



Population registers as source of vital statistics



Recommended reading

- ❑ **Population registers**
Principles and Recommendations, para 452-484



Population registers

Background

- Established in the XIX century
- Sole source of population statistics in several countries
- Recommended as reliable source of vital statistics as far back as 1875 – ISI Congress in St. Petersburg

Definition

- Population registers were first internationally defined in 1969
 - Individual data system
 - Mechanism of continuous recording and coordinated linkage of selected information pertaining to each member of the resident population of a country in such a way to provide the possibility of determining up-to-date information concerning the size and characteristics of that population at selected time intervals
 - The population register is the product of a continuous process in which notification of certain events, which may have been recorded originally in different administrative systems, are automatically linked to it on a current basis
 - Legal basis is critical
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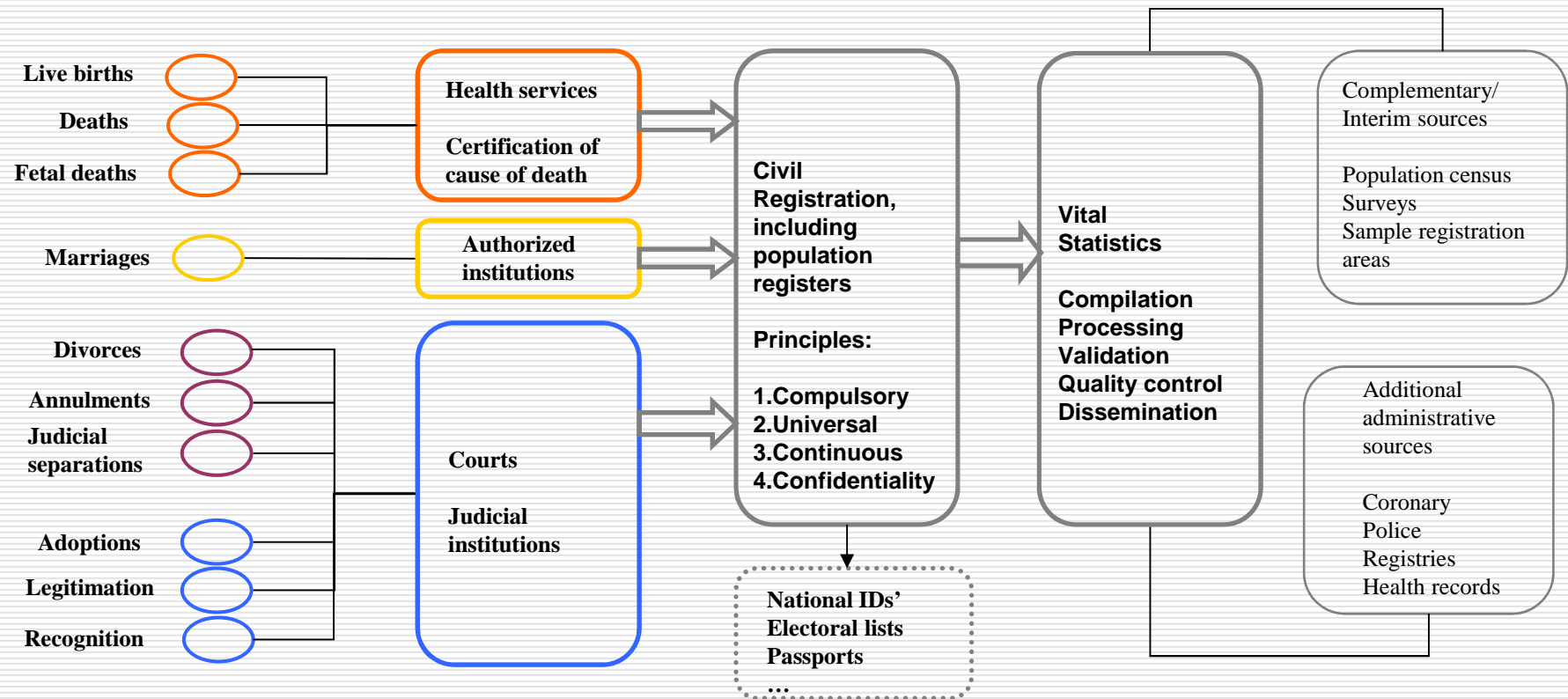
Population registers

Primary function – non-statistical

- Administrative function
- Budgeting
- Taxation
- Programme planning
- Electoral lists
- Military conscription
- Social insurance
- Police and courts
- Driver licenses
- Personal documents ...

No elaboration on details

- Procedures
- Responsibilities
- Establishing





Population registers

Not necessarily a physical list

- Preferably in electronic format
- Network of local registers
- Identification numbers
- All individuals
- Complete territory
- Duplication

Who is included?

- Only usually resident population?
 - Definition of usual residence
 - Citizens temporarily abroad
 - Non-citizens temporarily in the country
 - Diplomats, international civil servants
- Everybody?
 - Legal status



Population registers

Maintaining registers

- Input – civil registration
- Live births
- Deaths
 - Keeping the retired records separately?
- How far back to go?
 - For example, a person married abroad is still registered as single in the country, or
 - Births abroad of a woman may not be registered upon her return

Content of the population register

- Name
 - Sex
 - Date of birth
 - Place of birth
 - Date of arrival/departure
 - Citizenship
 - Parents
 - Spouse
 - Children
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Population registers

- ❑ **Population registers ↔ Civil registration**
 - ❑ Different agencies
 - ❑ Information on each vital event transferred to the register
 - ❑ One agency responsible for both
 - ❑ Confidentiality must be maintained

- ❑ **Population registers as source of vital statistics**
 - ❑ Small area statistics
 - ❑ Timely
 - ❑ Historical statistics
 - ❑ Longitudinal studies



Concluding remarks - population registers

- ❑ Making the civil registration system a vital component of a computerized population registers is the most appropriate and advanced means of generating relevant, accurate, timely and comprehensive vital statistics