

The Journey to Improved Death Data

Prepared and presented by the Statistical
Institute of Jamaica: Censuses,
Demography and Social Statistics Division

Outline of Presentation

- Background to the problem
- Death Data Quality Issues
- Actions taken
- Assessing data quality

Background to the problem

- For years Jamaica was unable to produce infant and child mortality rates due to the quality of the data
- Unable to produce the maternal mortality rates
- Falling position on the Human Development Index
- The statistical office had great difficulty accessing data from the civil registry

Data Quality Issues

- Researchers and other data users felt that the number of deaths were under reported
- Quality of the coding of the cause of death was poor
- The statistical office had a great difficulty using data from the civil registry because of quality issues
- Under registration of deaths
- Improper completion of the MCCD forms

Actions taken

- A vital statistics commission (VSC) was formed
- The VSC was an inter agency group with representative from

(a) Ministry of Finance (e) Police

(b) Civil registrar (f) Ministry of Health

(c) STATIN (g) Ministry of National Security

(d) PIOJ (h) UWI

(i) PAHO

(j) UNICEF

Actions taken cont'd

- PAHO Audit of the civil registration and vital statistics system (2006)
- Publication of **Standard Definitions of Vital Statistics and Vital Events & Standard for Calculations of Vital Statistics (2010)**
- MOU with Registrar General's Department (RGD) and Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) for the electronic transfer of data (2009)

Actions taken cont'd

- Review of the 2008 death data (2011)
- Training of the coders in the MOH and RGD by CARPHA in ICD 10
- Exposure of the statisticians and demographers to cause of death coding
- Training and sensitization of medical doctors on the importance of the completion of the MCCD.

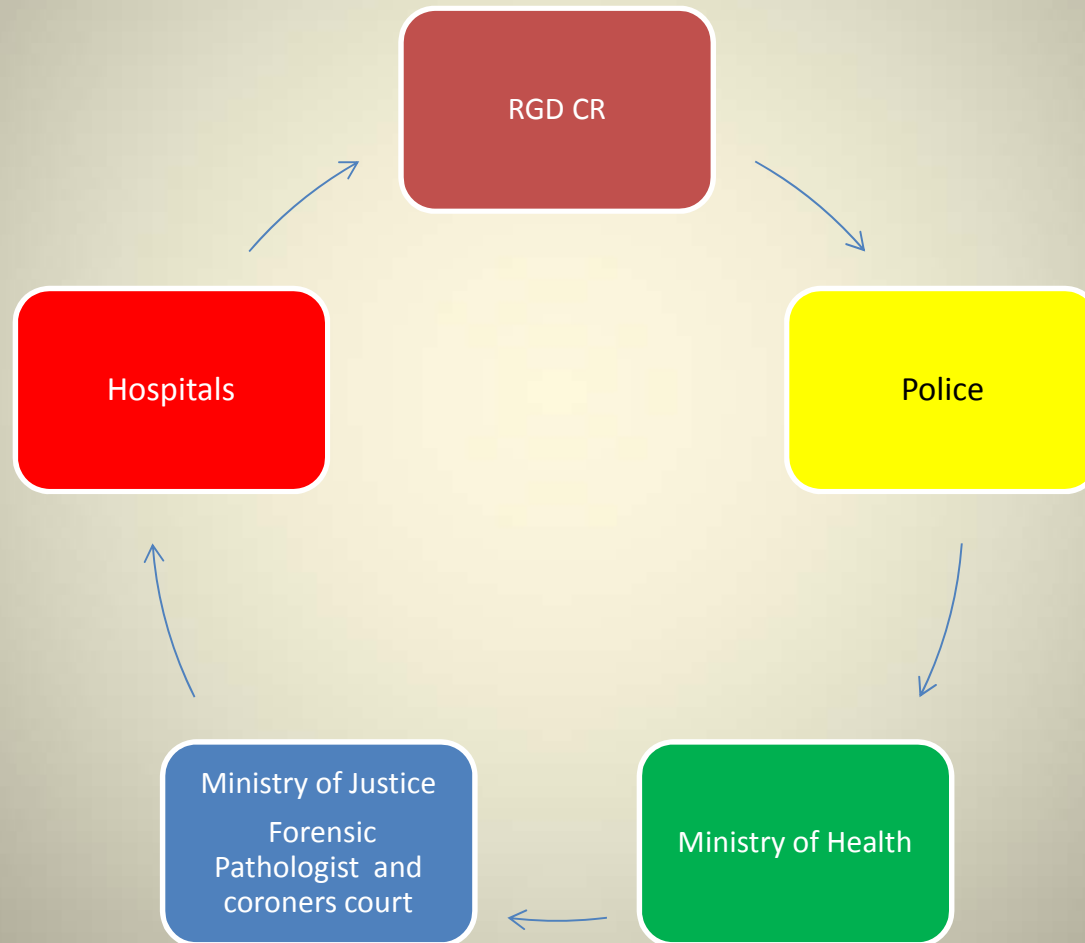
Actions taken cont'd

- Inclusion of the sensitization and filling out the MCCD as a module in the medical course at the UWI

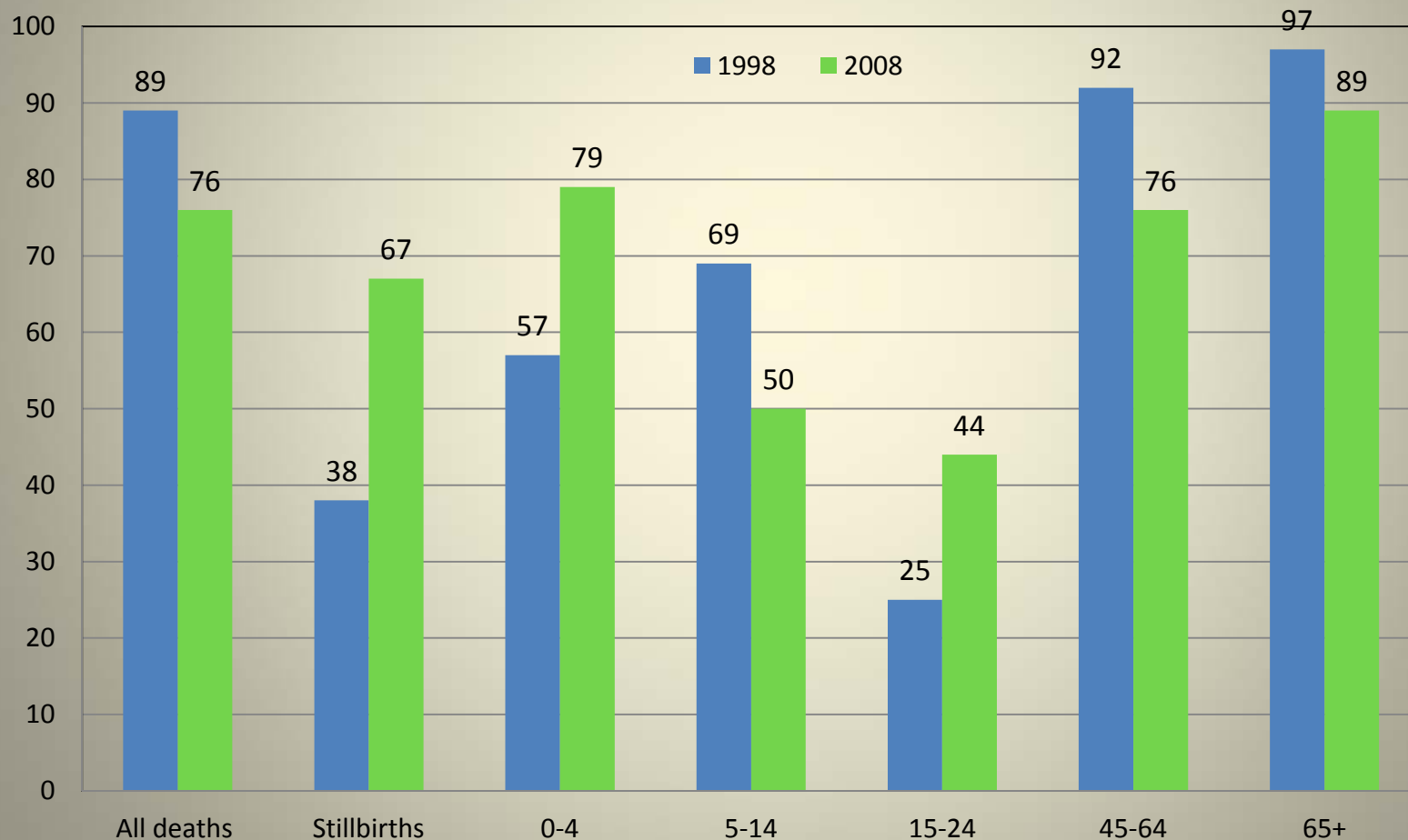
Assessing data quality

- To ensure quality it is important that data is reviewed
- Review of the death data for 1998 and 2008 were undertaken
- The review identified quality issues such as incorrect coding, under coverage

Data Sources



Completeness of death registration by broad age group: 2008



THANK YOU