



CIVIL REGISTRATION: -MAIN SOURCE FOR VITAL STATISTICS

Saint Lucia's Central Statistical Office

Presentation at: Workshop on the Principles and
Recommendations for Improving Vital Statistics.

PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

- i. It will provide a synopsis of the births, deaths, marriages and divorces data collection processes
- ii. It will address some of the challenges CSO faces in the collection of the data
- iii. Whether civil registration should be used as the main source for Vital Statistics

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Statistical Act 13 of 1973, (Chapter 17.12 of the Revised Laws of December 2006 of St. Lucia), the Central Statistical Office is the legal authority for the collection, compilation, tabulation and analysis of " Vital occurrences and morbidity" -Schedule 1



SOURCES OF VITAL STATISTICS

In St. Lucia, the Office of the Civil Registry is legally mandated for the civil registration of births, deaths, marriages and divorces.

The Civil Registration is the primary source for the production of Vital Statistics on an annual continuous basis.

Other sources include:

- ◉ The Population Census-which is conducted every 10 years
- ◉ Ad hoc surveys example: Survey of Living Conditions/Household Budget Survey (SLC/HBS), the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey(MICS)

BIRTH DATA COLLECTION

Approximately 99.8% of our births occur within an established institution.

In 2014, the Civil Registry implemented the process of bedside registration at the National Hospital.

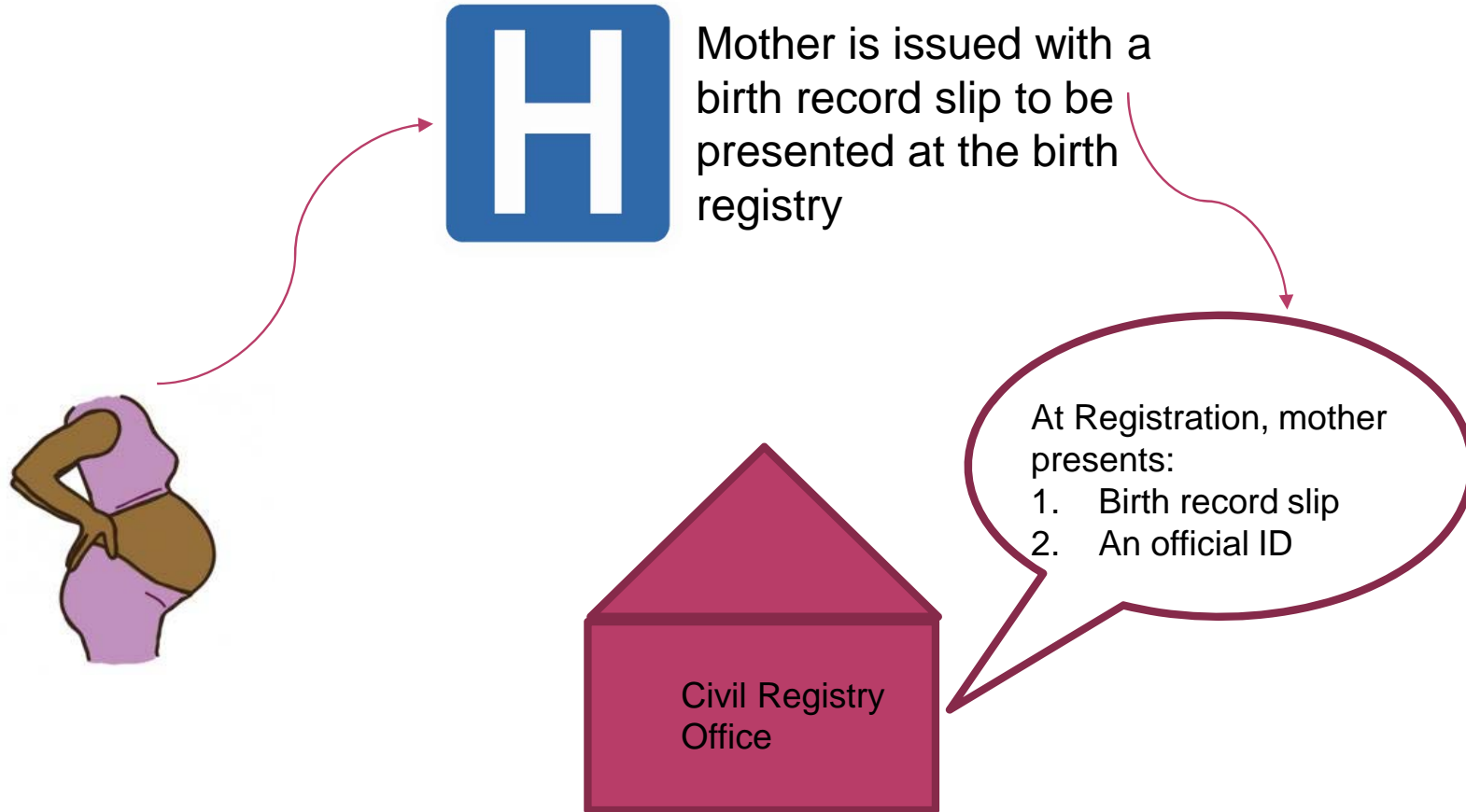
In that process, the expectant mother is required to present some form of ID and to have a name that will be associated with her newborn

Unfortunately the process of bedside registration is not yet implemented at all hospitals.



BIRTH DATA COLLECTION- cont'd

Outside of the bedside registration, the normal process is



DEATH DATA COLLECTION

If a death occurs anywhere outside of the hospital, it must be reported to the police. After investigation by the Police, that body is transported to either the hospital (in the case of a vehicular accident) or to the funeral home whereby a postmortem will be carried out to determine the actual cause of death. Once this is done a medical certificate on the Cause of Death is issued to the relatives of the deceased.

DEATH DATA COLLECTION cont'd

Process in the Registration of the Decease:

1. Medical Certificate is taken to the Civil Registry or District Registry where the death occurred.
2. Relative must present some form of official ID as well as the official ID of the DECEASE
3. Upon presentation of item 1 and 2 above, a Death Certificate is issued to facilitate the burial process.

MARRIAGE/DIVORCE DATA COLLECTION

Marriages

If the ceremony is done by a Minister of Religion, a marriage certificate is then issued to the couple and the Marriage Register is then sent to the Civil Registry. An official certificate is then issued by the Civil Registry.

Divorces

After the court issues the Decree Absolute, it is then filed at the Registry by the legal representative.

DATA COLLECTION BY CSO

CSO staff of the Demography Unit goes to the Civil Registry and out district Registrars to manually collect the data. This is done on an annual basis.

Some of the challenges faced by CSO are:

- Late registration particularly for births-this impacts our data and its associated indicators. CSO'S approach to this is to produce Provisional data and subsequently to have the data Revised the following year.

DATA COLLECTION BY CSO

Challenges cont'd

- ◉ Inadequate accommodation at the Civil Registry
- ◉ Illegible hand writing in the registers will translate in inaccurate data reporting
- ◉ Late returns of the registers



SHOULD CIVIL REGISTRATION BE THE MAIN SOURCE FOR VITAL STATISTICS?

ABSOLUTELY!

Strengths of Civil Registration

- Data is generated on a daily basis, therefore it is a continuous process.
- All registers by the various denominations, District Registrars and other authorized personnel must be returned to the Civil Registry Department on a quarterly basis.

STRENGTHS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

- During all these processes (births, deaths, marriages and divorces), official ID must be presented to the Civil Registry for verification of name, age and sex prior to producing the legal certificates. In that way AGE and SEX reporting tend to be reliable.
- 94% of births are registered as copies of birth certificates must be presented during school registration, issuance of national IDs, passports etc
- Majority of deaths are registered as a copy of the death certificate must be presented to facilitate burial.

STRENGTHS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

- Majority of marriages are registered.
- All divorces are registered.
- A number of tables and related population indicators can be generated since the legal instruments are designed to capture many variables of interest.
- Births and Deaths are certainly key factors for generating the Annual Population Mid-Year Estimates.

STRENGTHS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

Additional tables that are produce include:

BIRTHS

- Total Live-Births By Sex, Age of Mother at Present Birth and Legitimacy
- Total Live-Births By Sex, Age of Mother at Present Birth, and Parity
- Total Live-Births By Age of Mother at Present Birth, Parity and Normal Residence of Mother By Broad Census Districts

STRENGTHS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

BIRTHS TABLES cont'd

- Il-legitimate Live-Births By Sex, Age of Mother at Present Birth and Parity
- Il-legitimate Live-Births By Age of Mother at Present Birth, Parity and Census District
- Legitimate Live Births By Sex, Age of Mother at Present Birth and Parity
- Legitimate Live-Births By Age of Mother at Present Birth, Parity and District

STRENGTHS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

BIRTHS TABLES cont'd

- Total Live-Births By Age of Mother at Present Birth, By Sex and Month
- Total Live-Births By Age of Mother at Present Birth, District and Month
- Total Live-Births Born to Teenage Mothers By Parity
- Total Live-Births Born to Teenage Mothers By Parity and District

STRENGTHS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

BIRTHS TABLES cont'd

- Total Births By Residence of Mother and Specific Place of Occurrence
- Total Live-Births By Residence of Mother and Place of Occurrence
- Infant Weights at Birth, by Age of Mother and Census District
- Infant Weights at Birth by Parity and Census District

STRENGTHS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

DEATHS TABLES produced

- Total Deaths By District of Residence and Age Group
- Total Deaths By Place of Occurrence & District of Residence
- Deaths by Residence and Specific Place of Occurrence
- Total Deaths By Age Group and Month
- Number of Deaths by Age, Sex and Cause
- Number of Deaths By Cause/Groups

STRENGTHS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

DEATHS TABLES cont'd

- Number of Deaths By Sex and Age Group
- Total Infant Deaths By Age Group 1982 - to current
- Total Deaths in the First Year of Life
- Total Infant Deaths (under 1 year) By Sex, Age and Cause

STRENGTHS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

MARRIAGES TABLES produced

- Marriages By Previous Civil Status of Bride and Groom
- Marriages By Age of Bride and Groom
- Marriages By Age of Bachelor and Spinster and Civil Condition of Bride and Groom
- Age At Marriage By Number of Children Ever Born
- Marriages By Month 1989 - 2005
- Marriages By Religious Denominations 1980 to Current
- Marriages By District of Registration and Religious Denominations

STRENGTHS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

DIVORCES TABLES produced

- Divorces Absolute By Age of Female Partner and Duration of Marriage
- Divorces Absolute By Age of Female Partner and Number of Children of Marriage
- Divorces Absolute By Age of Male Partner and Age of Female Partner

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
THANK YOU**

