International Collection of Vital Statistics
The Barbados Experience
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• The BSS is governed by the Statistics Act, Cap. 192
• This Act identifies Vital Statistics as Official Statistics
• Statistical forms for the registration of births and deaths submitted bi-weekly by the Registration Department
• Summary information on marriages, divorces and other vital events are also provided on request.
• Vital Statistics reports not currently published by BSS
• BSS in the process of re-establishing a VS report to be published on a quarterly basis

Background
The Barbados Statistical Service (BSS) has embarked on Modernization project to build capacity and strengthen the overall National Statistical System of Barbados. This project is expected to address several of the current challenges faced by the department which will be presented in the context of Vital Statistics.
The Records Department of Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) also transmits their data (Birth & Deaths) to the Registration Department.
The main sources of Demographic Statistics include:

- Registration Department
- Ministry of Health
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Records Department)
- Population Censuses
Several challenges are encountered by the BSS:

- Time consuming
- Lack of data
- Historical data submission agreements
Data Challenges:
- Urban/Rural classification
- Abortion data
- Marital Status and related information
- Gestational age
- Life tables