Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
In Sultanate of Oman

Dr. Medhat K. ElSayed
Introduction

- A modern state started with the Omani Renaissance in 1970
- Interests to document births and deaths started gradually after 1970
- During early 80’s age estimation for public employees
- Age may not be accurate for a considerable proportion of people above the age of 25 years
- Vital Registration was implemented in May 2004
Birth & Death Certificates

- Before May 2004
  - Ministry of Health (MOH) and other public hospitals issues certificates
  - Private Health Institutions: Notification of event to MOH
  - Home events: Notification of event by community leader (Sheikh – Wali) to MOH
  - Age estimation by MOH

- Royal Decree (66/99): Civil Status Law
  - October 1999
  - Implementation in May 2004
Civil Status Law

- October 1999
- Establishment of Directorate General of Civil Status (DGCS) at Royal Oman Police (ROP)
  - Develop the implementing regulations of the Law
  - Register civil status events
    - Events: birth, death, marriage, divorce, citizenship, residence
  - Issue certificates
  - Issue ID Cards
Committee to instituted by “The Inspector General of Police and Customs”

- Chaired by Director General of Civil status
- Members represent the following ministries:
  - Ministry of National economy
  - Ministry of Interior
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Ministry of Health
  - Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour & Vocational Training
  - Ministry of Justice
  - Ministry of education
- Streamline the course of work in the Civil Register and contribute to its development
Birth and Death Notification forms to be developed by a body established by Minister of Health
Chapter 3: Births

Notification of all births
- Notification should be made to registrar in the Sultanate (or the Omani Mission in the country if outside the Sultanate)
- Notification within 2 weeks (if inside the Sultanate or after arrival) or 3 months if births takes place outside the Sultanate
- Informants with legal responsibility to notify birth (in order)
  - Father if he was present
  - Any adult (relative - closest) present at delivery
  - Any adult occupant of the same house as the mother of the newborn
  - The doctor or authorized person who delivered the baby
  - Directors of institutions (e.g. hospitals, maternity centers, prisons, quarantines, others) where birth takes place
  - Community leader (headman or chief of district – Sheikh – wali)
  - Mother
Notification of birth should include the following:

- Day, date both Georgian and Hijri (in numbers and alphabetical), time and place
- Sex of newborn (male – female) and name
- Both parents: name, civil number, tribe, nationality, religion, address, occupation
- In case of twins each should have an individual notification
**Health related data**

Minimal set of health related data for births (not required by law)
- Live birth or Still birth
- Age of mother and father
- Cause of death for stillbirth; in fetus and in mother
- Mode of Delivery
- Birth weight
- Consanguinity
- Gestational period
- Number of twins, order among twins
- Educational level of mother
- Delivery (birth) attendant
- Birth interval
- Gravidity, previous stillbirths, previous live births, still living
Chapter 5: Deaths

Notification of all deaths
- Notification should be made to registrar in the Sultanate (or the Omani Mission in the country if outside the Sultanate)
- Notification within 7 days (if inside the Sultanate or after arrival) or one month if death takes place outside the Sultanate
- Informants with legal responsibility to notify death (in order)
  - Ascendants, Descendants or spouse of deceased
  - Any adult (relative - closest) present at death
  - Any adult occupant of the same house as the deceased
  - Community leader (headman or chief of district – Sheikh – wali)
  - The doctor who checked the deceased
  - Directors of institutions (e.g. hospitals, maternity centers, prisons, quarantines, others) where death takes place
Notification of birth should include the following:

- Place, time, day, date both Georgian and Hijri (in number and alphabetical)
- Deceased: name, tribe, sex (male – female), nationality, religion, address & occupation
- Deceased: age, place & date of birth, civil number, place of registration if known
- Name and tribe of father and mother, if known
- Informant: name, address and relation to deceased

- Unidentified dead bodies are to be notified by ROP describing age, sex, description of deceased and cause of death
- General Prosecution should notify death of persons executed within 24 hours of the execution
- Permission of burial only if criminal or suspected death
Health related data

Minimal set of health related data (not required by law)

- Cause of death (underlying, direct, other diseases)
- Maternal death
Notification of Births and Deaths

- Establishment of a System of notification of vital events
  - Identification of all possible sources of notifications
  - One notification system
    - Birth & Death Notification Forms: Consider requirements of CS Law and health sector
    - Notification path
### Possible sources of Notifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of birth or death</th>
<th>Source of notifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MOH Hospitals &amp; HC</td>
<td>MOH health institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Hospitals and dispensaries</td>
<td>AFMS health institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROP Hospitals and dispensaries</td>
<td>ROP health institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQU hospital &amp; HC</td>
<td>SQU hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private hospitals &amp; clinics</td>
<td>Private health institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Community leader (Sheikh – Wali)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factors, companies, roads, transportation</td>
<td>Nearest health institution –with ROP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Oman</td>
<td>Omani mission in country where event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notification of Birth

- A Notification of birth form was developed
  - Satisfying law requirements
  - Adding health related data
Notification of Death

- A Notification of death form was developed
  - Satisfying law requirements
  - Adding health related data
Flow of Notifications

MOH: Ministry of Health; AFMS: Armed Forces Medical Services; Prvt HI: Private Health Institutions; ROPMS: Royal Oman Police Medical Services; CL: community leaders; OM: Omani Missions
MOH has a database parallel to that of DGCS.

MOH database was installed in SQUH, AFMS, and major private health institutions.

- Send data electronically directly to MOH database.
Flow of Notifications

MOH: Ministry of Health; AFMS: Armed Forces Medical Services; Prvt HI: Private Health Institutions; ROPMS: Royal Oman Police Medical Services; CL: community leaders; OM: Omani Missions
Assessment of 2006 Data from Vital Events Notification

- Missing segregation information
- Pattern according to age
- Completeness (coverage)
Segregation of information

Gender unknown for 30% of notified deaths

- 32% Omani
- 30% Expatriate
Assessment of 2006 Data from Vital Events Notification ... cont

Segregation information ... cont

Unknown age of notified deaths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omani</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expatriate</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment of 2006 Data from Vital Events Notification ... cont

Segregation information ... cont

Sex of newly born un reported

0.3% Omani
0.8% Expatriate
Un-reporting age of mother for newly born

- Omani: 13.6%
- Expatriate: 5.0%
Pattern according to Age and Sex

Assessment of 2006 Data from Vital Events Notification ... cont
Completeness or Coverage

Using Brass’s Growth Balance Method
(preliminary analysis)

Males
Coverage 98%

Females
Coverage 97%
## Mortality Estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Omanis</th>
<th>Expatriates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CDR (/1000 pop)</strong></td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IMR (/1000 lb)</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U5MR (/1000 lb)</strong></td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>e₀ years</strong></td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>74.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CDR: Crude Death Rate, IMR: Infant Mortality Rate, U5MR: Under 5 Mortality Rate, e₀: Life expectancy at birth
## Fertility Estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Omanis</th>
<th>Expatriates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CBR</strong> (/1000 pop)</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex ratio</strong> (/100 females)</td>
<td></td>
<td>105.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TFR</strong> (/women 15-49)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRR</strong> (/women 15-49)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NRR</strong> (/women 15-49)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CBR: Crude Birth Rate, TFR: Total Fertility Rate, GRR: Gross Reproduction Rate, NRR: Net reproduction Rate
Obstacles and challenges

- Notifications by Community Leaders
  - Need to assess completeness
  - Data on notification forms need to be completed especially health related data
  - Cause of death is an issue to consider

- Burial permit
  - No burial permit is required
  - Can affect completeness of death registration
Obstacles and challenges ... cont

- Cultural believes and attitudes for registration
  - Age estimation has been practice for a long time
  - Changes in believes about importance for registration

- Cause of death data
  - Physician and coders need training
  - Deaths outside health facilities: DOA, A&ED, Notified by CL