



UN Statistics
Division



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ESGWA



SESSION 2A. GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION

Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics
System, Revision 3 for Arabic-speaking countries

Muscat, Oman, 14 - 17 November 2016



- ❑ Vital statistics constitute the collection of statistics on vital events in a lifetime of a person as well as relevant characteristics of the events themselves and of the persons(s) concerned

- ❑ For statistical purposes vital events refer to life and death of the individuals as well as their family and civil status

- ❑ Reading material: *Principles and Recommendations, paras 1 - 57*



Vital events



- Vital events proper
 - Live births
 - Deaths, including foetal deaths
- Dual events – occurring simultaneously in the lives of two individuals which cannot occur again in the life of either individual without a previous change
 - Marriage (legal partnership, where appropriate)
 - Divorces (legal dissolution of partnership, where appropriate)
 - Annulment
 - Judicial separation
- Vertical family events involving a descendant
 - Adoption
 - Legitimation
 - Recognition



Uses of vital statistics



- Knowing size and characteristics of the population – prerequisite to socio-economic planning and informed decision-making
- Monitoring programmes on health care, social security, family planning, maternal and child care, education, nutrition ...
- Estimating size and growth of population
 - Particular emphasis on small areas
- Use in implementing and evaluating the success of programmes
 - Mortality
 - Life births by weight and place of occurrence
 - Age of mother in terms of family planning programmes
 - Fertility
 - Use in producing development indicators



3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio

3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate

3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate

3.4.1 Mortality rates attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease

3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate

3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries

3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group



The original version in 1953

- ❑ vital statistics system was defined as including the legal registration, statistical recording and reporting of the occurrence, and collection, compilation, analysis, presentation and distribution of statistics pertaining to vital events, which in turn include live births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriages, divorces, adoptions, legitimating, recognitions, annulments and legal separations
- ❑ essentially civil registration was defined as a part of vital statistics system



The first revision - 1973

- ❑ vital statistics system, irrespective of how it is organized, is defined as the total process of (a) collecting by registration, enumeration or indirect estimation, of information on the frequency of occurrence of certain vital events, as well as characteristics of events themselves and of the person(s) concerned, and (b) compiling, analysing, evaluating, presenting and disseminating these data in statistical form
- ❑ introducing enumeration and indirect estimation – recognizing the reality of the lack of civil registration in many countries



The second revision - 2001

- ❑ vital statistics system as the total process of (a) collecting information by civil registration or enumeration on the frequency of occurrence of specified and defined vital events, as well as relevant characteristics of the event themselves and of the persons or persons concerned, and (b) compiling, processing, analysing, evaluating, presenting and disseminating these data in statistical form
- ❑ omits indirect estimation – as *ad hoc* and temporary methods



Initiative for revising the current set based on:

- The need to restructure the current principles and recommendations along the lines of distinguishing between vital statistics and its sources
- The need to update and elaborate on:

Population registers

Core topics

Health institutions records and causes of death

Align with current versions of international classifications and definitions



Major recommendations from the EGM:

- Sharpening the distinction between vital statistics and its sources
- Elaborating on population registers
- Re-visiting core topics
- Addressing the role of health institutions within the vital statistics system
- Aligning the principles and recommendations with current international classifications
- Updating and upgrading all the parts with contemporary approaches to producing quality official statistics



Three parts

- Part One: The Vital Statistics System
- Part Two: Sources of Vital Statistics
- Part Three: Key Elements of the Vital Statistics System

- Annexes
 - Recommended tabulations
 - Index, glossary
 - References



Definition of a vital statistics system



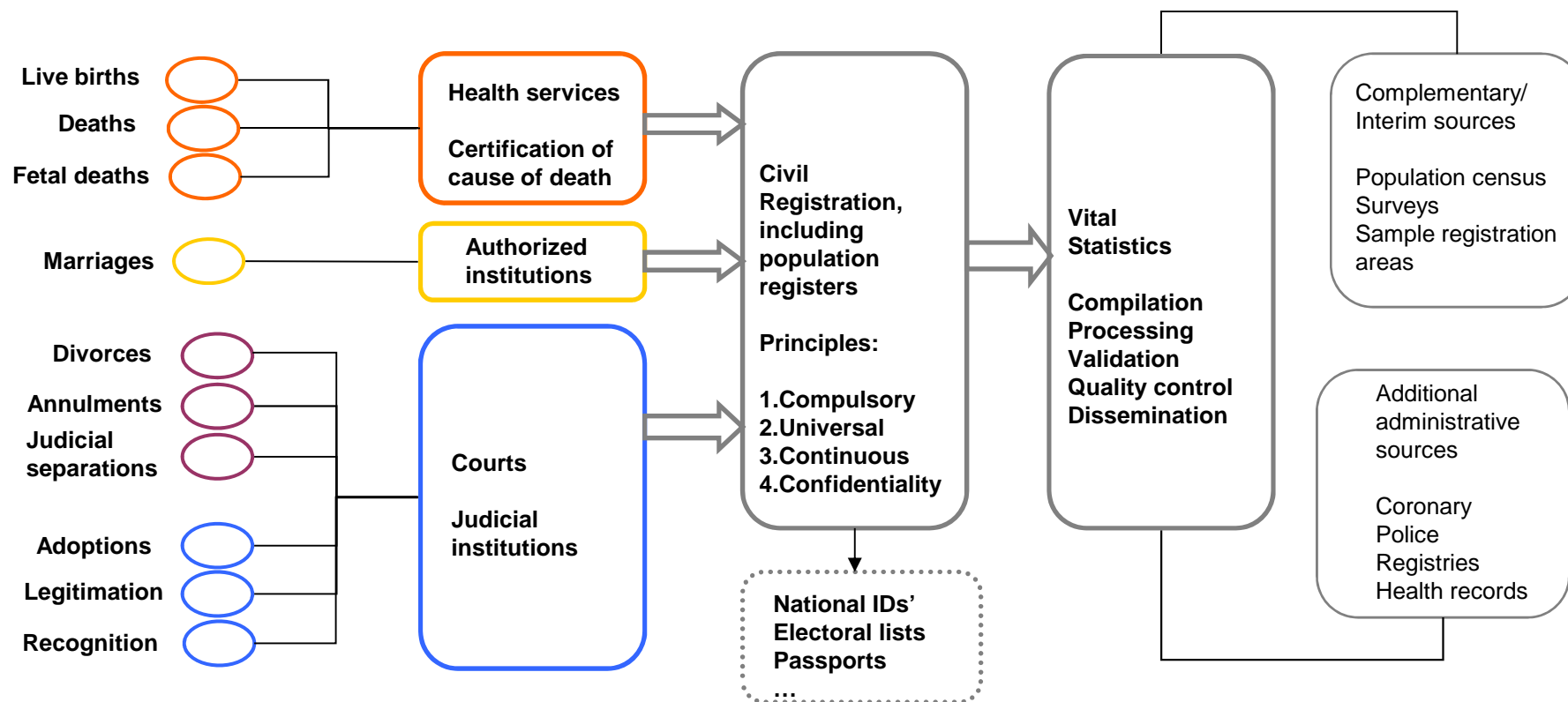
- ❑ A system – set of interacting or independent components forming an integrated wholesome
 - ❑ Legal registration
 - ❑ Statistical reporting
 - ❑ Collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics pertaining to vital events



Definition of a vital statistics system



Vital Statistics System



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Sources of vital statistics



- ❑ Critical source – records of vital events derived from civil registration

- ❑ Complementary sources – for evaluation and enrichment of statistics
 - ❑ Population censuses
 - ❑ Household surveys

- ❑ Additional sources – used in the absence of civil registration and in combination with indirect techniques
 - ❑ Questions in population censuses
 - ❑ Household surveys
 - ❑ Sample registration and health records



Priority in data collection



- First priority**
 - Births
 - Deaths (including causes of deaths)
 - Foetal deaths
- Second priority**
 - Marriages
 - Divorces
- Third priority**
 - Annulments
 - Judicial separations
 - Adoptions
 - Legitimations
 - Recognitions

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Principles of a vital statistics system



Continuity

- Short-term fluctuations
- Seasonality
- Long-term patterns

Confidentiality

- Fundamental principles of official statistics
- Personal information used only for statistical purposes

Regular dissemination

- Monthly/quarterly
- Comprehensive annual tabulations



Legal framework should

- Assign the function of establishing and operating the system
- Provide clear designation of duties and responsibilities for
 - Registration
 - Recording
 - Reporting
 - Collection
 - Compilation
 - Analysis
 - Evaluation
 - Presentation
 - Dissemination



- Legal framework should**
 - Establish the organizational structure for
 - Management
 - Operation
 - Maintenance
 - Link the production of vital statistics to the civil registration system
 - Designate a central government agency for maintaining the standards for the design and conduct of various operations



- Depending on national circumstances ...**
 - Centralized and decentralized structure
 - Vital registration part of official statistics
 - Vital registration separate from official statistics
 - Role of courts
 - Role of health institutions
 - Protocols for ensuring quality of statistics



Principles for coordination

- Uniform legislation and regulations
- Identical definitions of vital events
- Statistical concepts, classifications and definitions
- Consistency between the numerator and denominator
- Implementation of international standards

Inter-agency coordination committee

Coordination within the system

- Communication (conferences, workshops, training courses ...)
- Evaluation
- Professional association (statisticians/registrars/health workers)



Quality assurance and assessment



- Strategies and procedures for ensuring the quality of vital statistics
- At each operational stage
- Regular and routine
- Quality of vital statistics is measured by:
 - Completeness
 - Correctness or accuracy
 - Availability
 - Timeliness