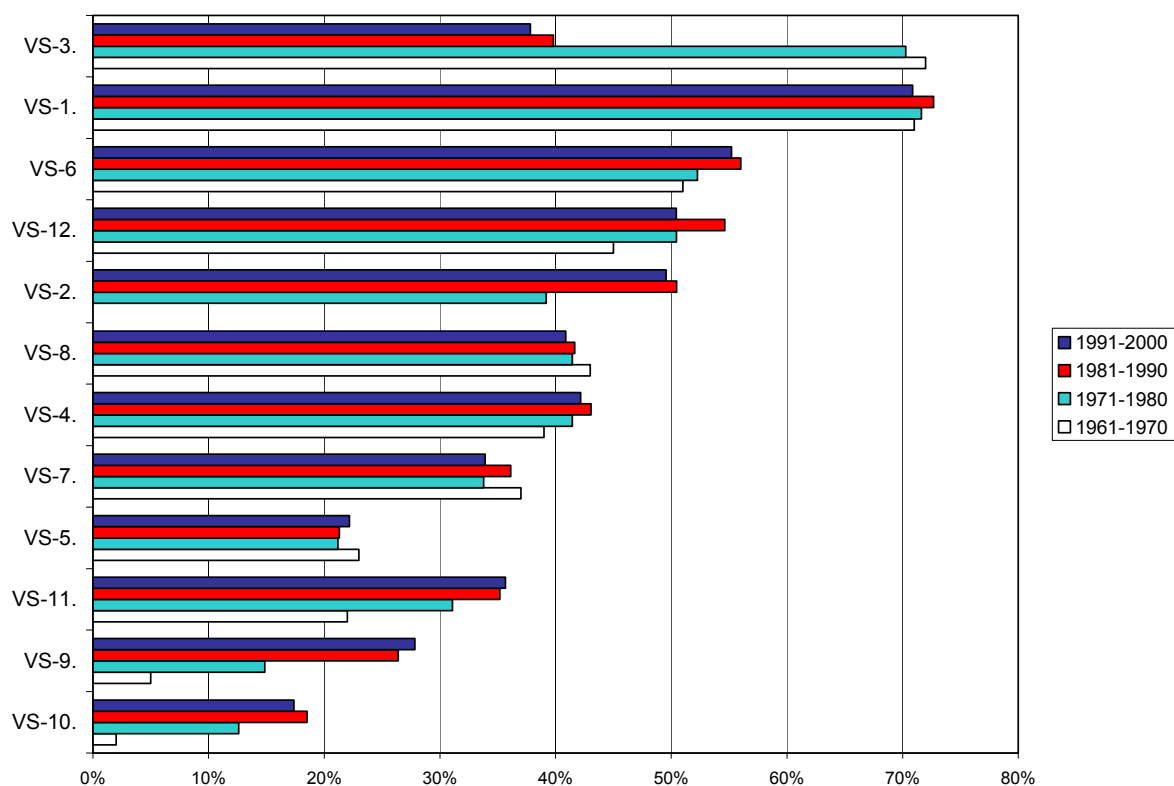
Table 11 - Frequency of reply with respect to the fertility tables in the vital statistics questionnaire, 1991-2000

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Percentage of countries or areas that provided data in the period 1991-2000			
Table number	Question	8-10 times	4-7 times	1-3 times	Number and percentage of "at least once"
VS-1	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	66	20	14	163 (71%)
VS-2	Live births by month of birth	37	47	16	114 (50%)
VS-3	Live births by legitimacy and sex	16	60	24	87 (38%)
VS-4	Live births by live birth order	9	64	17	97 (42%)
VS-5	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	16	65	20	51 (22%)
VS-6	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence	42	35	23	127 (55%)
VS-7	Live births by age of father: distinction between total and legitimate	17	61	21	80 (34%)
VS-8	Live births by age of mother and birth order	11	59	31	94 (41%)
VS-9	Live births by birth weight	12	61	27	64 (28%)
VS-10	Live births by gestational age	12	60	28	40 (17%)
VS-11	Live births by type of birth	17	65	18	82 (36%)
VS-12	TFR, GRR, and NRR	41	32	27	116 (50%)

48. **Coverage** varied from table to table in the decade 1991-2000: 163 countries or areas (equal to 71 per cent of countries or areas) provided data "at least once" for table *VS-1 Total live births by sex and urban/rural residence*, while only 40 (17 per cent) and 51 (22 per cent) provided data, at least once, for table *VS-10 Live births by gestational age* and table *VS-5 Live births by duration of marriage* respectively.

49. **Frequency of reply**, among those countries replying at least once in the decade, also varied a lot. While countries replying to tables: VS-1 (by sex and residence), VS-6 (by age of mother, sex of child) and VS-12 (reproductive rates) seem to have done so somewhat "consistently" (with respectively 66 per cent, 42 per cent and 41 per cent of countries or areas providing data between 8 and 10 times), countries providing data for the other tables have mostly done so only "regularly" (between 4 and 7 times in the decade).

Graph 2 - Comparison of levels of coverage over the four decades, by table.



Source: based on data presented in annex 4.

50. When analysing the **trends of level of coverage** and **frequency of reply** for each table over the four decades (completed tables can be found in annex 4), other interesting patterns can be highlighted. First, the **level of coverage** for table VS-3. *Live births by legitimacy and sex* has decreased significantly passing from 72 per cent in the decade 1961-1970 to 38 per cent in the last decade 1991-2000. From the graph above, it is clear that the drop in the level of response occurred between the second and third decade (1971-1980 and 1981-1990) when the level dropped from 70 per cent to 40 per cent respectively. On the other end, levels of response to tables VS-9 *Live births by birth weight*, VS-10 *Live births by gestational age*, VS-11 *Live births by type of birth* have consistently increased over the decades from 5 per cent, 2 per cent, 22 per cent respectively in 1961-1970 to 28 per cent, 17 per cent, 36 per cent respectively in the last decade 1991-2000. Second, with regards to the **frequency of replies** over the different decades (see annex 4), countries replying in 1961-1970 used to provide data more consistently than in 1991-2000: respectively 84 per cent and 81 per cent of countries providing data in 1961-1970 to table VS-1 (total live births by sex and residence) and table VS-3 (live births by

legitimacy and sex) used to do so “consistently”, while only 66 per cent and 16 per cent of countries replied “consistently” to the same tables in 1991-2000. In this last decade, it looks like countries replying to a given table, do so rather “regularly” (between 4 to 7 times) with the exception of few tables (VS-1, VS-6 and VS-12) for which still a significant proportion of countries reply consistently (between 8 to 10 times).

Table 12 - Level of response for table PC-13 in the population census questionnaire during the last two rounds of censuses

Round of census	Number of countries conducting a population census	Number of countries reporting any data on population census to UN	Percentage of reporting countries ^a
1985-1994	198	158	80
1995-2004 ^a	177	96	54

Round of census	Number of countries reporting data on <i>Female population 15 years of age and over by age and number of children born alive</i>	Percentage of reporting countries ^a
1985-1994	77	49
1995-2004 ^a	34	35

Source: table PC-13 *Female population by age and number of children ever born* of the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaire on population census.

Note: a. This is still an incomplete decade round until December 2004.

51. While 80 per cent of countries or areas that conducted a population census provided UNSD with information on at least a table on the population census questionnaire in the previous round of census (1985-1994), only 54 per cent of countries or areas that have so far conducted a census in the present round (1995-2004) have provided UNSD with some data on their population census. Out of these countries, 49 per cent and 35 per cent provided data on table PC-13, *Female population by age and number of children ever born*, in the previous and current round respectively. It should be noted, however, that the present round is not closed yet and that a significant number of countries, especially those that conducted a census since 2001, could still provide UNSD with these data.

Completeness

52. This section presents the **level of completeness of responses** on each of the 12 fertility tables of the vital statistics questionnaire for the last decade (1991-2000) and an analysis of

trends in the level of completeness over the four decades considered (1961-2000). Tables on the levels of completeness for the other three decades analysed (1961-1970, 1971-1980, 1981-1990) are in annex 5. In addition, for countries or areas providing, at least once in a given decade, “all” the requested information in a table, the **frequency of providing all the requested information** and its **trend over decades** have been calculated by identifying the countries that provided a complete tabulation “consistently”, “regularly” and “rarely”.

Table 13 - Completeness of data for decade 1991-2000, by table

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Frequency			Completeness
		Percentage of countries or areas providing “all” data required in the period 1991-2000			No. and percentage of countries or areas providing “all” data at least once
Table number	Question	“all” data 8-10 times	“all” data 4-7 times	“all” data 1-3 times	
VS-1	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	40	41	19	68 (42%)
VS-2	Live births by month of birth	..	..	..	..
VS-3	Live births by legitimacy and sex	11	63	26	70 (80%)
VS-4	Live births by live birth order	..	..	..	..
VS-5	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	..	..	..	..
VS-6	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and	30	38	32	50 (39%)
	legitimate for total/urban/rural residence ^a	3	16	81	age*sex*U/R 32 (25%) age*sex*U/R*leg
VS-7	Live births by age of father: distinction between total and legitimate	20	64	16	55 (69%)
VS-8	Live births by age of mother and birth order	11	59	31	94 (100%)
VS-9	Live births by birth weight	..	..	..	..
VS-10	Live births by gestational age	..	..	..	..
VS-11	Live births by type of birth	..	..	..	..
VS-12	TFR, GRR, and NRR	43	33	24	72 (62%) TFR, GRR, NRR

Notes:

a. Legitimacy for this table has only been recorded in the master DYB database since 1991.

.. Not applicable.

age*sex*U/R = number and percentage of countries providing data for live births by age and urban/rural residence of the mother and sex of the child.

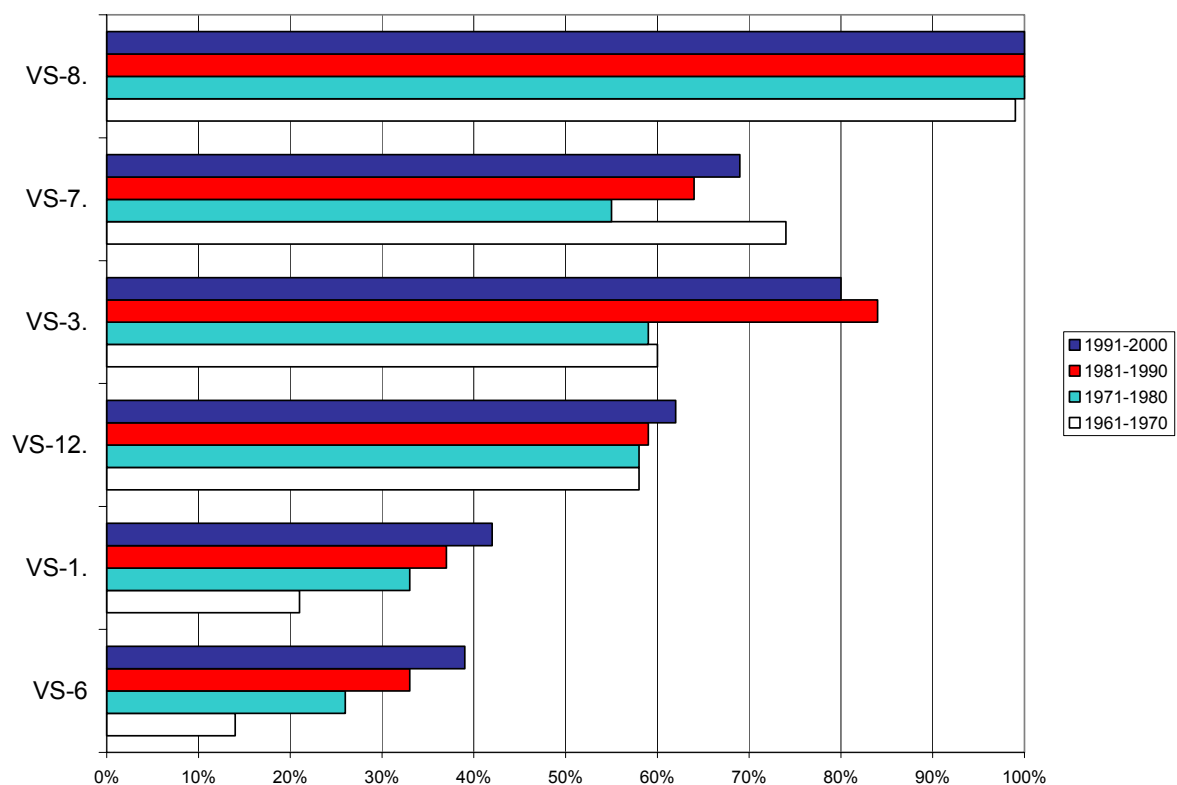
age*sex*U/R*leg = number and percentage of countries providing data for live births by age and urban/rural residence of the mother, sex and legitimacy status of the child.

TFR, GRR, NRR = Total fertility rate, gross reproductive rate and net reproductive rate.

53. From the above table it should first be noted that completeness for some tables has not been calculated (marked with two dots “..”) because these tables are univariate (VS-2 Month of birth, VS-4 Birth order, VS-5 Duration of marriage, VS-9 Birth weight, VS-10 Gestational age, VS-11 Type of birth) meaning that the level of completeness for these tables corresponds to results in table 11 described in the previous pages.

54. In terms of analysis of **levels of completeness**, countries replied very differently from table to table. While only 42 per cent of countries that replied to table VS-1 reported all the information required (live births by sex and urban/rural residence), 100 per cent of countries providing data for table VS-8 reported a complete table (live births by age of mother and birth order). It should be noted that the number of variables and cross tabulations required varies from table to table. It looks like the more variables the table covers, the more difficult it is for a country to provide “all” the information. This is shown by table VS-6 with only 25 per cent of countries providing at least once, data on the complete cross tabulation of *live births by sex, legitimacy, age and residence of mother* and only one country providing all this information “consistently” in the decade 1991-2000 (8-10 times).

Graph 3 - Comparison of levels of completeness over the decades, by table



Source: based on data presented in annex 5.

55. The above graph on **trends in the level of completeness** over decades shows that the completeness of reporting increased over time for all tables except one: Table VS-7 *Live births by age of father, distinction between total and legitimate* which showed a drop in completeness

between 1961-1970 and 1971-1980 but that is now rebounding to its initial level with 69 per cent of responding countries providing all the information required (both legitimacy and age of father) at least once in the decade 1991-2000. The level of completeness in table VS-1 (by sex and residence) and VS-6 (by sex, residence, age of mother) increased from a level of 21 per cent and 14 per cent respectively in 1961-1970, to 42 per cent and 39 per cent respectively in the last decade 1991-2000. In conclusion, over the last 40 years, the number of countries sending complete tabulations increased consistently for each table with the exception of table VS-7 mentioned above.

56. As for the **frequency of providing all the requested information** in a given decade, the tables in annex 5 suggest that while for the first three decades (from 1961 to 1990) there was a steady increase in the number of countries that provided complete tabulations “consistently” (between 8 and 10 times in the decades), the last decade 1991-2000, registered a change in this trend, with countries providing all the required information less than 8 times. It could be that some of these countries are yet to report (see below) data for the last years of the decade (1991-2000).

Recency of data

57. An important variable to keep in mind while analysing the DYB data is the recency of the data or the time lag between the year to which data refer and the year these data have been available to UNSD for dissemination. This section presents estimates for the **recency of data** and/or timeliness with which data have been provided to UNSD in the last decade 1991-2000. Estimates for the recency of data for the previous decades can be found in annex 6.

Table 14 - Recency of data for the last decade 1991-2000, by table

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Average time lag (in years) between reference year and reported year for each table			
Table number	Question	Total no. of countries	Average time lag (years)	Standard deviation	Min./Max*
VS-1	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	163	1.8	1.2	0/6
VS-2	Live births by month of birth ^a	114	1.7	0.9	0/4.5
VS-3	Live births by legitimacy and sex	87	1.7	1	0/5
VS-4	Live births by live birth order	97	1.8	1	0/5
VS-5	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	51	1.7	1	0/5
VS-6	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence	127	1.9	1.2	0/8
VS-7	Live births by age of father: distinction between total and legitimate	80	1.8	1.1	0/5
VS-8	Live births by age of mother and birth order	94	1.3	0.8	0/5
VS-9	Live births by birth weight	64	1.7	1	0/4
VS-10	Live births by gestational age	40	1.6	0.8	0/3.8
VS-11	Live births by type of birth	82	1.8	1	0/5
VS-12	TFR, GRR, and NRR	116	5.3	1.6	1/9

Notes:

a. data recorded in master DYB database only since 1980.

*Min/Max = minimum/maximum number of years between year to which data refer and year data have been provided to UNSD.

58. The above table shows that data reported are on average never “older” than two years with the exception of the reproductive rates of table VS-12 whose average is more than five years old by the time the data are entered in the DYB system.

59. Recency of data has been calculated only for data reported in the last decade considered (1991-2000) as for the previous time periods (1961-1990) the year of reception by UNSD is uncertain.

Conclusions

60. The table below summarises the results of this chapter and indicates that, over the four decades considered (1961-2000), countries provided data more easily and consistently (almost every year) for tables VS-1 and VS-6. On the other hand, these tables are those with the lowest level of completeness (meaning that they are only partially filled in) even if, over time, it looks like an increasing number of countries are providing complete tabulations. Another group of tables: VS-2, VS-9, VS-10, VS-11 should be noted from the analysis. These are “emerging” tables with a higher number of “regularly” replying countries.

Table 15 – Summary of tables 10 to 14

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Level of response				Completeness				Recency of data
		Coverage “at least once”		Frequency of response “consistently”		Completeness “all required information at least once”		Frequency of completeness “consistently”		
Table number	Question	In 1991-2000	Compared to previous decades	In 1991-2000	Compared to previous decades	In 1991-2000	Compared to previous decades	In 1991-2000	Compared to previous decades	In 1991-2000
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
VS-1	Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	+		+	-	-	+	+		
VS-2	Live births by month of birth ¹		+							
VS-3	Live births by legitimacy and sex		-		-		+			
VS-4	Live births by live birth order									
VS-5	Legitimate births by duration of marriage									
VS-6	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence	+		+		-	+			
VS-7	Live births by age of father: total and legitimate						-	+		
VS-8	Live births by age of mother and birth order									
VS-9	Live births by birth weight		+							
VS-10	Live births by gestational age		+							
VS-11	Live births by type of birth		+							
VS-12	TFR, GRR, and NRR			+				+		-

Notes:

+ = table characterised by being among the highest in a given column

- = table characterised by being among the lowest in a given column

blank = table neither characterised by being among the highest nor among the lowest in a given column

“at least once” = countries reported required data at least once in the given decade.

“consistently” = countries reported data between 8 and 10 times in the given decade.

61. From the previous table, table VS-1 is characterized by being among those with the highest number of countries reporting “any” data at least once in the decade 1991-2000 (“+” in column 1) and this is consistent with what happened in the previous decades considered (1961-1990, “blank” in column 2). Countries reported data almost every year (consistently = between 8 and 10 times) more easily for table VS-1 than for others tables in the last decade (“+” in

column 3) but in the past they used to reply even more (“-” in column 4). On the other hand, in 1991-2000, countries did not provide “all” the requested information in table VS-1 (“-” in column 5) even if they reported more than in the past (“+” in column 6) and those reporting all the information did so rather consistently (8-10 times in the decade, “+” in column 7) as they used to do in the past (“blank” on column 8). Finally, recency of data for table VS-1 is around two years in average as for the other fertility tables of the vital statistics questionnaire with the exception of table VS-12 already mentioned in paragraph 58.

Analysis of selected tables

62. The following section presents the results of a detailed analysis done at the level of the regions and over the four decades considered (1961-2000) for selected tables.

Table VS-1. Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence

Introduction

63. Table 1B –*Vital Statistics Summary*¹⁵ of the DYB questionnaire on Vital Statistics offers an overview of the fertility that took place over the last five years. This table was included among the tabulations of primary importance for the first time in the 2001 *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*.

Country response

Table 16 - Response rate on *Total Live Births* by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	26	58	44.8	24	58	41.4	22	56	39.3	22	56	39.3
America, North	34	36	94.4	35	37	94.6	35	37	94.6	35	37	94.6
America, South	14	14	100.0	14	15	93.3	12	14	85.7	12	14	85.7
Asia	24	47	51.1	29	45	64.4	30	43	69.8	30	43	69.8
Europe	37	37	100.0	37	38	97.4	36	38	94.7	36	38	94.7
Oceania	19	25	76.0	20	29	69.0	21	28	75.0	21	28	75.0
TOTAL	154	217	71.0	159	222	71.6	156	216	72.2	156	216	72.2

Source: table VS-1, *Live births by sex and urban/rural residence* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

Notes:

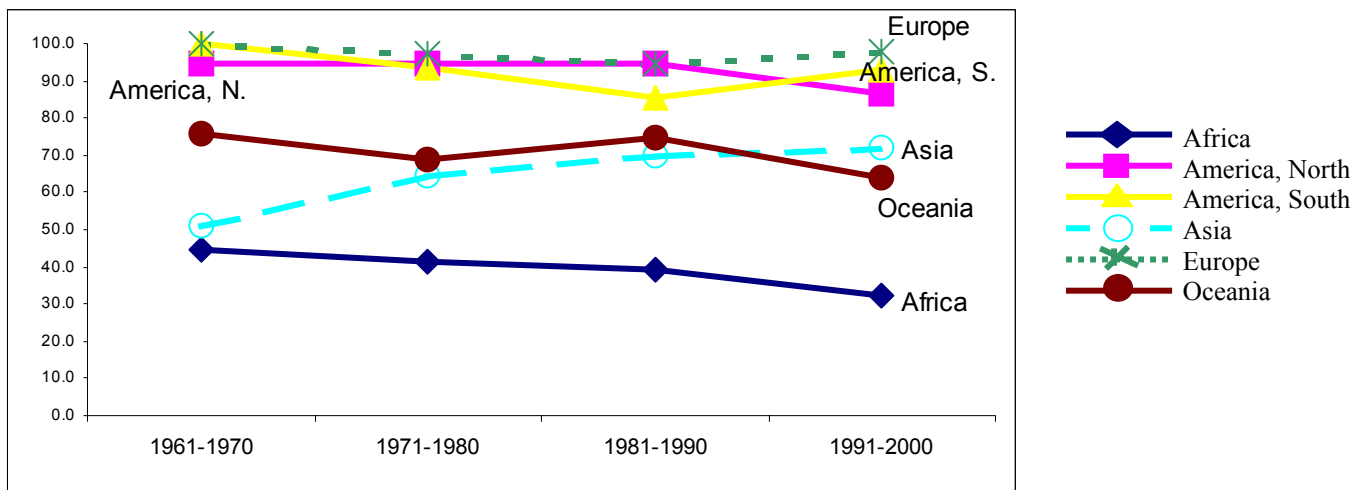
Replying = number of countries and areas replying at least once in the decade,

Total = Total number of countries and areas in the given region/decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying}/\text{Total} * 100$.

¹⁵ Data collected through this table are stored in the DYB database in the following dataset: E01

Graph 4 - Distribution of response rates by region over decades for *Total Live Births*



Source: based on data collected through table VS-1 *Live births by sex and urban/rural residence*, of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

64. From the above table and graph, three main groups of regions can be identified: the first composed of Europe, South America and North America with a very high percentage of replying countries over the decades (± 90 per cent); the second, Asia and Oceania with a medium-high response rate (60-70 per cent), and the third, Africa with a medium-low response rate (30-40 per cent). Europe has a higher response rate (almost always 100 per cent) than the other regions. In addition, there is a decrease in the response rate in North America, in Oceania and Africa between the 1960s and the 1990s. These last two regions have the highest drop over the periods, from 75 per cent and 45 per cent in the 1960s to 64 per cent and 32 per cent in the 1990s respectively. In contrast, Asia had a high continuous increase from the 1960s (51 per cent) up to the 1990s (72 per cent).

Table 17 - Response rate on *Live Births by Urban/Rural residence*, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	6	26	23.1	7	24	29.2	7	22	31.8	7	18	38.9
America, North	10	34	29.4	13	35	37.1	12	35	34.3	11	32	34.4
America, South	4	14	28.6	4	14	28.6	5	12	41.7	5	13	38.5
Asia	5	24	20.8	15	29	51.7	16	30	53.3	21	36	58.3
Europe	18	37	48.6	18	37	48.6	20	36	55.6	28	47	59.6
Oceania	1	19	5.3	5	20	25.0	3	21	14.3	2	16	12.5
TOTAL	44	154	28.6	62	159	39.0	63	156	40.4	74	162	45.7

Source: table VS-1, *Live births by sex and urban/rural residence* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

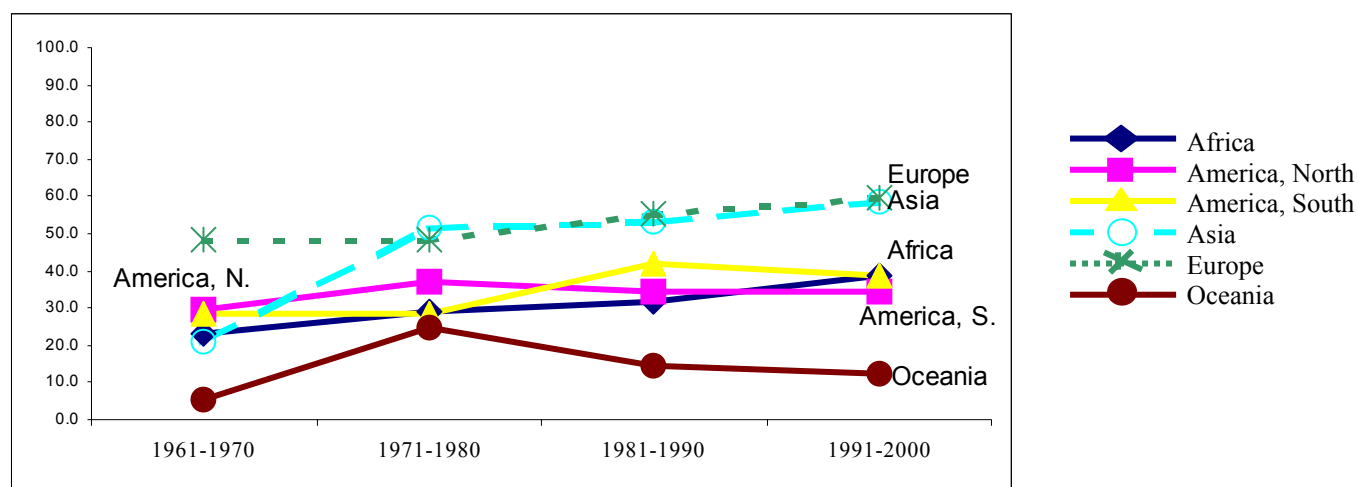
Notes:

Replying = number of countries providing data on live births by urban/rural residence at least once in the decade,

Total = Total number of replying countries to table VS-1 in the given region/decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying}/\text{Total} * 100$.

Graph 5 - Distribution of response rates by region over decades for *Live Births by Urban/Rural residence*



Source: based on data collected through table VS-1 *Live births by sex and urban/rural residence*, of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

65. From the above table it is important to note that the response rate is rather low for every region and every decade. Even for Europe, less than half of the countries providing total live births, provided live births by urban/rural residence, except in the last two decades (56 per cent and 60 per cent respectively). Again, Asia is improving significantly with a percentage of replying countries going from 21 per cent in the 1960s to 58 per cent in the last decade. Oceania is the region with the lowest response rate over the entire period considered. There is a positive trend for Europe, Asia and Africa in contrast to the negative trend for Oceania.

Table 18 - Response rate on *Live Births by Sex*, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Repying	Total	Rate	Repying	Total	Rate	Repying	Total	Rate	Repying	Total	Rate
Africa	19	26	73.1	21	24	87.5	14	22	63.6	13	18	72.2
America, North	34	34	100.0	32	35	91.4	33	35	94.3	28	32	87.5
America, South	13	14	92.9	13	14	92.9	11	12	91.7	12	13	92.3
Asia	21	24	87.5	25	29	86.2	27	30	90.0	31	36	86.1
Europe	36	37	97.3	36	37	97.3	35	36	97.2	46	47	97.9
Oceania	18	19	94.7	16	20	80.0	15	21	71.4	8	16	50.0
TOTAL	141	154	91.6	143	159	89.9	135	156	86.5	138	162	85.2

Source: table VS-1, *Live births by sex and urban/rural residence* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

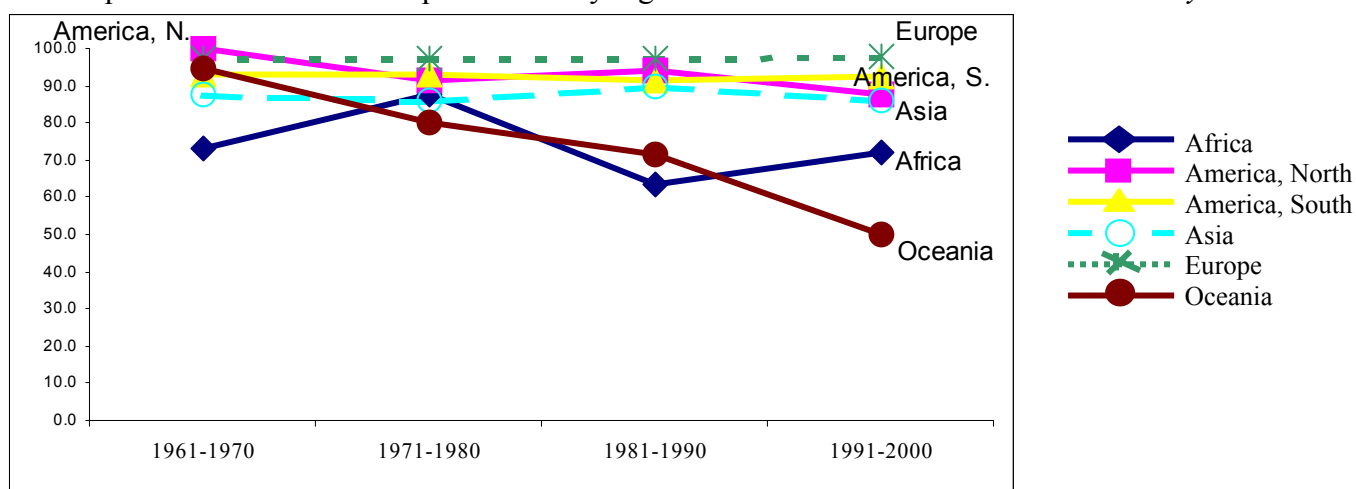
Notes:

Repying = number of countries providing data on live births by sex at least once in the decade,

Total = Total number of countries replying to table VS-1 in the given region/decade,

Rate = response rate Replying/Total *100.

Graph 6 - Distribution of response rates by region and over the decades for *Live Births by Sex*



Source: based on data collected through table VS-1 *Live births by sex and urban/rural residence*, of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

66. The response rate on *Live Births by Sex* is higher than the one on urban/rural residence, but still lower than the rate on the *Total Live births* implying that responding countries provide more easily total live births, secondly births by sex and finally births by residence. The pattern over time looks different from the two previous ones: Europe, South America and North America have a high percentage of countries that responded over the decades (>90 per cent), Asia has a medium-high response rate (86-90 per cent), Africa with a medium-low response rate (64-87 per cent) and a high variation over time and finally Oceania that persistently decreased the response rate over the decades from 95 per cent in the 1960s to 50 per cent in the

1990s. The trend is rather constant for all the regions except Africa and Oceania: while Africa moves up and down over the decades, Oceania has provided data on births by sex less and less since 1971.

Table 19 - Response rate on *Live Births by Sex and urban/rural residence*, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	4	26	15.4	5	24	20.8	6	22	27.3	5	18	27.8
America, North	7	34	20.6	11	35	31.4	11	35	31.4	10	32	31.3
America, South	2	14	14.3	2	14	14.3	2	12	16.7	3	13	23.1
Asia	3	24	12.5	12	29	41.4	16	30	53.3	21	36	58.3
Europe	16	37	43.2	17	37	45.9	19	36	52.8	27	47	57.4
Oceania	1	19	5.3	5	20	25.0	3	21	14.3	2	16	12.5
TOTAL	33	154	21.4	52	159	32.7	57	156	36.5	68	162	42.0

Source: table VS-1, *Live births by sex and urban/rural residence* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

Notes:

Replying = number of countries providing data on live births by sex and urban/rural residence at least once in the decade,

Total = Total number of replying countries to table VS-1 in the given region/decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying}/\text{Total} * 100$.

67. More countries are providing complete information required in this table: from 33 in the decade 1961-1970 to 68 in 1991-2000. In addition, when we consider the percentage, within the countries that provide data on total live births, a higher percentage is sending data on sex of the child and residence of the mother as well: from 21 per cent in 1961-1970 to 42 per cent in the last decade 1991-2000.

68. In terms of the quality of data, 77 per cent of the data on table VS-1B: *Live birth by sex and urban/rural residence* are reported as final reliable figures, and 17 per cent as final figures not reliable. In addition, 78 per cent of these data are reported as tabulated according to the date of occurrence as recommended by United Nations guidelines.

Tables disseminated:

69. The information collected through table VS-1B *Live birth by sex and urban/rural residence* is disseminated annually in the regular issues of the *Demographic Yearbook* and periodically in the special issues dedicated to natality statistics. The following table summarises the information disseminated:

Demographic Yearbook Table	Dissemination		
	Cross-tabulation variables	Issues	Time coverage
Table 4: Live births and Crude Birth Rates		REGULAR	last 5 years
Table 9: Live births and Crude Birth Rates by urban/rural residence	-Area	REGULAR	last 5 years
Special Topic: Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	-Sex -Area	SPECIAL no. issues: 8	1965-2000

Conclusions and recommendations on table VS-1B

70. This summary table is crucial for comparison between countries and over time.

71. To avoid confusion between place of residence and place of occurrence (very common table for live births), the note to table 1 should be rephrased to emphasize that the variable under study is the place of residence (of mother) rather than the place of occurrence of the birth.

72. In terms of response rate, the countries responded more easily to the required sex information rather than to the place of usual residence of mother. In addition, the constant improvement in the response rate of Asian countries and the deterioration in rates of countries from Oceania should be noted and the latter addressed.

Table VS-6. Live births by age of mother, sex of child, legitimacy and by urban/rural residence

Introduction

73. Table 6, *Live births by age of mother, sex of child, legitimacy and by urban/rural residence*¹⁶ - is an essential tabulation for the study of fertility and fertility differentials and is useful for the formulation of welfare and social policy. In this DYB table two tabulations recommended as topics of first priority in the 1973 *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* seem to have been combined.¹⁷ In the most recent *Principles and Recommendations* this table has been replaced by two tables:

- LB9: Live-births by place of usual residence and age of mother, sex of child and live birth order (no distinction on matrimonial status of mother).
- LB12: Live-births by place of usual residence and age of mother and by legitimacy status (no sex).

Given this replacement, it would be useful to discuss if such changes should be taken into consideration in the revision of the DYB questionnaire on Vital Statistics. It should also bear in mind that countries reply more easily to live births classified by sex rather than within/out of wedlock.

74. Legitimacy status of the child has been redefined in the most recent *Recommendations for Vital Statistics* in function of the mother's wedlock status. There are currently four fertility tables making the distinction between live births born within/out of wedlock in the DYB questionnaire on vital statistics. However no definition of what constitutes a birth to married women is provided.

¹⁶ The data are stored in the dataset E04 of the DYB database.

¹⁷ Tables LB-5a Live births cross-classified by age of mother and by sex of child and Table LB-5c Live-births cross-classified by age of mother and by legitimacy status were joined into one table, while the residence of mother was not considered.

Country response

Table 20 - Response rate on *Total Live Births by age of mother*, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	8	58	13.8	12	58	20.7	11	56	19.6	11	56	19.6
America, North	29	36	80.6	30	37	81.1	32	37	86.5	28	37	75.7
America, South	10	14	71.4	12	15	80	11	14	78.6	11	14	78.6
Asia	15	47	31.9	19	45	42.2	22	43	51.2	27	50	54
Europe	33	37	89.2	31	38	81.6	31	38	81.6	42	48	87.5
Oceania	15	25	60	12	29	41.4	14	28	50	8	25	32
TOTAL	110	217	50.7	116	222	52.3	121	216	56	127	230	55.2

Source: table VS-6, *Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

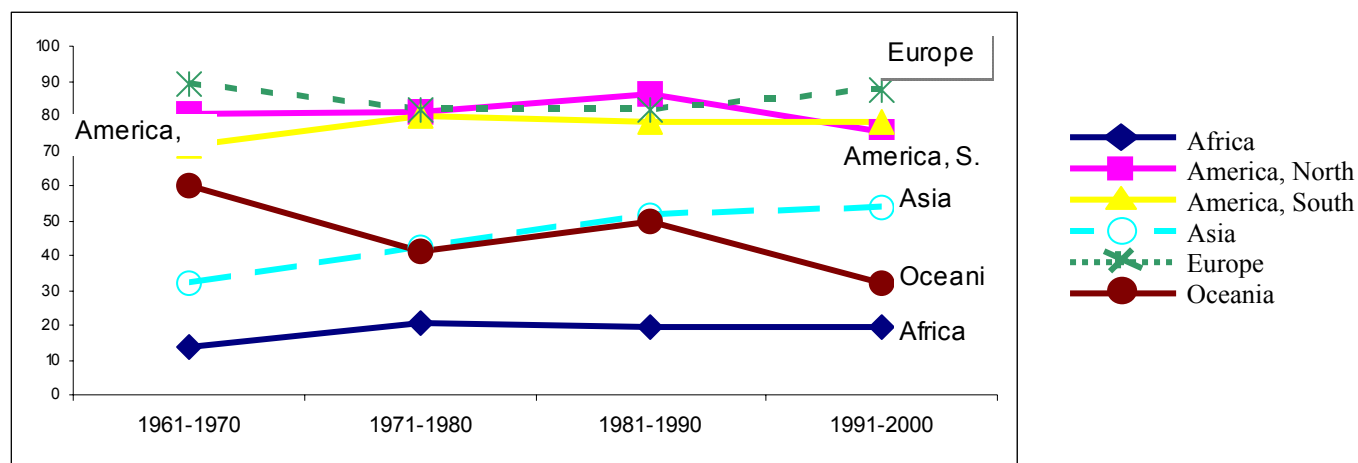
Notes:

Replying = number of countries and areas replying at least once in the decade,

Total = Total number of countries and areas in the given region/decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying}/\text{Total} * 100$.

Graph 8 - Distribution of response rates by region over decades for *Total Live Births by age of mother*



Source: based on data collected through table VS-6 *Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence*, of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

75. Table 20 and graph 8 look a lot like the respective table and graph for the first DYB tabulation analysed: table VS-1 *Live births by sex and urban/rural residence*. In fact, we can again recognize mainly three groups of regions. The first composed of Europe, South America and North America with the response rate of about 80 per cent. The second, being Africa replying the least (less than 20 per cent) and finally Asia and Oceania with the response rate ranging from 30 to 60 per cent with a shift of trend between these two regions: Oceania

declining from 60 per cent in the decade 1961-1970 to 32 per cent in the decade 1991-2000, and Asia increasing from 32 per cent to 54 per cent over the same period.

Table 21 - Response rate on *Total Live Births by age of mother and urban/rural residence*, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	2	8	25.0	4	12	33.3	5	11	45.4	4	11	36.4
America, North	4	29	13.8	7	30	23.3	8	32	25.0	10	28	35.7
America, South		10	0.0	1	12	8.3	4	11	36.4	3	11	27.3
Asia	2	15	13.3	8	19	42.1	13	22	59.1	18	27	66.7
Europe	16	33	48.5	15	31	48.4	17	31	54.8	26	42	61.9
Oceania		15	0.0	3	12	25.0	2	14	14.3	2	8	25.0
TOTAL	24	110	21.8	38	116	32.8	49	121	40.5	63	127	49.6

Source: table VS-6, *Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

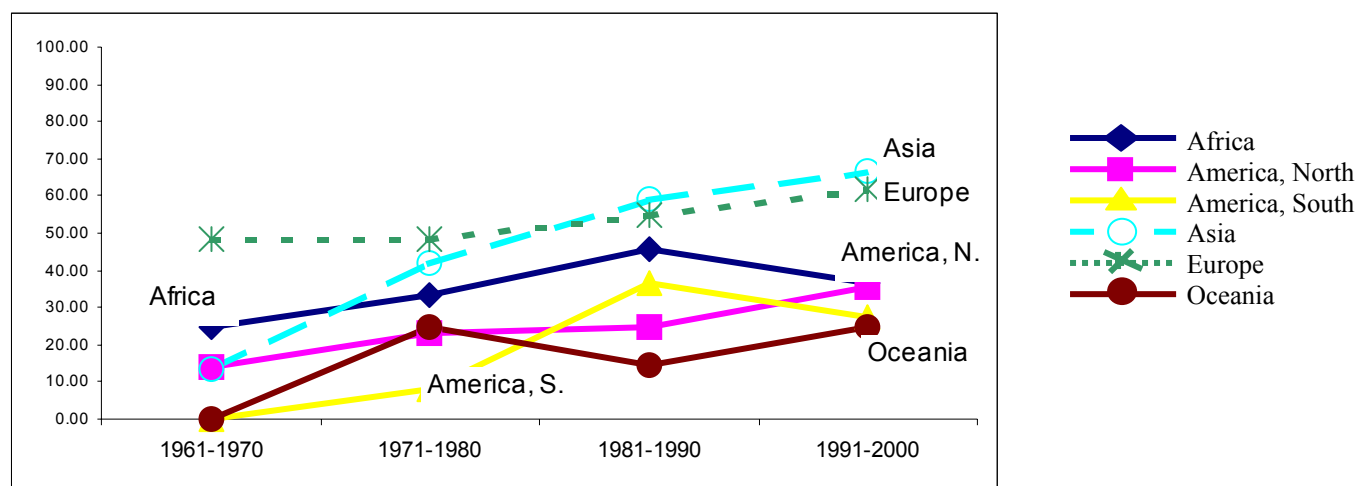
Notes:

Replying = number of countries providing data on live births by age and residence of mother at least once in the decade,

Total = number of countries providing live births by age of mother at least once in the decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying/Total} * 100$.

Graph 9 - Distribution of response rates by region over decades for *Total Live Births by age of mother and urban/rural residence*



Source: based on data collected through table VS-6 *Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence*, of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

76. Among countries providing data on live births by age of mother, very few provided the additional requested information on urban/rural residence of mother, with a high variation among regions. The percentage of countries responding to the cross-tabulation: *age of mother and residence of mother* can go from 0 to around 67 per cent over the decades. Europe is the

region with the highest percentage of countries providing this information except in the last two decades when Asia has got the highest response rate on residence of mother (still less than 70 per cent). It should also be noted the high increase for Asia who moved from 13 per cent in the 1960s to 67 per cent in the 1990s.

Table 22 - Response rate on *Total Live Births by age of mother and sex of the child*, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	3	8	37.5	6	12	50.0	8	11	72.7	8	11	72.7
America, North	15	29	51.7	19	30	63.3	22	32	68.7	20	28	71.4
America, South	5	10	50.0	6	12	50.0	8	11	72.7	8	11	72.7
Asia	5	15	33.3	14	19	73.7	19	22	86.4	19	27	70.4
Europe	22	33	66.7	24	31	77.4	27	31	87.1	35	42	83.3
Oceania	9	15	60.0	12	12	100.0	11	14	78.6	4	8	50.0
TOTAL	59	110	53.6	81	116	69.8	95	121	78.5	94	127	74.0

Source: table VS-6, *Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

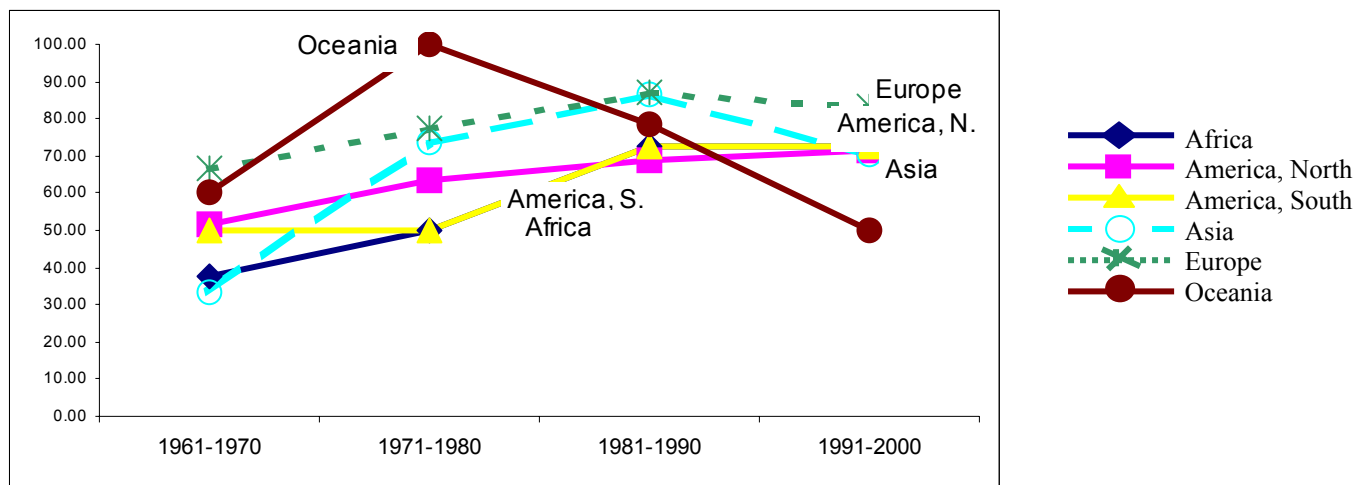
Notes:

Replying = number of countries providing data on live births by age of mother and sex of the child at least once in the decade,

Total = number of countries providing live births by age of mother at least once in the decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying}/\text{Total} * 100$.

Graph 10 - Distribution of response rates by region over decades for *Total Live Births by age of mother and sex of the child*



Source: based on data collected through table VS-6 *Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence*, of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

77. The response rate on *Live Births by Sex* is higher than the one on urban/rural. The pattern over time is slightly different from the ones seen in the previous graphs: Europe is the region with the highest response rate (a maximum of 87 per cent in the 1980s), while the other regions have response rates ranging from 33 per cent to 100 per cent depending on the decade. In Oceania the percentage of countries reporting live births by age of mother and also providing data on the sex of child was 60 per cent in the 1960s, 100 per cent in the 1970s dropped down at only 50 per cent in the last decade. Asia was increasingly providing data on sex of the child when replying to live births by age of mother up to the 1980s (from 33 per cent in the 1960s to 86 per cent in the 1980s) but in the last decade, the percentage has dropped to 70 per cent.

78. Information on live births by age of mother and legitimacy has been entered in the DYB system only since the last decade considered: 1991-2000. For this reason, only a reduced table is shown without graph.

Table 23 - Response rate on *Live Births by age of mother and legitimacy of child*, by region for the decade 1991-2000

Regions	1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa		11	
America, North	9	28	32.1
America, South	2	11	18.2
Asia	11	27	40.7
Europe	37	42	88.1
Oceania	3	8	37.5
Total	62	127	48.8

Source: table VS-6, *Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

Notes:

Replying = number of countries providing births by age of mother and legitimacy at least once in the decade,

Total = number of countries providing data on births by age of mother in the given region/decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying/Total} * 100$.

Table 24 - Response rate on *Live Births by age and residence of mother, sex and legitimacy of child*, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	1	8	12.5	3	12	25.0	4	11	36.4	11		
America, North	3	29	10.3	7	30	23.3	7	32	21.9	5	28	17.9
America, South	10			12			2	11	18.2	11		
Asia	1	15	6.7	5	19	26.3	11	22	50.0	6	27	22.2
Europe	10	33	30.3	12	31	38.7	4	31	12.9	20	42	47.6
Oceania	15			3	12	25.0	2	14	14.3	1	8	12.5
TOTAL	15	110	13.6	30	116	25.9	30	121	24.8	32	127	25.2

Source: table VS-6, *Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

Notes:

Replying = number of countries providing data on live births by age and residence of mother, sex and legitimacy of child at least once in the decade,

Total = Total number of replying countries to table VS-6 in the given region/decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying/Total} * 100$.

79. Data on births within/out of wedlock are available in the DYB system only since 1991 and thus, only the last decade (column 1991-2000) represents the response rate to “all” the information required in table VS-6.

80. In terms of quality of data, 87 per cent of the data in table VS-6 *Live birth by age of mother, sex, urban/rural residence and legitimacy* are reported as reliable final figure and 11 per cent as final figures not reliable. In addition, 84 per cent of these data are reported as tabulated according to the date of occurrence as recommended by the United Nations guidelines.

Tables disseminated

81. The information collected through table VS-6 *Live birth by age and residence of the mother and sex of the child* is disseminated annually in the regular issues of the *Demographic Yearbook* for the latest available year, and periodically in the special issues dedicated to natality statistics covering a series of years (between 10 and 20). The additional information on legitimacy by age of mother has been disseminated only in the special issues up to 1986. The following table summarises the information disseminated:

Dissemination				
Demographic Yearbook Table	Cross-tabulation variables	Issues	Time coverage	Notes
Table 10 : Live births by age of mother, sex and urban/rural residence	-Age -Sex -Area	REGULAR	latest available year	
		SPECIAL no. issues: 6	1965-2000	
Table 11: Live births rates specific for age of mother, by urban/rural residence	-Age -Area	REGULAR	latest available year	Information on sex is not used in rates
		SPECIAL no. issues: 6	1965-2000	
Special topic table: Legitimate live births by age of mother	-Age	SPECIAL no. issues: 7	1936-1985	
Special topic table: Legitimate live births rates by age of mother	-Legitimacy	SPECIAL no. issues: 7	1936-1958	
		SPECIAL no. issues: 7	1936-1958	

Conclusions and recommendations on table VS-6

82. This table has never been recommended in the way it is currently phrased in the DYB questionnaire. In the last vital statistics recommendations, the information provided by this table is split into two tables: LB9: *Live births by age and place of residence of mother, sex of child and birth order* and VS12: *Live births by age of mother, place of residence and legitimacy*. From the analysis on the countries' responses rates, it appears that countries reply more easily to sex of the child rather than to legitimacy status.

83. The DYB questionnaires should refer to live births born within wedlock vs. out of wedlock to be consistent with the last United Nations principles and recommendations.

84. Data on live births within/out of wedlock are not available before 1991 because this information was not entered in the DYB system before that date. In any case, even in the decade with available information (1991-2000), the response rate is relatively low: for example, only 24 per cent of North American countries provided data on this topic.

85. The age classification recommended does not seem to be used by the majority of the countries. There is therefore need for further exploration on this issue. Annex 2 provides details on how many times each country has used an age classification that is different from the

recommended one and it points out the differences. An important aspect to consider when treating age group classifications is confidentiality: in some countries, very few births happen in the extremities of the scale, in the first and last age groups (<15, 45-49, 50+). This could cause confidentiality problems as people could be easily identified.

86. The worsening, over the decades, of Oceania response rate suggests the need for a specific investigation to find out what happened in this region.

Table VS-3. Live births by legitimacy and sex

87. Table 3, *Live births by legitimacy and sex*¹⁸, was included among the primary tabulations in the 1953 *Principles for Vital Statistics System* and in the 1973 *Principles and Recommendations for Vital Statistics System*. It was recommended because of its usefulness for ascertaining levels and changes in legitimate birth rates. However, since then it has been removed from the minimum list of recommended tables and replaced by tabulations which further cross-classify legitimate live births by age of mother. It is therefore, recommended that the utility of this tabulation be reconsidered.

Country response

Table 25: Response rate on *Live Births by legitimacy*, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	15	58	25.9	10	58	17.2	4	56	7.1	3	56	5.4
America, North	32	36	88.9	29	37	78.4	22	37	59.5	16	37	43.2
America, South	13	14	92.9	10	15	66.7	8	14	57.1	6	14	42.9
Asia	7	47	14.9	13	45	28.9	11	43	25.6	14	50	28.0
Europe	30	37	81.1	28	38	73.7	30	38	78.9	41	48	85.4
Oceania	12	25	48.0	12	29	41.4	9	28	32.1	6	25	24.0
TOTAL	109	217	50.2	102	222	45.9	84	216	38.9	86	230	37.4

Source: table VS-3, *Live births by legitimacy and sex* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

Notes:

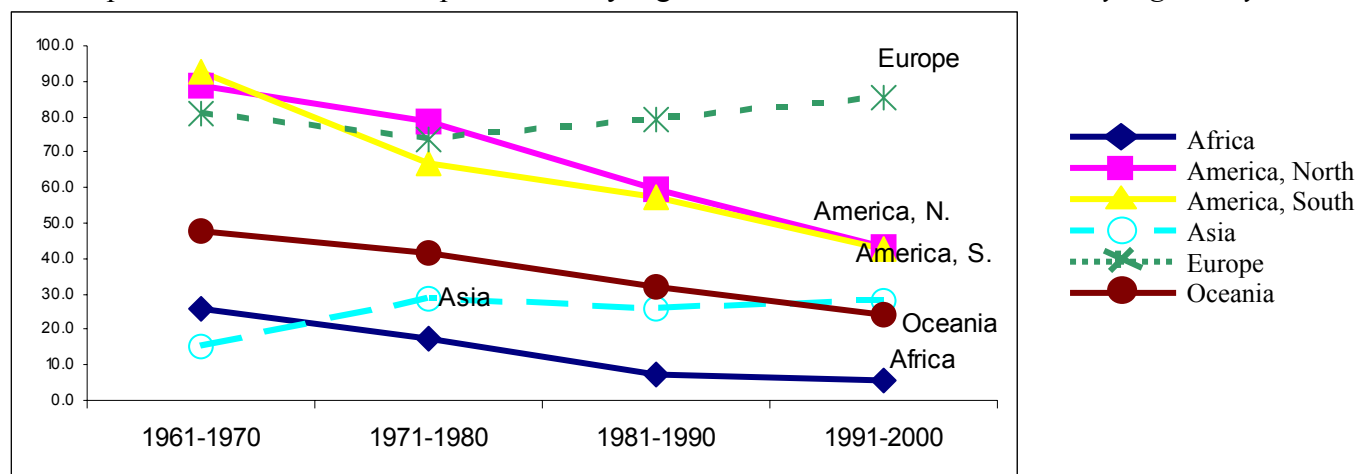
Replying = number of countries providing data on births by legitimacy at least once in the decade,

Total = Total number of countries in the given region/decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying}/\text{Total} * 100$.

¹⁸ The data are stored in the dataset E02 in the DYB database.

Graph 11 - Distribution of response rates by region over decades for *Live Births by legitimacy*



Source: based on data collected through table VS-3, *Live births by legitimacy and sex*, of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

88. The response rate on *births by legitimacy* has dropped significantly over the decades for each region except Europe and Asia which showed an increase (from 81 per cent and 15 per cent in 1961-1970 to 85 per cent and 28 per cent in 1991-2000 respectively). For the other regions the response rate on births by legitimacy has more than halved during the 40 years considered (1961-2000).

Table 26: Response rate on *Live Births by legitimacy and sex*, by decade and by region

Regions	1961-1970			1971-1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	13	15	86.7	7	10	70.0	3	4	75.0	3	3	100.0
America, North	25	32	78.1	25	29	86.2	13	22	59.1	12	16	75.0
America, South	11	13	84.6	9	10	90.0	8	8	100.0	5	6	83.3
Asia	6	7	85.7	12	13	92.3	8	11	72.7	8	14	57.1
Europe	28	30	93.3	28	28	100.0	28	30	93.3	36	41	87.8
Oceania	11	12	91.7	11	12	91.7	9	9	100	6	6	100.0
TOTAL	94	109	86.2	92	102	90.2	70	84	83.3	70	86	81.4

Source: table VS-3, *Live births by legitimacy and sex* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

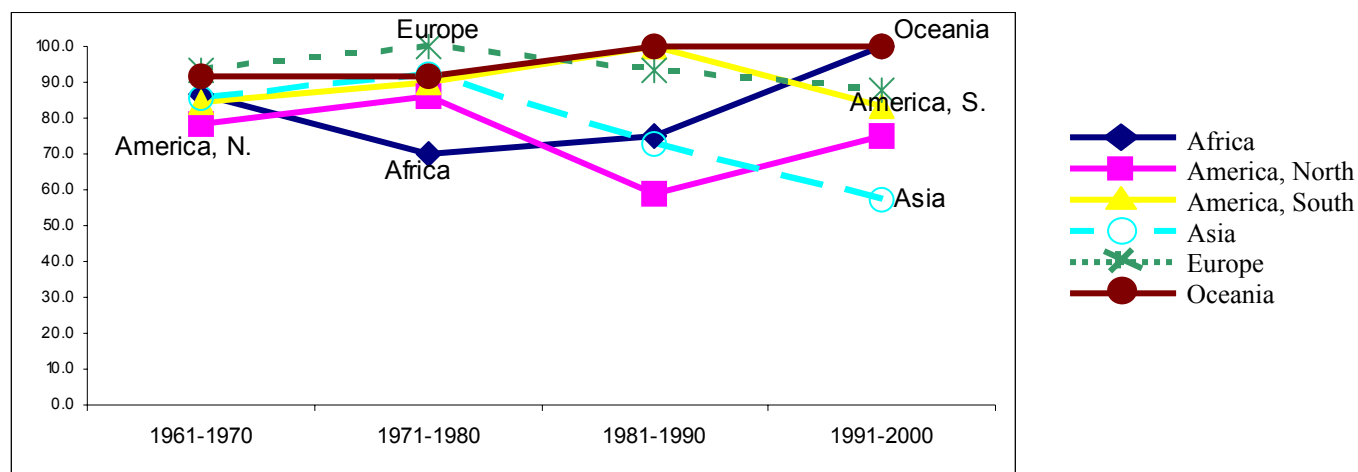
Notes:

Replying = number of countries providing data on legitimacy and sex at least once in the decade,

Total = Total number of countries providing births by legitimacy in the given region/decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying}/\text{Total} * 100$.

Graph 12 - Distribution of response rates by region over decades for *Live Births by legitimacy and sex*



Source: based on data collected through table VS-3, *Live births by legitimacy and sex*, of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

89. More difficult to interpret is the response rate on the cross-classification of *legitimacy by sex*. Not all the countries that provided *live births by legitimacy status*, provided data also cross-classified by sex as required in the questionnaire. Over the decades, fewer countries have provided data on legitimacy (as shown in table 25 and graph 11) and on legitimacy and sex of the child (as shown in the table 26 and graph 12).

90. It should be noted that some regions have response rates of 100 per cent because of the low number of responding countries as it is the case of Oceania in the last two decades considered 1981-1990 and 1991-2000 where only 9 and 6 countries, respectively, provided data on live births by legitimacy and sex.

91. In terms of quality of data, 97 per cent of the data on the corresponding table in the DYB database: E02 *Live birth by legitimacy and sex* are reported as reliable final figures. In addition, 81 per cent of these data are reported as tabulated according to the date of occurrence as recommended by the United Nations guidelines.

Tables disseminated:

92. The information collected through table VS-3 *Live birth by legitimacy and sex* is disseminated annually in the regular issues of the *Demographic Yearbook* for the latest available year, and periodically in the special issues dedicated to natality statistics covering a series of years (between 10 and 20). The following table summarises the information disseminated:

Dissemination				
Demographic Yearbook Table	Cross-tabulation variables	Issues	Time coverage	Notes
Special topic table: Live births by legitimacy status, and percent illegitimate	-Legitimacy	SPECIAL no. issues: 7	1949-1985 1990-1998	Information on sex is not used

Conclusions and recommendations on table VS-3:

93. In the last United Nations recommendations, “legitimate births” have been replaced with “births born within/out of wedlock” and have been cross-classified by age and residence of mother. Sex is no longer recommended as a cross-tabulation variable for live births born within/out of wedlock.

Dissemination of Fertility tables through the Demographic Yearbook

94. Fertility tables published annually in the *Demographic Yearbook* have changed over time in terms of number and information displayed. In the *regular* (annual) issue of the *Demographic Yearbook* four tables on fertility are presented. These are:

Table in DYB	Title	Since
Table 4	Vital statistics summary: Live births: number, CBR and TFR ¹⁹ : trend	1948
Table 9	Live births and crude live birth rates by urban/rural residence: trend	1967
Table 10	Live births by age of mother, sex and urban/rural residence: latest	1969
Table 11	Live births rates specific for age of mother, by urban/rural residence: latest	1975

95. These tables are published on an annual basis. Both live births and crude birth rates, for example, have been disseminated as part of the basic DYB tables every year since 1948, while the total fertility rates appear from 1986 only. The general fertility rates have been published regularly from 1948. Since 1967 live births and crude birth rates have also been regularly available cross-classified by urban/rural place of residence. Likewise, births by age of mother have been disseminated every year since 1954 (and in the first 2 issues, 1948 and 1949/50) and the additional cross-classification by urban/rural place of residence since 1969 and by sex of the child since 1965.

96. For the fertility rates, while the crude birth rates and the age specific fertility rates are computed by UNSD, the total fertility rates and the reproductive rates are provided by countries in table VS-12 of the vital statistics questionnaire.

97. Other fertility tables are published only on a periodic basis under *Special issues* of the *Demographic Yearbook*. Since 1997, the special topic tables have been published in a supplementary volume issued as a CD-ROM, while the regular tables have continued to be

¹⁹ TFR has been published since 1986.

disseminated in paper format. The 1999 special topic (latest) on Natality statistics has been published in 2002 on a CD-ROM. It covers fertility statistics over the period 1980 - 1998.

98. There have been ten special editions dedicated to the topic of fertility, published periodically between 1949 and 1999. The number of tables disseminated in these special editions varied over the years as well as the length of the time covered (usually a trend of at least 10 years).

DYB special topic issue
1949-50
1954
1959
1965
1969
1975
1981
1986
1992 ²⁰
1999

99. The following table presents an exhaustive list of fertility tables disseminated in the special issues (topic wise) of the *Demographic Yearbook* (DYB-ST), presenting the number of times the table has been published, its time coverage, and the year of its latest publication.

²⁰ Special topic on Fertility and Mortality: it contains the same fertility tables as in the regular issue but it covers a longer period (1983-1992).

Table 27: Fertility tables disseminated in special topic issues

Title	Number of issues	Time coverage	Latest DYB-ST
Selected derived measures of natality	See note a	See note a	1999
Live births by sex and urban/rural residence ^b	8	1965-2000	1999
Live births by age of mother sex and urban/rural residence ^c	6	1965-2000	1999
Live-birth rate specific for age of mother and urban/rural residence ^c	6	1965-2000	1999
Live births by age of mother and live-birth order	9	1936-1998	1999
Live-birth rate specific for age of mother, by live-birth order	8	1948-1998	1999
Live births by live-birth order	11	1936-1985 1990-1998	1999
Live-birth rate by live-birth order	12	1936-1985 1990-1998	1999
Live births by age of father	9	1936-1980 1990-1998	1999
Live-birth rates specific for age of father	9	1936-1985 1990-1998	1999
Live births by plurality	6	1965-1985 1990-1998	1999
Live births by birth weight	4	1972-1985 1990-1998	1999
Live births by gestational age	4	1972-1985 1990-1998	1999
Live births by occupation of father ^d	2	Latest available year	1969
Live births by legitimacy status, and percent illegitimate	7	1949-1985 1990-1998	1999
Legitimate live births by duration of married life	10	1936-1985 1990-1998	1999
Legitimate live births rates by duration of married life	4	1950-1957 then Latest	1975
Legitimate live births by age of father	6	1949-1985	1986
Legitimate live births rates specific for age of father	6	1949-1958 then Latest	1986
Legitimate live births by age of mother	7	1936-1985	1986
Legitimate live births rates by age of mother	7	1936-1958 then Latest	1986
Children ever born by age of mother	9	1930-1996	1997
Children ever born by age of mother and urban/rural residence	6	1948-1996	1997

Notes:

a. Child-woman ratio (frequency=13 times, time coverage=1900-1999), TFR (in regular issue since 1986, time coverage=1948-2000), GRR and NRR (frequency=11 times, time coverage=1900-1999).

b. This information is regularly published since 1966 in the table *Live births by age of mother, sex and urban/rural residence*, latest available year. The special topic presents a trend while in the regular issue there is only the latest available year.

c. This table is regularly published with the latest available year.

d. In a note to table VS-7 there was the request to provide live births by occupation of father, if possible.

100. *Live births by birth order* (and the corresponding rate) has been published in regular issues of the DYB twice in 1948 and 1955 (while the corresponding rate from 1948 to 1955) and after that, only in the special editions on natality inside the table *Live births by age of mother and birth order* (from 1959 to 1999 issues).

101. As the above table indicates, five tables have been disseminated in every special edition of the DYB on the topic of natality (if we exclude the 1992 edition): *Selected derived measures of natality, Live births by age of mother and live-birth order, Live births by age of father, Live-birth rates specific for age of father and Legitimate live births by duration of married life.*

102. There are tables that have rarely been disseminated as *Live births by birth weight* and *Live births by gestational age* disseminated only four times.

103. It is worth noting that table VS-2 *Live births by month of birth* has never been disseminated and VS-3 *Live births by legitimacy and sex* has been disseminated without using the information on sex.

104. This final section focuses on the gaps between data collection and dissemination in the DYB. This is one aspect where UNSD can achieve concrete results in a relatively short time frame. Of all the tables covered in this report one stands out for having never been disseminated, VS-2 *Live births by month of birth* for which several countries have supplied information. The following table shows the percentage of countries that have supplied data on VS-2 at least once between 1980 and 2000. Europe has the highest country coverage with almost 90 per cent of its countries providing data at least once for the decade 1991-2000.

Table 28 – Response rate on table VS-2 *Live births by month of birth*, by decade and by region

Regions	1980			1981-1990			1991-2000		
	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate	Replying	Total	Rate
Africa	7	58	12.1	8	56	14.3	7	56	12.5
America, North	22	37	59.5	26	37	70.3	23	37	62.2
America, South	8	15	53.3	11	14	78.6	8	14	57.1
Asia	15	45	33.3	19	43	44.2	26	50	52.0
Europe	28	38	73.7	31	38	81.6	43	48	89.6
Oceania	7	29	24.1	14	28	50.0	7	25	28.0
TOTAL	87	222	39.2	109	216	50.5	114	230	49.6

Source: table VS-2, *Live births by month of birth* of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaire.

Notes:

Replying = number of countries providing data on births by month of birth at least once in the decade,

Total = Total number of countries providing births by legitimacy in the given region/decade,

Rate = response rate $\text{Replying}/\text{Total} * 100$.

105. Data for this table have been recorded in the DYB database (in table E03) only since 1980.

106. In a note to table VS-2 *Live births by month of birth* of the vital statistics questionnaire, it was asked if statistics were tabulated by date of occurrence or date of registration. Ninety one per cent of data recorded in the corresponding DYB table have been reported as live births tabulated by date of occurrence as recommended in the United Nations vital statistics recommendations.

107. In terms of quality, 96 per cent of data in the DYB table *Live births by month of birth* are registered as reliable final figures.

Conclusions

108. Time coverage represents an important aspect to consider in analysing dissemination patterns. For tables that have been disseminated only a few times in the past five decades, time coverage will be fairly incomplete. For tables, on the other hand, which have been published frequently, there will be few years for which no data have ever been made available to the general public.

109. Substantive differences exist in terms of the frequency and time-coverage with which the various tables are disseminated. Some, such as the basic tables published in the regular editions of the DYB have been disseminated over forty times, while others only few times and one never.

110. As for the table on *live births by month of birth*, it is recommended to review the purpose of its collection and decide if this table should be finally disseminated or eliminated from the vital statistics questionnaire.

Conclusions and Recommendations

111. Many conclusions can be drawn and many of them have already been summarized at the end of each section. However, some overall conclusions and recommendations can be made.

112. A first general conclusion is that there is a need for considering fertility statistics obtained from other sources than civil registration. Looking at the systematically low response rate of countries with weak civil registration systems, it is imperative to try to collect information on the basic events (fertility and mortality) using population censuses when available and sample surveys more regularly. This action would be in line with the last two editions of the vital statistics recommendations of 1973 and 2001 and the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting to Review the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook System*²¹, where the importance of using these complementary/supplementary sources of vital statistics as interim measures, while developing a more accurate civil registration system, was stressed.

113. Secondly there is a lack of consistency between the DYB questionnaire and the most recent edition of the *Principles and Recommendations*: the DYB questionnaires are not always up to date. A review of the age group and specific classifications (e.g. the birth order for *children ever born alive*) used in the DYB questionnaires should be undertaken, keeping in mind both the most recent *Principals and Recommendations for a Vital statistics system* and for *Population and Housing Censuses*.

114. With regard to data collection, one main conclusion can be drawn: there is a need to improve response rates. This might entail both increasing countries' statistical capacity, as well as a more active dialogue with NSOs to obtain more complete and timely responses as emphasized at the Expert Group Meeting to Review the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook System*¹⁴.

²¹ Final report of the Expert Group Meeting to Review the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook System*, 10-14 November, New York available at: http://unstats/unsd/demographic/workshop/EGM_dyb/index.htm .

115. With respect to dissemination, attention needs to be given to ensuring that all tables for which data are available are published. Likewise, especially for the special topic tables, more recent data have to be made available to the general public and a dissemination programme should be established and published in the UNSD website.

Major problems in the Demographic Yearbook fertility tables

Fertility Tables in the Demographic Yearbook questionnaires

Table number	Table code	Title	Consistency with recommendations	Response rate	Dissemination	Conclusions
VS-1.	E01	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence		Between 71% (1961-1970) and 70% (1991-2000) provided Total births	-Annually -ST: longer trend -Sex only in ST (not in rates)	Better highlight that It is “place of residence of mother” and not “place of occurrence” that is requested
VS-2.	E03	Live births by month of birth	Four countries using quarterly data	Only since 1980 (50%)	-Never	Do we disseminate it, or do we delete it?
VS-3.	E02	Live births by legitimacy and sex	- Sex no more recommended - Now recommended by age and residence of mother	- Between 50% (1961-1970) and 37% (1991-2000) provided Births by legitimacy	-Sex not used	
VS-4.		Live births by live birth order		Between 39% (1961-1970) and 42% (1991-2000) provided LB by birth order	ST: 11 times	Included in VS-8:...by age of mother
VS-5.		Legitimate births by duration of marriage	- Missing in list of recommended tables	Between 23% (1961-1970) and 22% (1991-2000) provided LB by duration of marriage	ST: 10 times	Review adequacy

Table number	Table code	Title	Consistency with recommendations	Response rate	Dissemination	Conclusions
VS-6	E04	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence	-Never recommended so phrased -Age classification recommended less and less used over decades -Legitimate vs. born in wedlock	Between 51% (1961-1970) and 55% (1991-2000) provided LB by age of mother	-Latest year: annually -Trend: ST, -Legitimacy used up to 1986, -Rates without sex	-Update legitimate with born in wedlock
VS-7.		Live births by age of father: distinction between total and legitimate	-Not clear if in last PR, legitimacy is recommended	Between 37% (1961-1970) and 34% (1991-2000) provided LB by age of father	ST: 9 times	
VS-8.		Live births by age of mother and birth order		Between 42% (1961-1970) and 41% (1991-2000) provided LB by age of mother and birth order	ST: 9 times	
VS-9.		Live births by birth weight		Between 5% (1961-1970) and 28% (1991-2000) provided LB by birth weight	ST: 4 times	
VS-10.		Live births by gestational age		Between 2% (1961-1970) and 17% (1991-2000) provided LB by gestational age	ST: 4 times	

Table number	Table code	Title	Consistency with recommendations	Response rate	Dissemination	Conclusions
VS-11.		Live births by type of birth		Between 22% (1961-1970) and 36% (1991-2000) provided LB by type of birth	ST: 6 times	In dissemination, we used the title" plurality"
VS-12.		TFR, GRR, and NRR		Between 45% (1961-1970) and 50% (1991-2000) provided at least one of these rates	TFR: regular since 1986, GRR, NRR: ST: 11 times	
PC-13.		Female population 15 years of age and over by age and number of children born alive (CEB): by urban/rural	-Inconsistency in classification: age, number of CEB -Sex: not clear if it is in questionnaire	2000 round: 54% provided PC data, among these countries 35% provided CEB; 1990 round: 80% provided PC data, among these countries 49% provided CEB;	ST: 9 times	-Add age groups: 75-79, 80-84, 85+ -Add number of children ever born: up to 12+ -Maybe need to add sex

Notes:

VS stands for Vital statistics questionnaire and PC stands for Population Census questionnaire.

ST stands for special topic issues of the Demographic Yearbook.

PC stands for population census.

CEB stands for children ever born.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of variables collected, processed and disseminated

Collection : DYB questionnaires			Processing	Dissemination: DYB				Notes
Table in questionnaire	Time coverage	Metadata	Table in DYB-DB	Table in DYB	Cross-tabulation variables	Issues	Time coverage	
VT-1. Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural	Trend over 5 years		E01: Live births by sex	Table 4: Live births and CBRs Table 9: Live births and CBRs by urban/rural residence ST: Live births by sex and urban/rural residence ST: Crude live-birth rate, by urban/rural residence	-Area -Sex -Area -Area	REGULAR REGULAR SPECIAL # issues: 8 SPECIAL # issues: 8	Over last 5 years period Over last 5 years period Trend (last 20 years?) Trend (last 20 years?)	
VT-2. Live births by month of birth	Trend over 5 years	Question on time of registration: month of occurrence/registration	E03: Live births by month of birth					
VT-3. Live births by legitimacy and sex	Trend over 5 years		E02: Live births by legitimacy and sex	ST: Live births by legitimacy status, and percent illegitimate	-Legitimacy	SPECIAL # issues: 7	(Trend)	Sex not used
VT-4. Live births by live birth order	Trend over 5 years	Tot, 1,..., 9, 10+, NS	E07: Live births by birth order					Do we need it? -Check if classification ok with PR -How countries reply

VT-5. Legitimate births by duration of marriage	Trend over 5 years	Tot, <1, 1,...,9, 10-14, 15-19, 20+, NS	E12: Legitimate live births by duration of marriage	ST: Legitimate live births by duration of marriage	-Legitimacy -Duration of marriage	SPECIAL # issues: 10	(Trend)	
VT-6 Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural	Trend over 5 years		E04: Live births by age of mother	Table 10 : Live births by age of mother, sex and urban/rural residence	-Age -Sex -Area	REGULAR	Latest available year	-Sex not used
				Table 11: Live births rates specific for age of mother, by urban/rural residence	-Age -Area	REGULAR	Latest available year	
			E06: Live births by age of father	ST: Legitimate live births by age of mother		SPECIAL # issues: 6	Trend	
VT-7.Live births by age of father : distinction between total and legitimate	Trend over 5 years	Tot, -20, 20-24,...,60-64, 65+, NS		ST: Live births by age of father		ST: 1999 see index	Trend	-Check if classification ok with PR -How countries reply
				ST: Live-birth rates specific for age of father		ST: 1999 see index	Trend	
				ST: Legitimate live births by age of father		SPECIAL # issues: 6	Trend	
				ST: Legitimate live births rates by age of father		SPECIAL # issues: 6	Trend	
VT-8. Live births by age of mother and birth order	Latest available year	Tot, 1,..., 9, 10+, NS	E08: Live births by birth order and age of mother	ST: Live births by age of mother and live-birth order	-Age mother -Birth Order	SPECIAL # issues: 9	Trend	For some countries only legitimate births ...attention in comparisons
				ST: Live-birth rate specific for age of mother, by live-birth order		SPECIAL # issues: 8	Trend	

VT-9. Live births by birth weight	Trend over 5 years	Tot, -500, 500-999,...,4500-5000, 5000+, NS	E13: Live births by birth weight	ST: Live births by birth weight -Birth weight	SPECIAL # issues: 4	Trend	-Check if classification ok with PR -How countries reply
VT-10. Live births by gestational age	Trend over 5 years	Tot, -28w, 28-31, 32-35, 36-39, 40+, NS	E14: Live births by gestational age	ST: Live births by gestational age -Gestational age	SPECIAL# issues: 4	Trend	-Check if classification ok with PR-How countries reply
VT-11. Live births by type of birth	Trend over 5 years	Tot, Single, Twin, Other	E15: Live births by type of birth	ST: Live births by plurality -Plurality	SPECIAL # issues: 6	Trend	Why plurality and not type of birth?
VT-12. TFR, GRR, and NRR	Trend over 12 years		F01: Reproduction rates (Gross=1/Net=2, TFR=5)	Table 4: TFR	REGULAR	Last 5 years period	
				ST: Selected derived measures of natality: GRR, NRR, CWR	SPECIAL # issues: 11 13	Trend	Child women ratio calculated by UNSD
CP-13. Female population with indicated number of children born alive: by age groups of moms and urban/rural	At census date	0..7,8-9,10+	B25: Female population by age and number of children ever born	ST: Female population by age and number of children born alive	Age of mother # children ever born Area	SPECIAL # issues: 9	-Check if classification ok with PR -How countries reply

Annex 2: Variation between age group classification used by countries and recommended one

Region	Country	Responses			Decade	Not UN recommended age groups		
		Total No.	Not consistent with UN age classification			0 – 19	45+	40+
			Number	Percentage				
Africa	Algeria	7	3	42.9	81-90	0 – 19		
Africa	Benin	1	0	0.0	91-00			
Africa	Cape Verde	8	8	100.0	81-90	0 – 19	45+	
Africa	Egypt	34	34	100.0	91-00	0 – 19	45+	
Africa	Liberia	2	2	100.0	71-80	45+		
Africa	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	8	8	100.0	91-00	0 – 19	45+	
Africa	Madagascar	6	1	16.7	61-70	0 – 19	45+	
Africa	Malawi	3	0	0.0	81-90			
Africa	Mali	1	0	0.0	81-90			
Africa	Mauritius	9	1	11.1	91-00	45+		
Africa	Morocco	9	1	11.1	91-00	0 – 19	45+	
Africa	Rwanda	1	1	100.0	71-80	0 – 19		
Africa	Réunion	23	8	34.8	81-90	0 – 19	45+	
Africa	Saint Helena ex. dep.	3	0	0.0	91-00			
Africa	Sao Tome and Principe	6	0	0.0	71-80			
Africa	Seychelles	25	10	40.0	91-00	45+	40+	
Africa	South Africa	2	0	0.0	91-00			
Africa	Togo	1	1	100.0	61-70	45+		
Africa	Tunisia	24	9	37.5	91-00	0 – 19	45+	
Africa	Zimbabwe	1	1	100.0	91-00	45+		
America, North	Anguilla	12	12	100.0	91-00	40+		
America, North	Antigua and Barbuda	19	5	26.3	91-00	45+	40+	
America, North	Aruba	5	3	60.0	91-00	40+	45+	
America, North	Bahamas	29	2	6.9	91-00	45+		
America, North	Barbados	27	1	3.7	81-90	40+		
America, North	Belize	33	29	87.9	91-00	45+		
America, North	Bermuda	25	4	16.0	91-00	40+	45+	
America, North	British Virgin Islands	10	6	60.0	81-90	35+	40+	35 – 44 45+
America, North	Canada	36	3	8.3	81-90	0 – 19	45+	
America, North	Cayman Islands	12	2	16.7	91-00	40+	45+	
America, North	Costa Rica	33	33	100.0	91-00	45+		
America, North	Cuba	29	7	24.1	81-90	0 – 19	45+	
America, North	Dominica	7	0	0.0	81-90			
America, North	Dominican Republic	24	3	12.5	81-90	0 – 19	45+	
America, North	El Salvador	39	0	0.0	91-00			
America, North	Greenland	37	6	16.2	91-00	40+	0 – 19 45+	
America, North	Grenada	10	0	0.0	71-80			
America, North	Guadeloupe	17	6	35.3	91-00	0 – 19	45+	
America, North	Guatemala	36	0	0.0	91-00			
America, North	Honduras	23	18	78.3	81-90	45+		
America, North	Jamaica	18	1	5.6	91-00	45+		
America, North	Martinique	24	9	37.5	91-00	0 – 19	45+	
America, North	Mexico	36	11	30.6	71-80	40+		
America, North	Montserrat	7	2	28.6	81-90	35+		
America, North	Netherlands Antilles	16	2	12.5	91-00	45+		
America, North	Nicaragua	15	5	33.3	61-70	45+		
America, North	Panama	38	0	0.0	91-00			
America, North	Puerto Rico	37	10	27.0	91-00	40+	45+	
America, North	Saint Kitts-Nevis	35	23	65.7	91-00	45+	10 – 14 40+	
America, North	Saint Lucia	17	7	41.2	91-00	45+		
America, North	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	9	0	0.0	71-80			
America, North	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	22	20	90.9	91-00	45+	40+	
America, North	Trinidad and Tobago	36	11	30.6	91-00	45+		
America, North	United States	37	32	86.5	91-00	40+	45+	
America, North	United States Virgin Islands	27	12	44.4	91-00	0 – 19	40+	45+
America, South	Argentina	29	0	0.0	91-00			
America, South	Bolivia	3	0	0.0	71-80			
America, South	Brazil	20	0	0.0	91-00			
America, South	Chile	39	0	0.0	91-00			
America, South	Colombia		22	0	0.0	91-00		
America, South	Ecuador		33	0	0.0	91-00		

America, South	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	2	1	50.0	91-00	35+	40+
America, South	French Guiana	20	9	45.0	91-00	0 – 19	45+
America, South	Guyana	7	7	100.0	71-80	0 – 19	45+
America, South	Paraguay	10	10	100.0	91-00	45+	
America, South	Peru	24	0	0.0	81-90		
America, South	Suriname	11	11	100.0	91-00	45+	
America, South	Uruguay	26	15	57.7	91-00	45+	
America, South	Venezuela	38	0	0.0	91-00		
Asia	Afghanistan	1	1	100.0	71-80	0 – 19	45+
Asia	Armenia	8	2	25.0	91-00	45+	
Asia	Azerbaijan	9	2	22.2	91-00	0 – 19	
Asia	Bahrain	23	5	21.7	81-90	45+	
Asia	Bangladesh	8	8	100.0	81-90	0 – 19	45+
Asia	Brunei Darussalam	19	0	0.0	91-00		
Asia	China	1	1	100.0	81-90	0 – 19	45+
Asia	China: Hong Kong SAR	31	1	3.2	91-00	45+	
Asia	China: Macao SAR	40	18	45.0	91-00	0 – 19	45+
Asia	Cyprus	39	0	0.0	91-00		
Asia	Georgia	5	1	20.0	91-00	0 – 19	
Asia	Indonesia	1	0	0.0	61-70		
Asia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2	0	0.0	91-00		
Asia	Iraq	3	0	0.0	71-80		
Asia	Israel	39	24	61.5	81-90	0 – 19	45+
Asia	Japan	39	7	17.9	91-00	0 – 19	45+
Asia	Jordan	11	0	0.0	71-80		
Asia	Kazakhstan	13	8	61.5	91-00	0 – 19	
Asia	Korea (Dem. People's Republic of)	1	1	100.0	91-00	0 – 24	45+
Asia	Korea (Republic of)	25	0	0.0	91-00		
Asia	Kuwait	32	32	100.0	91-00	45+	
Asia	Kyrgyzstan	9	5	55.6	91-00	0 – 19	
Asia	Maldives	10	1	10.0	91-00	45+	
Asia	Mongolia	10	0	0.0	91-00		
Asia	Pakistan	19	8	42.1	91-00	0 – 19	45+
Asia	Philippines	33	16	48.5	71-80	45+	0 – 19
Asia	Qatar	12	0	0.0	91-00		
Asia	Singapore	40	16	40.0	91-00	45+	
Asia	Sri Lanka	25	9	36.0	61-70	45+	
Asia	Tajikistan	4	4	100.0	91-00	0 – 19	
Asia	Thailand	36	0	0.0	91-00		
Asia	Turkey	8	7	87.5	91-00	45+	
Asia	United Arab Emirates	2	0	0.0	81-90		
Asia	Uzbekistan	6	0	0.0	91-00		
Europe	Albania	23	2	8.7	91-00	0 – 19	
Europe	Austria	39	9	23.1	91-00	45+	
Europe	Belarus	9	4	44.4	91-00	0 – 19	45+
Europe	Belgium	25	0	0.0	91-00		
Europe	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	0	0.0	91-00		
Europe	Bulgaria	35	3	8.6	91-00	45+	
Europe	Croatia	8	0	0.0	91-00		
Europe	Czech Republic	9	7	77.8	91-00	45+	
Europe	Denmark	38	8	21.1	91-00	45+	
Europe	Estonia	7	7	100.0	91-00	45+	
Europe	Faeroe Islands	29	2	6.9	91-00	40+	
Europe	Finland	38	15	39.5	91-00	45+	0 – 19
Europe	Former Czechoslovakia	30	1	3.3	81-90	45+	
Europe	Former USSR	19	18	94.7	81-90	0 – 19	45+
Europe	Former Yugoslavia	29	0	0.0	81-90		
Europe	Portugal	36	1	2.8	81-90	45+	
Europe	Germany	7	0	0.0	91-00		
Europe	Germany: Federal Republic of Germany	29	1	3.4	61-70	45+	
Europe	Germany: Former German Democratic Republ	28	28	100.0	81-90	45+	
Europe	Gibraltar	15	1	6.7	91-00	40+	45+
Europe	Greece	34	0	0.0	91-00		
Europe	Hungary	39	7	17.9	91-00	45+	
Europe	Iceland	38	8	21.1	91-00	45+	0 – 19
Europe	Ireland	39	7	17.9	91-00	0 – 19	45+
Europe	Isle of Man	1	1	100.0	61-70	45+	
Europe	Italy	31	15	48.4	71-80	15 – 20	21 – 24
Europe	Latvia	9	6	66.7	91-00	45+	
Europe	Liechtenstein	16	3	18.8	91-00	45+	40+

Europe	Lithuania	9	7	77.8	91-00	45+			
Europe	Portugal	37	8	21.6	91-00	0 – 19	45+		
Europe	Malta	37	22	59.5	91-00	0 – 19	45+		
Europe	Monaco	4	0	0.0	61-70				
Europe	Netherlands	37	32	86.5	91-00	0 – 19	45+		
Europe	Norway	38	4	10.5	91-00	45+			
Europe	Poland	39	6	15.4	81-90	0 – 19	45+		
Europe	Portugal	37	0	0.0	91-00				
Europe	Republic of Moldova	6	3	50.0	91-00	0 – 15	16 – 19	45+	
Europe	Romania	38	5	13.2	91-00	45+			
Europe	Russian Federation	6	2	33.3	91-00	0 – 19			
Europe	San Marino	34	2	5.9	91-00	40+	0 – 19	45+	
Europe	Slovakia	8	4	50.0	91-00	45+			
Europe	Slovenia	8	7	87.5	91-00	45+			
Europe	Spain	35	0	0.0	91-00				
Europe	Sweden	39	3	7.7	91-00	0 – 19	45 – 48	45+	49+
Europe	Switzerland	36	0	0.0	91-00				
Europe	The Former Yugoslav Rep. Of Macedonia	8	2	25.0	91-00	45+			
Europe	Ukraine	7	4	57.1	91-00	0 – 19			
Europe	United Kingdom	18	0	0.0	91-00				
Europe	Yugoslavia	8	0	0.0	91-00				
Oceania	American Samoa	19	5	26.3	91-00	40+			
Oceania	Australia	39	10	25.6	91-00	45+			
Oceania	Christmas Islands	12	1	8.3	61-70	40+			
Oceania	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	14	0	0.0	81-90				
Oceania	Cook Islands	16	5	31.3	81-90	45+	40+		
Oceania	Fiji	27	1	3.7	61-70	0 – 15			
Oceania	French Polynesia	1	0	0.0	61-70				
Oceania	Guam	31	2	6.5	91-00	45+			
Oceania	Marshall Islands	10	6	60.0	91-00	45+	40+		
Oceania	Nauru	4	0	0.0	61-70				
Oceania	New Caledonia	29	5	17.2	91-00	0 – 19	45+		
Oceania	New Zealand	39	14	35.9	91-00	0 – 15	45+		
Oceania	Niue	3	1	33.3	61-70	40+			
Oceania	Norfolk Island	22	0	0.0	81-90				
Oceania	Northern Mariana Islands	2	0	0.0	81-90				
Oceania	Palau	11	0	0.0	91-00				
Oceania	Samoa	16	9	56.3	71-80	45+			
Oceania	Solomon Islands	1	0	0.0	61-70				
Oceania	Tokelau	3	0	0.0	81-90				
Oceania	Tonga	7	0	0.0	91-00				
Oceania	Wallis and Futuna Islands	1	0	0.0	61-70				

Notes:

Total No. = number of replies from the country over the 40 years considers (1961-2000) to table VS6: *Live births by age and place of residence of mother, legitimacy and sex*,

Number = number of replies using an age classification different from the recommended one,

Percentage = Number/Total No.*100,

Decade = most recent decade in which the country used a not recommended age classification,

Not UN recommended age groups = Age groups used by countries different from UN recommended ones.

Annex 3: United Nations recommended list of tabulations not used in the Demographic Yearbook questionnaires

Primary Tabulation recommended in the last Vital statistics Principles and Recommendations and not present in the DYB VS questionnaire :

- LB-1. Live births by place of occurrence and sex of child (page 108)
- LB-2. Live births by place of occurrence and place of usual residence of mother (page 109)
- LB-3. Live births by place of registration, month of occurrence and month of registration (page 110)
- LB-5. Live births by age, place of usual residence and marital status of mother (page 112)
- LB-7. Live births by place of usual residence, age and educational attainment of mother (page 113)
- LB-10. Live births by live-birth order and interval between last and previous live-births to mother (page 116)
- LB-11. Live births by ethnic and/or national group and place of usual residence and age of mother (page 117)
- LB-13. Live births by place of occurrence, site of delivery and attendant at birth (page 119)
- LB-14. Live births by site of delivery, attendant at birth and birth weight (page 120)
- LB-15. Live births by birth weight and place of usual residence and educational attainment of mother (page 121)
- LB-17. Live births by birth weight, place of usual residence of mother and month in which prenatal care began (page 123)
- LB-18. Live births by age and place of usual residence of mother and month in which prenatal care began (page 124)
- LB-19. Live births by live-birth order, place of usual residence of mother and month in which prenatal care began (page 125)

Primary Tabulation recommended in the last Census Principles and Recommendations and not present in the DYB PC questionnaire :

- P4.2 Female population 15 years of age and over in their first marriage/union group and number of children ever born alive (to estimate fertility levels and patterns),
- P4.4 Female population, by age at first birth, by current age and residence (age at the beginning of childbearing is an important indicator: when it increases, a fertility decline is likely to occur. In addition, the urban/rural classification will lead to study differentials on the onset of childbearing),
- P4.5 Median age at first birth, by current age of women, place of residence and educational attainment (allowing the additional study of differential by educational attainment),
- P4.6 Mothers 15 years of age and over with at least one child under 15 years of age living in the same household, by age of mother and by sex and age of children (to estimate fertility by the "own children" method),
- P4.7 Female population ... to 49 years of age, by age, number of live births, by sex within the 12 months preceding the census, and deaths among these live births, by sex (to estimate current age specific fertility rates and current infant mortality rates by sex),
- P4.8 Female population ... to 49 years of age, by age, number of live births, by sex within the 12 months preceding the census, and educational attainment (to investigate differentials in current age-specific fertility rates and IMRs by the educational attainment of mothers)

Annex 4: Coverage and frequency of reply by table and time period

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Number of countries or areas providing data at least once in the period 1961-1970				Non-response	
Table number	Question	8-10 times	7-4 times	1-3 times	Total no., At least once	Total no.	Percentage
VS-1.	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	130 (84%)	9 (6%)	15 (10%)	154 (71%)	63	29%
VS-2.	Live births by month of birth ¹	..	..	..	..
VS-3.	Live births by legitimacy and sex	127 (81%)	11 (7%)	18 (12%)	156 (72%)	61	28%
VS-4.	Live births by live birth order	0	65 (76%)	20 (24%)	85 (39%)	132	61%
VS-5.	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	0	40 (80%)	10 (20%)	50 (23%)	167	77%
VS-6.	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence	74 (67%)	17 (15%)	19 (17%)	110 (51%)	107	49%
VS-7.	Live births by age of father : distinction between total and legitimate	50 (62%)	14 (17%)	16 (20%)	80 (37%)	137	63%
VS-8.	Live births by age of mother and birth order	54 (58%)	17 (18%)	22 (24%)	93 (43%)	124	57%
VS-9.	Live births by birth weight	0	0	11 (100%)	11 (5%)	206	95%
VS-10.	Live births by gestational age	0	0	5 (100%)	5 (2%)	212	98%
VS-11.	Live births by type of birth	0	4 (8%)	44 (92%)	48 (22%)	169	78%
VS-12.	TFR, GRR, and NRR	45 (46%)	14 (14%)	39 (40%)	98 (45%)	119	55%

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Number of countries or areas providing data at least once in the period 1971-1980				Non-response	
Table number	Question	8-10 times	7-4 times	1-3 times	Total no., At least once	Total no.	Percentage
VS-1.	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	125 (79%)	11 (7%)	23 (14%)	159 (72%)	63	28%
VS-2.	Live births by month of birth ¹	0	0	87 (100%)	87 (39%)	135	61%
VS-3.	Live births by legitimacy and sex	118 (76%)	14 (9%)	24 (15%)	156 (70%)	66	30%
VS-4.	Live births by live birth order	51 (55%)	21 (23%)	20 (22%)	92 (41%)	130	59%
VS-5.	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	31 (66%)	6 (13%)	10 (21%)	47 (21%)	175	79%
VS-6.	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence	69 (59%)	23 (20%)	24 (21%)	116 (52%)	106	48%
VS-7.	Live births by age of father : distinction between total and legitimate	31 (41%)	27 (36%)	17 (23%)	75 (34%)	147	66%
VS-8.	Live births by age of mother and birth order	57 (62%)	21 (23%)	14 (15%)	92 (41%)	130	59%
VS-9.	Live births by birth weight	15 (45%)	5 (15%)	13 (39%)	33 (15%)	189	85%
VS-10.	Live births by gestational age	9 (32%)	10 (36%)	9 (32%)	28 (13%)	194	87%
VS-11.	Live births by type of birth	41 (59%)	15 (22%)	13 (19%)	69 (31%)	153	69%
VS-12.	TFR, GRR, and NRR	48 (43%)	14 (12%)	50 (45%)	112 (50%)	110	50%

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Number of countries or areas providing data at least once in the period 1981-1990				Non-response	
Table number	Question	8-10 times	7-4 times	1-3 times	Total no., At least once	Total no.	Percentage
VS-1.	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	113 (72%)	20 (13%)	24 (15%)	157 (73%)	59	27%
VS-2.	Live births by month of birth ¹	7 (6%)	74 (68%)	28 (26%)	109 (50%)	107	50%
VS-3.	Live births by legitimacy and sex	49 (57%)	22 (26%)	15 (17%)	86 (40%)	130	60%
VS-4.	Live births by live birth order	57 (61%)	20 (21%)	16 (17%)	93 (43%)	123	57%
VS-5.	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	30 (65%)	10 (22%)	6 (13%)	46 (21%)	170	79%
VS-6.	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence	70 (58%)	28 (23%)	23 (19%)	121 (56%)	95	44%
VS-7.	Live births by age of father : distinction between total and legitimate	35 (45%)	14 (18%)	29 (37%)	78 (36%)	138	64%
VS-8.	Live births by age of mother and birth order	58 (64%)	18 (20%)	14 (16%)	90 (42%)	126	58%
VS-9.	Live births by birth weight	30 (53%)	15 (26%)	12 (21%)	57 (26%)	159	74%
VS-10.	Live births by gestational age	21 (52%)	10 (25%)	9 (23%)	40 (19%)	176	81%
VS-11.	Live births by type of birth	45 (59%)	18 (24%)	13 (17%)	76 (35%)	140	65%
VS-12.	TFR, GRR, and NRR	62 (53%)	22 (19%)	34 (29%)	118 (55%)	98	45%

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Number of countries or areas providing data at least once in the period 1991-2000				Non-response	
Table number	Question	8-10 times	7-4 times	1-3 times	Total no., At least once	Total no.	Percentage
VS-1.	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	107 (66%)	33 (20%)	23 (14%)	163 (71%)	67	29%
VS-2.	Live births by month of birth ¹	42 (37%)	54 (47%)	18 (16%)	114 (50%)	116	50%
VS-3.	Live births by legitimacy and sex	14 (16%)	52 (60%)	21 (24%)	87 (38%)	143	62%
VS-4.	Live births by live birth order	18 (19%)	62 (64%)	17 (17%)	97 (42%)	133	58%
VS-5.	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	8 (16%)	33 (65%)	10 (20%)	51 (22%)	179	78%
VS-6.	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence	53 (42%)	45 (35%)	29 (23%)	127 (55%)	103	45%
VS-7.	Live births by age of father : distinction between total and legitimate	14 (17%)	49 (61%)	17 (21%)	80 (34%)	152	66%
VS-8.	Live births by age of mother and birth order	10 (11%)	55 (59%)	29 (31%)	94 (41%)	136	59%
VS-9.	Live births by birth weight	8 (12%)	39 (61%)	17 (27%)	64 (28%)	166	72%
VS-10.	Live births by gestational age	5 (12%)	24 (60%)	11 (28%)	40 (17%)	190	83%
VS-11.	Live births by type of birth	14 (17%)	53 (65%)	15 (18%)	82 (36%)	148	64%
VS-12.	TFR, GRR, and NRR	48 (41%)	37 (32%)	31 (27%)	116 (50%)	114	50%

¹Data recorded in DYB master database only since 1980

Annex 5: Completeness of data by table and time period

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Number of countries or areas providing data on all required cross-tabulations in the period 1961-1970				Total no., At least once
Table number	Question	8-10 times	7-4 times	1-3 times	all applicable	
VS-1.	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	3 (9%)	14 (42%)	16 (48%)	33 (21%)	154
VS-2.	Live births by month of birth	..	..	..	..
VS-3.	Live births by legitimacy and sex	2 (2%)	65 (69%)	27 (29%)	94 (60%)	156
VS-4.	Live births by live birth order	..	..	..	..
VS-5.	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	..	..	..	..
VS-6	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence ³	0	9 (60%)	60 (40%)	15 (14%) age*sex*U/R	110
VS-7.	Live births by age of father : distinction between total and legitimate	32 (54%)	12 (20%)	15 (25%)	59 (74%)	80
VS-8.	Live births by age of mother and birth order	53 (58%)	18 (20%)	21 (23%)	92 (99%)	93
VS-9.	Live births by birth weight	..	..	..	..
VS-10.	Live births by gestational age	..	..	..	..
VS-11.	Live births by type of birth	..	..	..	..
VS-12.	TFR, GRR, and NRR	22 (39%)	10 (18%)	25 (44%)	57 (58%) TFR, GRR, NRR	98

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Number of countries or areas providing data on all required cross-tabulations in the period 1971-1980				Total no., At least once
Table number	Question	8-10 times	7-4 times	1-3 times	all applicable	
VS-1.	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	18 (35%)	15 (29%)	19 (37%)	52 (33%)	159
VS-2.	Live births by month of birth	..	..	..	..	..
VS-3.	Live births by legitimacy and sex	36 (39%)	26 (28%)	30 (33%)	92 (59%)	156
VS-4.	Live births by live birth order	..	..	..	..	..
VS-5.	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	..	..	..	..	..
VS-6	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence ³	11 (37%)	9 (30%)	10 (33%)	30 (26%) age*sex*U/R	116
VS-7.	Live births by age of father : distinction between total and legitimate	0	16 (39%)	25 (61%)	41 (55%)	75
VS-8.	Live births by age of mother and birth order	55 (60%)	20 (22%)	17 (18%)	92 (100%)	92
VS-9.	Live births by birth weight	..	..	..	..
VS-10.	Live births by gestational age	..	..	..	..
VS-11.	Live births by type of birth	..	..	..	..
VS-12.	TFR, GRR, and NRR	27 (42%)	6 (9%)	32 (49%)	65 (58%) TFR, GRR, NRR	112

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Number of countries or areas providing data on all required cross-tabulations in the period 1981-1990				Total no., At least once
Table number	Question	8-10 times	7-4 times	1-3 times	all applicable	
VS-1.	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	26 (46%)	16 (28%)	15 (26%)	57 (37%)	156 ²
VS-2.	Live births by month of birth	..	..	..	..	..
VS-3.	Live births by legitimacy and sex	36 (50%)	17 (24%)	19 (26%)	72 (84%)	86
VS-4.	Live births by live birth order	..	..	..	..	..
VS-5.	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	..	..	..	..	..
VS-6	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence ³	18 (45%)	12 (30%)	10 (25%)	40 (33%) age*sex*U/R	121
VS-7.	Live births by age of father : distinction between total and legitimate	22 (44%)	14 (28%)	14 (28%)	50 (64%)	78
VS-8.	Live births by age of mother and birth order	52 (58%)	23 (26%)	15 (17%)	90 (100%)	90
VS-9.	Live births by birth weight	..	..	..	..	..
VS-10.	Live births by gestational age	..	..	..	..	..
VS-11.	Live births by type of birth	..	..	..	..	..
VS-12.	TFR, GRR, and NRR	35 (50%)	15 (21%)	20 (29%)	70 (59%) TFR, GRR, NRR	118

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Number of countries or areas providing data on all required cross-tabulations in the period 1991-2000				Total no., At least once
Table number	Question	8-10 times	7-4 times	1-3 times	all applicable	
VS-1.	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	27 (40%)	28 (41%)	13 (19%)	68 (42%)	162 ²
VS-2.	Live births by month of birth	..	..	..	..	..
VS-3.	Live births by legitimacy and sex	8 (11%)	44 (63%)	18 (26%)	70 (80%)	87
VS-4.	Live births by live birth order	..	..	..	..	..
VS-5.	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	..	..	..	..	..
VS-6	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence ³	15 (30%)	19 (38%)	16 (32%)	50 (39%) age*sex*U/R 32 (25%) age*sex*U/R*leg	127
VS-7.	Live births by age of father : distinction between total and legitimate	11 (20%)	35 (64%)	9 (16%)	55 (69%)	80
VS-8.	Live births by age of mother and birth order	10 (11%)	55 (59%)	29 (31%)	94 (100%)	94
VS-9.	Live births by birth weight	..	..	..	..	..
VS-10.	Live births by gestational age	..	..	..	..	..
VS-11.	Live births by type of birth	..	..	..	..	..
VS-12.	TFR, GRR, and NRR	31 (43%)	24 (33%)	17 (24%)	72 (62%) TFR, GRR, NRR	116

² The total number of countries providing data for table VS-1 at least once is different from the total presented in precedent tables because 1 country provided only total live births.

³ Legitimacy for this table has been recorded in the master database only since 1991

Annex 6: Recency of data by table and time period

Fertility Tables in the DYB questionnaires		Average time lag (in years) between reference year and reported year for each table			
Table number	Question	61-70	71-80	81-90	91-00
VS-1.	Vital Statistics Summary: Total Live births by sex and urban/rural residence	N=154; m=8.2; sd=3.6; min=1; max=26	N=156*; m=5.0; sd=4.2; min=1; max=22	N=153*; m=2.8; sd=2.6; min=0; max=14	N=163; m=1.8; sd=1.2; min=0; max=6
VS-2.	Live births by month of birth ¹		N=87; m=5.9; sd=4.2; min=1; max=13	N=109; m=2.0; sd=1.8; min=0; max=12	N=114; m=1.7; sd=0.9; min=0; max=4.5
VS-3.	Live births by legitimacy and sex	N=156; m=7.5; sd=3.3; min=1; max=22	N=152*; m=5.0; sd=3.5; min=0; max=20	N=86; m=5.7; sd=1.9; min=1; max=10	N=87; m=1.7; sd=1.0; min=0; max=5
VS-4.	Live births by live birth order	N=85; m=2.1; sd=1.4; min=1; max=7	N=92; m=3.1; sd=2.1; min=0; max=12.3	N=93; m=2.4; sd=1.9; min=0; max=12	N=97; m=1.8; sd=1.0; min=0; max=5
VS-5.	Legitimate births by duration of marriage	N=50; m=1.6; sd=0.7; min=1; max=4	N=47; m=2.5; sd=1.2; min=0; max=5.7	N=46; m=1.8; sd=1.1; min=0; max=4.5	N=51; m=1.7; sd=1.0; min=0; max=5
VS-6	Live births by age of mother and sex of child: distinction between total and legitimate for total/urban/rural residence	N=110; m=3.3; sd=2.2; min=1; max=15.5	N=116; m=3.2; sd=2.1; min=0; max=12.5	N=121; m=2.7; sd=2.2; min=0; max=12	N=127; m=1.9; sd=1.2; min=0; max=8
VS-7.	Live births by age of father : distinction between total and legitimate	N=80; m=2.4; sd=1.1; min=1; max=6.5	N=75; m=3.6; sd=2.8; min=1; max=12.6	N=78; m=2.3; sd=2.1; min=0; max=12	N=80; m=1.8; sd=1.1; min=0; max=5
VS-8.	Live births by age of mother and birth order	N=91*; m=2.3; sd=1.0; min=1; max=6.5	N=86*; m=3.2; sd=2.0; min=0.7; max=12	N=88*; m=1.7; sd=1.4; min=0; max=8	N=94; m=1.3; sd=0.8; min=0; max=5
VS-9.	Live births by birth weight	N=11; m=3.9; sd=0.9; min=3; max=5.5	N=33; m=3.2; sd=1.6; min=0; max=8.7	N=57; m=2.3; sd=1.9; min=0; max=10.8	N=64; m=1.7; sd=1.0; min=0; max=4
VS-10.	Live births by gestational age	N=5; m=3.9; sd=1.2; min=3; max=5.5	N=28; m=3.2; sd=2.1; min=0; max=11.5	N=40; m=2.15; sd=1.7; min=0; max=8.4	N=40; m=1.6; sd=0.8; min=0; max=3.8
VS-11.	Live births by type of birth	N=48; m=6.4; sd=4.6; min=2; max=29	N=69; m=3.6; sd=2.3; min=0; max=13	N=76; m=2.5; sd=2.1; min=0; max=12	N=82; m=1.8; sd=1.0; min=0; max=5
VS-12.	TFR, GRR, and NRR	N=98; m=33.8; sd=2.2; min=19.5; max=39	N=111*; m=23.6; sd=2.2; min=14.7; max=29	N=118; m=14.1; sd=1.9; min=8.5; max=19	N=116; m=5.3; sd=1.6; min=1; max=9

Notes:

*Total number of replying countries varies from the other tables because some countries have been deleted before computation of the average time lag due to errors in the coding of the year of reporting to UNSD,

¹Data recorded in DYB master database only since 1980

N = Total number of replying countries in the given decade,

m = Average time lag between year which data refer to and year which data are obtained by UNSD,

s = Standard deviation of the mean

min/max = Minimum/maximum number of years between year which data refer to and year which data are obtained by UNSD;

N.B. Data for the above table prior to 1991 should be used with caution as the quality of the “reported year” for data before 1991 is uncertain.