



Government of Antigua & Barbuda

# Strategies for Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Antigua and Barbuda

Presented by: Cecile Hill (Civil Registry) and Stachel Edwards (Statistics Division)

# Comparison of core topics recommended by the Principles and Recommendations with topics covered in Antigua and Barbuda Registration Forms – Births



## 1. Characteristics of Event

- I. Type of Birth i.e. whether twin, single or otherwise

## 2. Characteristics of Birth

- I. Weight at Birth

## 3. Characteristics of Father

- I. Date of Birth
- II. Marital status (may be deduced from the status of father to mother)
- III. Educational Attainment

## 4. Characteristics of Mother

- I. Date of Birth (age is captured)
- II. Marital status (father to mother may indicate)
- III. Educational attainment
- IV. Duration of Residence in usual place
- V. Country of Birth (may be captured by HID)
- VI. Children born live to mother
- VII. Foetal deaths to mother during her lifetime
- VIII. Date of last previous birth
- IX. Date of Marriage

# Comparison of core topics recommended by the Principles and Recommendations with topics covered in Antigua and Barbuda Registration Form – Deaths and Foetal Deaths



## Deaths

1. Characteristics of the Decedent
  - I. Date of Birth (age is provided with no supporting independent verification)
  - II. Marital Status
  - III. Place of usual residence of mother for deaths under 1 year of age

## Foetal Deaths

1. Characteristics of the Mother
  - I. Date of Birth (age is not in the form, but is captured)
  - II. Children born alive during her entire lifetime
  - III. Date of last previous live birth
  - IV. Date of Marriage
2. Characteristics of the Father
  - I. Date of Birth

# Comparison of core topics recommended by the Principles and Recommendations with topics covered in Antigua and Barbuda Registration Forms – Marriages and Divorces



## Marriages

1. Characteristics of the Event
  - I. All core topics are captured
  - II. Civil or religious ceremony (optional)
  - III. Whether destination wedding (optional)
2. Characteristics of Bride and Groom
  - I. Date of Birth (age is captured)

## Divorces

1. Characteristics of the Event
  - I. All core topics are captured
2. Characteristics of Divorces
  - I. All core topics are captured

# Comparison of core topics recommended by the Principles and Recommendations with topics covered in Antigua and Barbuda Registration Form – Conclusion



1. The basic information required in the core topics is substantially collected from the registration forms for Antigua and Barbuda
2. Themes for vital statistics purposes are however not captured in the forms (citizenship, ethnic group, civil or religious marriage, etc.)



# Identification of major obstacles for achieving complete coverage of vital events registration

1. Existing legislation does not require the registration of divorces as a vital event in the civil registry, legislative amendment will be required to register divorces as a vital event
2. In practice many of the neonatal and foetal deaths are not always registered; information related to the registration of foetal deaths although captured is not easily retrievable
3. Lack of comprehensive review of the organisation, administration and maintenance of the current civil registration system has contributed to the following major obstacles for achieving complete coverage of vital events registration:
  - I. Outdated legislative framework
  - II. Deficient organisational structure of the Civil Registry
  - III. Lack of inter agency coordination
  - IV. Lack of other coordination, liaison and communication within the civil registration system and with users

## Identification of major obstacles for achieving complete coverage of vital events registration cont'd

4. Lack of adequate funding for infrastructure, human and other resources
5. Lack of a proper records management system to facilitate the dissemination of the data required by the various data users and stakeholder agencies
6. Lack of knowledge of the international standards and best practices in civil registration
7. Lack of training for civil registration officers
8. Lack of adequate sensitization of the public and stakeholders to the requirements of registration of vital events and in particular to ensure that there are no underreporting of births and deaths



# Identification of major obstacles for compiling Vital Statistics based on Civil Registry

1. Births data is not collected from the civil registry, but from the medical institutions
2. Quality of the data (timeliness, accuracy and use of standards) from the HID
3. Lack of metadata (concepts, definitions and standards)
4. Poor data compilation, processing and dissemination techniques
5. Limited resources of the NSO to collect and verify data from the data providers
6. Lack of proper data sharing protocols among stakeholder agencies
7. Failure to consider reporting requirements (statistics) and focus on administrative objectives
8. Lack of technology and resource by data providers (civil registry and HID) to produce timely data to the NSO





# Quality Assessment of Vital Statistics

1. The major obstacles identified previously for achieving complete coverage of vital events registration and for compiling vital statistics based on civil registry data have impacted negatively quality assessment of the data
2. No quality assessment of vital statistics done at the civil registry, NSO or Ministry of Health
3. No comparison of vital statistics from various data sources (Ministry of Health and civil registry)



# Strategies to Achieve Completeness and Improve Data Quality

1. Formation of a national civil registration and vital statistics committee to review the operations of the vital statistics system and to recommend and implement necessary changes to ensure compliance with international standards (forms, systems, etc.)
2. Legislative framework review, revision and harmonisation to ensure compliance with the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System
3. Development and implementation of data management systems and data sharing protocols between stakeholders
4. Improve cooperation and collaboration with data providers and data users through public information campaigns, seminars and workshops
5. Develop and implement quality assurance methods using both direct and indirect methods
6. Recommend that there be collaboration at the OECS sub-regional level to produce quality vital statistics for the OECS