Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, Caribbean Countries

Coverage and Accuracy of Civil Registration & Vital Statistics Jamaica

Obstacles and Strategies
Core topics not captured by Civil Registration System for Births

- Urban/rural
- Weight at birth
- Date of birth of mother
- Educational attainment
- Urban/rural (as it relates to mother’s residence)
- Duration of residence
- Migrant status
- Date of previous life birth
- Interval since last previous life birth
Core topics not captured by Civil Registration System for Births

- Date of marriage
- Duration of marriage
- Date of birth of father
- Marital status of father
- Educational attainment
- Place of residence
- Locality of residence
- Urban/rural
Core topics not captured by Civil Registration System for Deaths

* Urban/rural
* Date of birth of the decedent
* Urban/rural residence of mother
Core topics not captured by Civil Registration System for Foetal Deaths

- Urban/rural occurrence
- Date of birth of mother
- Children born alive to mother during lifetime
- Date of last previous live birth
- Interval since last previous live birth
- Date of Marriage (mother)
- Duration of Marriage (mother)
Core topics not captured by CR for Foetal Deaths cont’d

* Urban/rural residence of mother
* Date of Birth (father)
* Urban/rural residence of father
Core topics not captured by CR for Marriages

- Urban/rural occurrence
- Date of Birth – bride and groom
- Urban/rural residence – bride and groom
Divorces

Divorces are not registered by the Civil Registration System.

STATIN collects these records directly from the Supreme Court.

All core topics are collected except: urban/rural occurrence/residence and date of births of parties.
Current civil registration forms need revision. The forms are a part of the Registration (Births & Deaths) and Marriage Acts as opposed to the regulations – process of revision is lengthy.

Delay in certification of deaths for some sudden/violent deaths – causes under-coverage of these death registrations and also undue delay.
Obstacles for achieving complete coverage of vital events registration

* RGD is self-funded – reduced financial and human resources to effect necessary actions to improve coverage and timeliness further

* Legislation currently does not stipulate that divorces must be registered by the RGD

* The Ministry of Health staff does not have an appreciation of the importance of vital data

(statistics becomes important when there is a crisis)
Assessment of Quality

- Birth validation study 2005- direct matching of births registered in the CR database against hospitals, birthing centres log books, mid-wives’ reports of community births and monthly clinic report from the Ministry of Health (done to measure the registration of birth under coverage)
- Parish totals from the census database of newborns were matched against the parish occurrences, registration and the late registration of birth totals.
Assessment of Quality cont’d

- No direct matching of mother’s name or child’s name is done with the census data and CR database.
- Death validation studies 1998 and 2008 - direct matching of deaths registered in the CR database against hospitals, police records, coroner’s court and forensic pathologist’s records.
- Parish totals from the census database of deaths were matched against the parish occurrences, registration and the late registration of death totals.
* A draft concept paper for amendments to the registration of births and deaths and marriage acts has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for review before submission to Cabinet.

* Increase the number of personnel used to actively retrieve coroner’s certificates from the police and coroner’s courts

* Sensitization of the police and pathologists to the importance of mortality data for planning and international reporting
Strategies for improvement in completeness and improve data quality

- Apply the recommended demographic methods to assess data quality on an annual basis rather than the validation studies
- Seek approval from the Ministry of Finance to increase staff compliment for social statistics

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Strategies for improvement in completeness and improve data quality

- Continuous training for CR to ensure that new staff can be competent in coding and aware of updates in the cause of death classification.

- Continuous training of doctors and pathologists in proper completion of the MCCD and Post mortem forms.
THANK YOU!