Use of Civil Registration for Vital Statistics

Antigua and Barbuda
Presented by
Statchel Edwards
Outline of Presentation

• Overview of National Statistical System
• Production of Vital Statistics
• Challenges in the production of Vital Statistics
• Data gaps and limitations
• Need for improvement of NSS and Civil Registration
Background on Antigua and Barbuda

- Twin island state in the Eastern Caribbean
- Total land area is 170 sq. miles
- Main Industry is Tourism and some financial services
- Population size - 2015 mid year population estimate 90,755
Overview of National Statistics System

• The Division is guided by the Antigua and Barbuda General Statistics Act - 1975
  • Establishes the Statistics Division as the Statistics Authority
  • Outlines the roles and functions of the Division
  • Defines what is Official Statistics includes births and deaths

• Decentralized National Statistical System - Division plays coordinating role with the various data providers and users

• Small National Statistical Office with limited resources

• Revision of the Statistics Act

• There is no statistical office in Barbuda - coverage limitations
Production of Vital Statistics

- The Statistics Act does not include vital statistics
- The Division collects data on births, deaths and foetal deaths from the Health Information Division
  - Births and foetal deaths on ad hoc basis
  - Deaths on quarterly basis
- The Health Information Division produces vital statistics
  - Collects births and foetal deaths from the MSJMC, community clinics and private health care institutions on monthly basis
  - Collects copies of the death notifications from the Civil Registry quarterly
- The Division collects data on marriages, divorces and separations from the Civil Registry (Court House)
Use of Vital Statistics

- Produce population estimates and projections
- Produce life tables, fertility and life expectancy
- Demographic analytical report (Census 2011)
- MDGs Report
- OECS Monitoring and Evaluation
- Strategic planning and policy formulation
Challenges in the production of Vital Statistics

- Quality of the data (timeliness, accuracy and use of standards)
- Lack of metadata
- Poor data compilation, processing and dissemination techniques
- NSO limited resources to collect data
- Lack of proper data sharing protocols among stakeholder agencies
- Administrative objectives vs statistical objectives
- Lack of technology and resource by data providers
Data Gaps and Limitations

- Statistics Division does not produce regular vital statistics reports
- Dependent on data from data sources
  - Births not provided by sex and age
  - Cause of deaths data not provided on a timely basis
  - Inconsistency of data - figures differ based on release date and breakdown
- Limitations of mortality statistics
  - Improper completion of death notifications for statistical purposes
  - Neonatal deaths are often not registered (no official death notification)
  - Coverage of deaths from Barbuda
  - Under reporting of certain causes of death
Improvement of the Vital Statistics System

- Improved collaboration between data providers and NSO
- Define the responsibilities and functions of the stakeholders
- Use of international standards and best practices in the compilation of vital statistics
- Capacity building in the collection, processing and dissemination of vital statistics
- Develop data sharing protocols between stakeholder agencies