

Suriname Country Team Presentation

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

1-4 December 2015, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Compare core topics recommended by the P&R with topics covered in the country's registration forms. Explain what are the difference

- Core topics used by the civil registry for live births are:
 - ✓ Date and place of occurrence
 - ✓ Date and place of registration
 - ✓ Attendant at birth
 - ✓ Sex
 - ✓ Marital status of the mother
 - ✓ Place of usual residence of the mother
 - ✓ Marital status of the father
 - ✓ Place of usual residence of the father
 - ✓ Parity

Core topics that are not registered by the CR:

- Type of birth: the information is mentioned in the records of the population register, but not in the civil registry
- Weight at birth: this information has never been registered by the civil registry, but the statistics department gets this information from the hospitals and medical clinics.
- Date of birth of the mother: this is not registered, but the age of the mother is.
- Place/country of birth of the mother: this is only registered when the mother is not a resident in Suriname
- Educational attainment of the m/f: is not registered

Core topics used by the civil registry for deaths:

- Date and place of occurrence
- Date and place of registration
- Marital status
- Sex
- Place of usual residence

Core topics that are not registered:

- Cause of death: this is registered by the Health department, because of privacy reasons the civil registry does not register this topic.
- Certifier: this is also registered by the health department
- Date of birth: however, the age of the decedent is registered

Core topics used by the civil registry for foetal deaths:

- Date and place of occurrence
- Date and place of registration
- Sex
- Place of usual residence of the mother/father

Core topics that are not registered:

- Date of the birth of the mother/father: the age is registered
- Children born alive to mother during her entire lifetime: is not registered by the CR, but the information is registered by the hospitals
- Date of marriage

Core topics used by the civil registry for marriages:

- Date and place of occurrence
- Date and place of registration
- Place of usual residence of bride and groom

Core topics that are not registered:

- Date of birth: however the age of the bride and groom is registered
- The previous marriage of the bride and groom is also registered

Core topics used by civil registry for divorces;

- Date and place of occurrence
- Date and place of registration
- Date of marriage
- Place of usual residence

Core topics that are not registered:

- Date of birth: but the age of the divorcees is registered
- Also registered:
 - The place of marriage
 - And in case of a religious marriage: the marriage officer

The major obstacles for achieving complete coverage of vital events registration and for compiling VS based on CR data

- The vast area in the interior of Suriname leads to problems in collecting data on vital events, mainly because the Civil Registry Office can not register the births and deaths in most cases because of the distances between the villages, people moving from village to village and the attitude of (most) the people living in the interior. They don't seem to understand the importance of registering vital events
- For compiling the vital statistics based on data of the Civil Registry Office this is a problem because of the under-registration. We can't tell how big that number is.

The efforts that have been carried out to assess quality

- Civil Registry Office: The hospitals and medical institutes register births (regardless if the child is born in or out of wedlock)
- They also register all deaths (not by cause of death) that occurred at the medical institute or hospital.
- In case of marriages: The religious wedding officials are obliged to register the marriage they conduct.
- General Bureau of Statistics: does consistency checks as far as possible (with Census data and data received from the hospitals)

5 Strategies that should be adopted to achieve completeness and improve data quality

1. Training of personnel- of the Civil Registry Office, The General Bureau of Statistics and the Bureau of Public Health
2. Have better communication between all the stake holders. (data producers/sources and data users)
3. Promote the importance of registering of vital events and the use of vital statistics.
4. Creating a fully automated registering process of vital events with all of the core topics included.
5. Create a committee of stakeholders on vital events (Civil Registry Office, Ministry of Health (Hospitals, medical institutes), General Bureau of Statistics)

THANK YOU