



Monitoring the quality of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Montserrat

*Presented by: Siobhan N N Tuitt
Statistics Department Montserrat
Ministry of Finance & Economic Management
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Outline

Background

About the SDM

Statistics Act

Vital Statistics System

Validation Process

Lessons Learned



40.2 square miles (39.6 previously)

Population of 5, 012 – occupying 1/3 of the island.

Average household size - 2

On average – 52 births, 48 deaths per annum



About the SDM

The SDM has been in existence since the 1970's.

The aim of the Statistics Department is to provide accurate, timely, relevant responsive data, which is respected for its integrity and quality.

Centralized System

4 Technical Staff

The Functions of the Statistics Department - Section 3 of the Statistics Act (No 2 of 1973)

- ▶ **Functions of Statistics Office**
- ▶ **Delegation of functions**
- ▶ **Power to direct taking of population census**
- ▶ **Collection and compilation of statistics**
- ▶ **Power to obtain information**
- ▶ **Power of entry**
- ▶ **Restriction on publication**
- ▶ **Offences and penalties**
- ▶ **Regulations**
- ▶ **Oath of secrecy**
- ▶ **Power to revoke or amend First Schedule**



Vital Statistical System

Main organizations:

Statistics Department

Ministry of Health – Medical Records

Registry Department

VSS Cont'd

The Statistical Department provides vital statistics on request. The MoH publishes an annual report which includes registered birth and death statistics.

No Under coverage/ under registration, cause of death is usually done correctly, almost no late registration as the process is free within 21 days

Clear and functional mechanism for information transfer

Collaboration efforts - great interaction between the VSS (**Strength**)

- Medical records shares draft annual report with the SDM ahead of dissemination
- Access to records at both departments – oaths of secrecy
- Modernization of the VSS
- Training
- Assistance outside of the VSS

Validation Process

Data is sent electronically from both sources as regular and routine activity. Ad-hoc spot checks.

Records on births and deaths obtained from the Ministry of Health are used to validate the data generated by the Registry Department. No scientific method is used to assess quality.

Minimal discrepancy in information between both sources

Births - the data is cross checked in-house. In few cases we visit either of the sources if any discrepancy is noted.

Deaths – we collect the medical certificate death record to cross check what is submitted from the registry and the hospital. Especially as it pertains to the age.

Marriages – we go to the registry to check the marriage certificate as filed by both the registry and the church.



Montserrat



Lessons learned/future opportunities

The need for great inter-agency relationship

Electronic transmission

Access to all source documents is necessary



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THE END

THANK YOU