

Use of Civil Registration for Vital Statistics

Antigua and Barbuda
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Outline of Presentation

- Overview of National Statistical System
- Production of Vital Statistics
- Challenges in the production of Vital Statistics
- Data gaps and limitations
- Need for improvement of NSS and Civil Registration

Background on Antigua and Barbuda

- Twin island state in the Eastern Caribbean
- Total land area is 170 sq. miles
- Main Industry is Tourism and some financial services
- Population size - 2015 mid year population estimate 90,755

Overview of National Statistics System

- The Division is guided by the Antigua and Barbuda General Statistics Act - 1975
 - Establishes the Statistics Division as the Statistics Authority
 - Outlines the roles and functions of the Division
 - Defines what is Official Statistics includes births and deaths
- Decentralized National Statistical System - Division plays coordinating role with the various data providers and users
- Small National Statistical Office with limited resources
- Revision of the Statistics Act
- There is no statistical office in Barbuda - coverage limitations

Production of Vital Statistics

- The Statistics Act does not include vital statistics
- The Division collects data on births, deaths and foetal deaths from the Health Information Division
 - Births and foetal deaths on ad hoc basis
 - Deaths on quarterly basis
- The Health Information Division produces vital statistics
 - Collects births and foetal deaths from the MSJMC, community clinics and private health care institutions on monthly basis
 - Collects copies of the death notifications from the Civil Registry quarterly
- The Division collects data on marriages, divorces and separations from the Civil Registry (Court House)

Use of Vital Statistics

- Produce population estimates and projections
- Produce life tables, fertility and life expectancy
- Demographic analytical report (Census 2011)
- MDGs Report
- OECS Monitoring and Evaluation
- Strategic planning and policy formulation

Challenges in the production of Vital Statistics

- Quality of the data (timeliness, accuracy and use of standards)
- Lack of metadata
- Poor data compilation, processing and dissemination techniques
- NSO limited resources to collect data
- Lack of proper data sharing protocols among stakeholder agencies
- Administrative objectives vs statistical objectives
- Lack of technology and resource by data providers

Data Gaps and Limitations

- Statistics Division does not produce regular vital statistics reports
- Dependent on data from data sources
 - Births not provided by sex and age
 - Cause of deaths data not provided on a timely basis
 - Inconsistency of data - figures differ based on release date and breakdown
- Limitations of mortality statistics
 - Improper completion of death notifications for statistical purposes
 - Neonatal deaths are often not registered (no official death notification)
 - Coverage of deaths from Barbuda
 - Under reporting of certain causes of death

Improvement of the Vital Statistics System

- Improved collaboration between data providers and NSO
- Define the responsibilities and functions of the stakeholders
- Use of international standards and best practices in the compilation of vital statistics
- Capacity building in the collection, processing and dissemination of vital statistics
- Develop data sharing protocols between stakeholder agencies