



PRACTICAL OBSTACLES WHEN FURNISHING DATA FOR THE DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK

ST KITTS AND NEVIS - CORNEIL WILLIAMS

DISCLAIMER

Department of Statistics has not received said questionnaires in very long time
Quite possible that data request goes to department email that is no longer active

Presentation based on ability to compile vital statistics and not just on ability to submit data requests

NOT COLLECTED

- Legally induced abortions - no such thing
- Divorces
 - Collected previously but has not been collected for nearly ten years now.
 - Very tedious process weeding through court records and identifying divorces considered final/ 'absolute'
 - Option being explored to resume collection and analysis
- Foetal deaths by gestational age (to be confirmed by Health)
- Live births by gestational age (to be confirmed...)

URBAN - RURAL DISTINCTION

- DONE SOME YEARS AGO BUT NO LONGER DONE
- THERE WAS OBJECTION TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF COMMUNITIES AS RURAL OR URBAN.
 - WHAT QUALIFIES AS URBAN / WHAT QUALIFIES AS RURAL
 - No official determination
 - Never really applied to vital statistics except in census years

URBAN - RURAL DISTINCTION

- TABLES AFFECTED
 - POPULATION BY SEX
 - Available by parish(census and surveys only)
 - LIVE BIRTHS BY SEX...
 - Can be made available by parish
 - DEATHS BY SEX...
 - Can be made available by parish
 - INFANT DEATH BY SEX OF INFANT...
 - MARRIAGES BY RESIDENCE
 - Available by parish
 - Late foetal deaths (still births)

POPULATION STATS - MIGRATION

- Complete lack of migration data
- Immigration department does not furnish data to statistical office.
 - System currently provided predefined tables that would not serve our purposes
 - No output by age of migrant
 - Attempts being made to access raw data files in hopes of being able to manipulate via spss or other statistical software (once available in comparable format)
 - Statistics Department currently keys data into CTO MIST software but currently only data on arrivals can be keyed. No departure data
 - Currently migration data only available by sex of individuals
 - No distinction made between persons with place of stay in St Kitts as against Nevis
 - No Distinction made between persons with place of normal residence in St Kitts as against Nevis

POPULATION STATS - MID YEAR ESTIMATES

- Lack of proper migration data translates into lack of proper estimates of population
- Currently mid-year estimates can only be disaggregated by gender or by island.
- No population estimates by age group or single years of age

POPULATION STATISTICS - INDICATORS AFFECTED

- Total Fertility Rate - no five year age group data (females)
- Life expectancy at birth
- Life Tables
 - Complete (each sex)
 - Abridged (each sex)

ISSUES WITH BIRTHS

- NOT MANY ISSUES EXCEPT
 - CIVIL REGISTRY TOTALLY PAPER BASED SYSTEM
 - HEALTH INFORMATION UNIT HAS TO CONVERT DATA FROM PAPER TO ELECTRONIC (TAKES TIME)
 - ONE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE AT HEALTH INFORMATION UNIT (OVER BURDENED)
 - BIRTHS THAT OCCUR OUTSIDE MAIN MEDICAL FACILITIES MAY TAKE TIME TO BE REGISTRERED (NOT SIGNIFICANT)

ISSUES WITH DEATHS

- MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN
 - LACK LUSTER REPORTING BY DISTRICT REGISTRARS
 - LACK OF INFORMATION ON CERTIFICATES
 - CAUSE OF DEATH INFORMATION NOT PROPERLY FILLED IN
 - POOR STAFFING
 - NOT ENOUGH TRAINED PERSONNEL

DISTRICT REGISTRARS

- VARIOUS PERSONS IN COMMUNITIES TASKED WITH COLLECTION OF DEATHS DATA AND WITH ISSUANCE OF SCRIPT (RECEIPT TO BE TAKEN TO CIVIL REGISTRY TO RECEIVE DEATH CERTIFICATE)
- PERSONS ARE PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS
 - PAID PER SCRIPT WRITTEN/ISSUED
 - PAY PER SCRIPT IS LOW
 - PERSONS WAIT TO AMASS SIGNIFICANT VOLUME BEFORE REPORTING
 - SOME DISTRICTS HAVE MUCH FEWER DEATHS THEREFORE REGISTRAR TAKE VERY LONG TO REPORT TO CIVIL REGISTRY

LACK OF INFORMATION

- OFTEN MISSING ONE OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH
 - UNDERLYING CAUSE OF DEATH
 - ANTECEDENT CAUSE OF DEATH
 - HEALTH INFORMATION UNIT HAS TO GO BACK TO CIVIL REGISTRY AND MORE OFTEN BACK TO THE DOCTOR TO TRY AND OBTAIN MISSING INFORMATION

STAFFING AT MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- One individual responsible to all data on births / fertility
- One person responsible for all data on morbidity
- One persons responsible for coding of deaths
- One person responsible for all data on deaths / mortality

ONE PERSON DEPARTMENT

- ONE INDIVIDUAL
 - COLLECTS BIRTHS DATA
 - COMPILES AND PROCESSES BIRTHS DATA
 - COLLECTS AND COMPILES OCCURENCES OF DEATHS
 - CODES OCCURENCES OF DEATHS
 - COMPILES DEATH INFORMATION
 - PROCESSES DEATH INFORMATION
 - COMPILES MORBILITY AND OTHER HEALTH STATISTICS
 - ONLY PERSON TRAINED AND ACTIVE IN CODING OF DEATHS

STAFFING AT MINISTRY

- **ALL ARE THE SAME ONE PERSON**
 - Overburdened - complains that cannot visit certain agencies/departments so has to wait for data to get to office
 - Underpaid
 - No succession plan
 - Unsustainable system

ROLE OF STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

- Review of data from ministry of health
- Disseminate upon request
- Supplement tables from ministry
 - Fertility rates
 - Mortality rates

FUTURE PLANS

- Resume collection of divorce information
- Assume co-responsibility for compilation and processing of data on births, deaths and morbidity
- Petition for access to raw data files at immigration department
 - Should be meeting with software technician in near future
- Become familiar with mortpak and use in compiling population estimates