



**United  
Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

# Updates on estimated completeness of birth and death registration

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## Coverage of birth and death registration

- The work of the UNSD to assist countries in improving their civil registration and vital statistics systems started back in 1949, following the recommendations by the Statistical Commission at that time.
- Progress has been made ever since in most countries. However, coverage gaps remain.
- The latest available estimates on Coverage of Birth and Death Registration are available on the UNSD webpage.

## Sources of information:

Several sources are used to obtain the estimates of coverage of birth and death registration for more than 230 countries and areas:

1. The primary source is the "Quality of vital statistics obtained from civil registration" page on the United Nations Demographic Yearbook Vital Statistics Questionnaire.

## Sources of information:

2. Source of information also includes United Nations Statistics Division workshops that have been conducted in the past, when coverage information was obtained from country representative(s), either from the National Statistical Office or the Civil Registration Authority attending the workshop.

## Sources of information:

3. Lastly, when information is not available from these two sources, coverage information is estimated by UNICEF Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys (MICS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and/or the World Health Organisation.



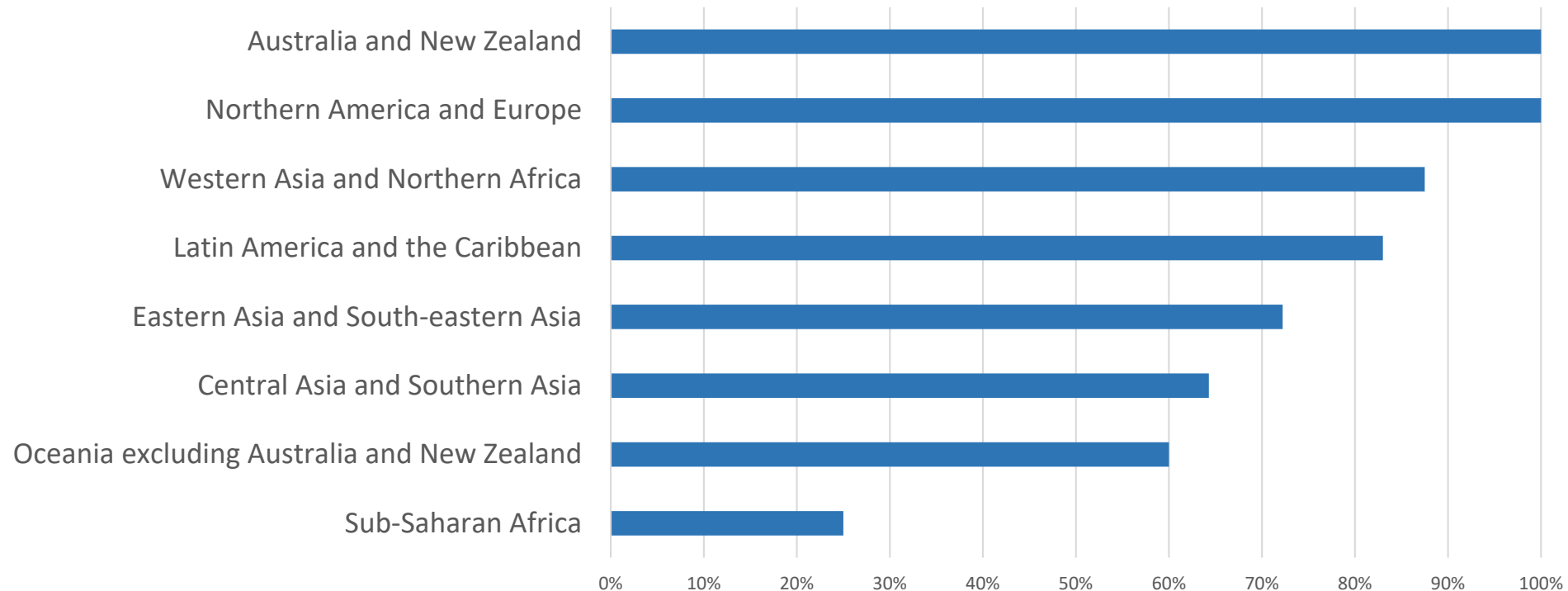
## Birth and deaths registration coverage gaps remain

Out of all countries for which data is available:

- 73% of the countries, territories and areas register at least 90% of births occurred.
- 68% of the countries, territories and areas register at least 90% deaths occurred.

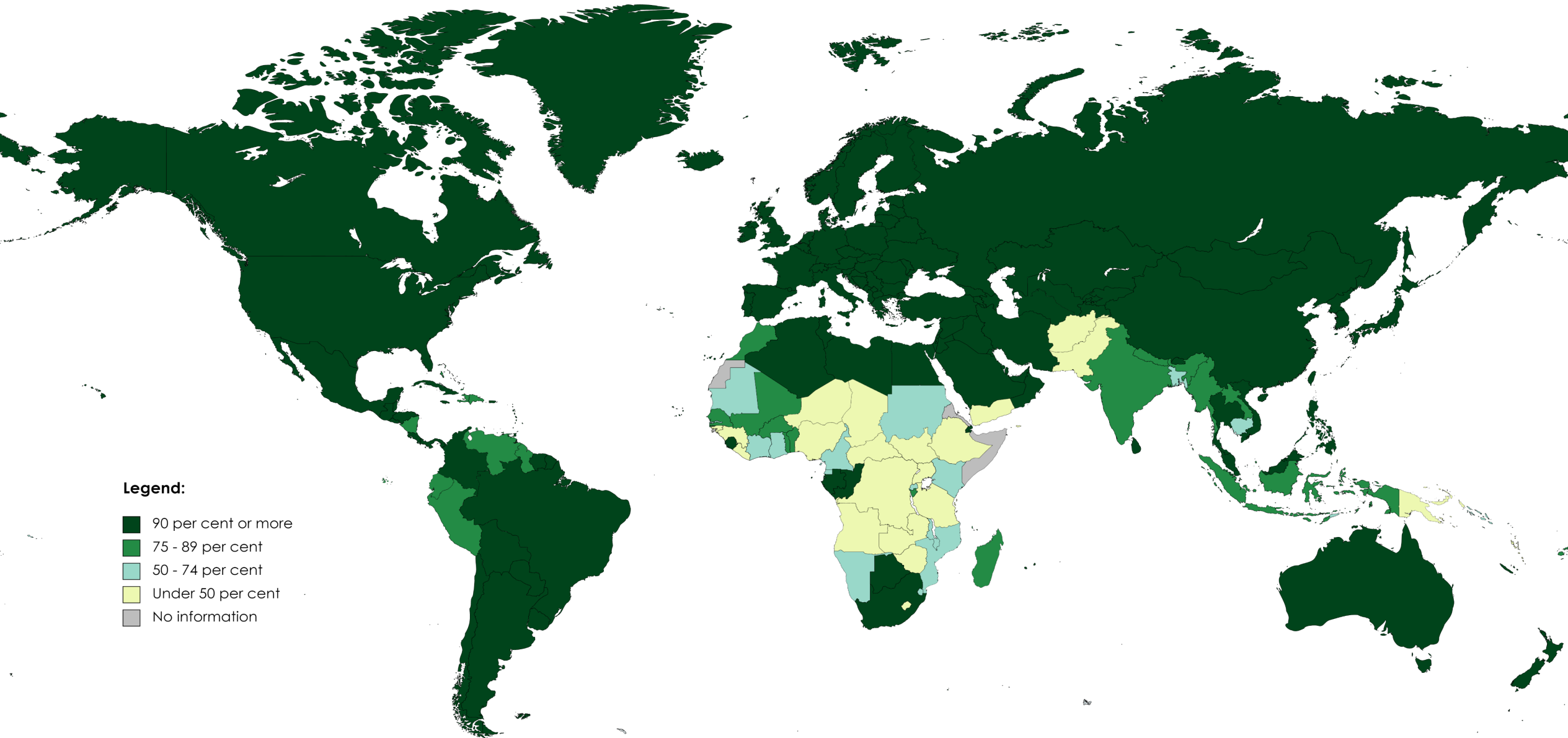
## Large differences in birth registration coverage among regions:

Share of countries registering at least 90 per cent of all live births, by region:



Source: UNSD

# Coverage of Live Birth Registration (last update: 2021)

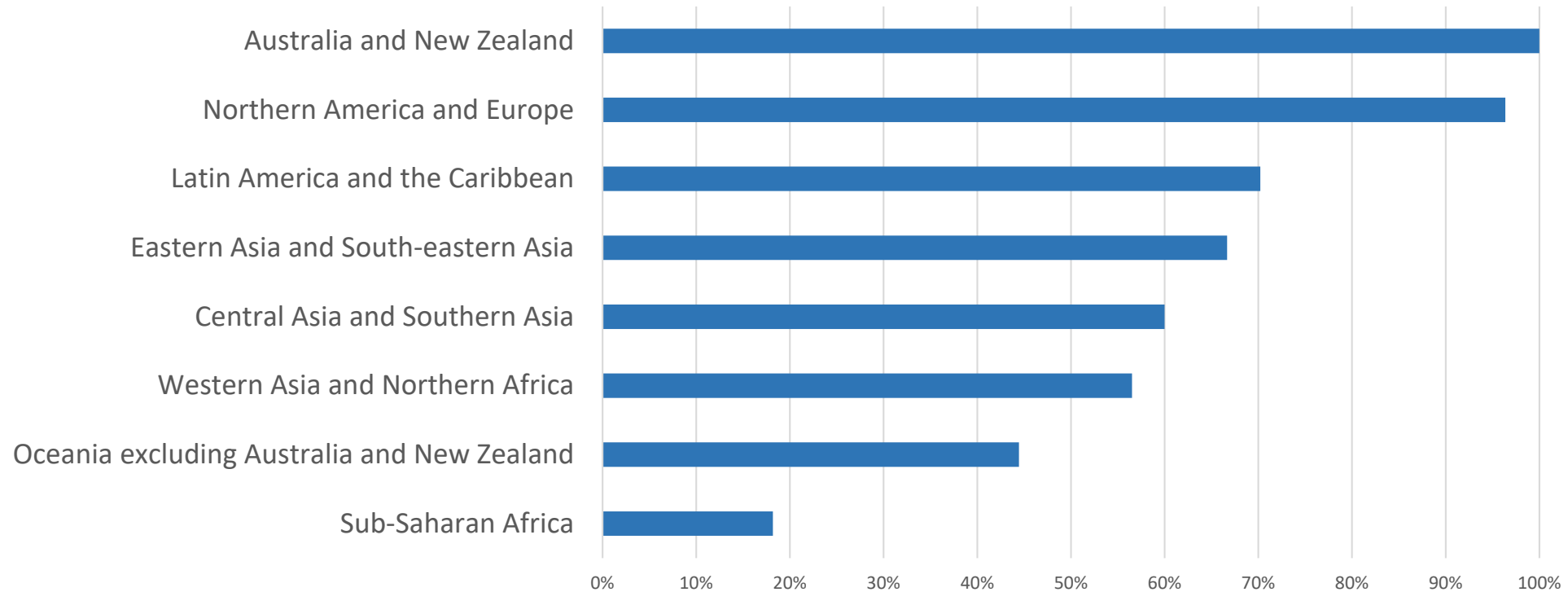


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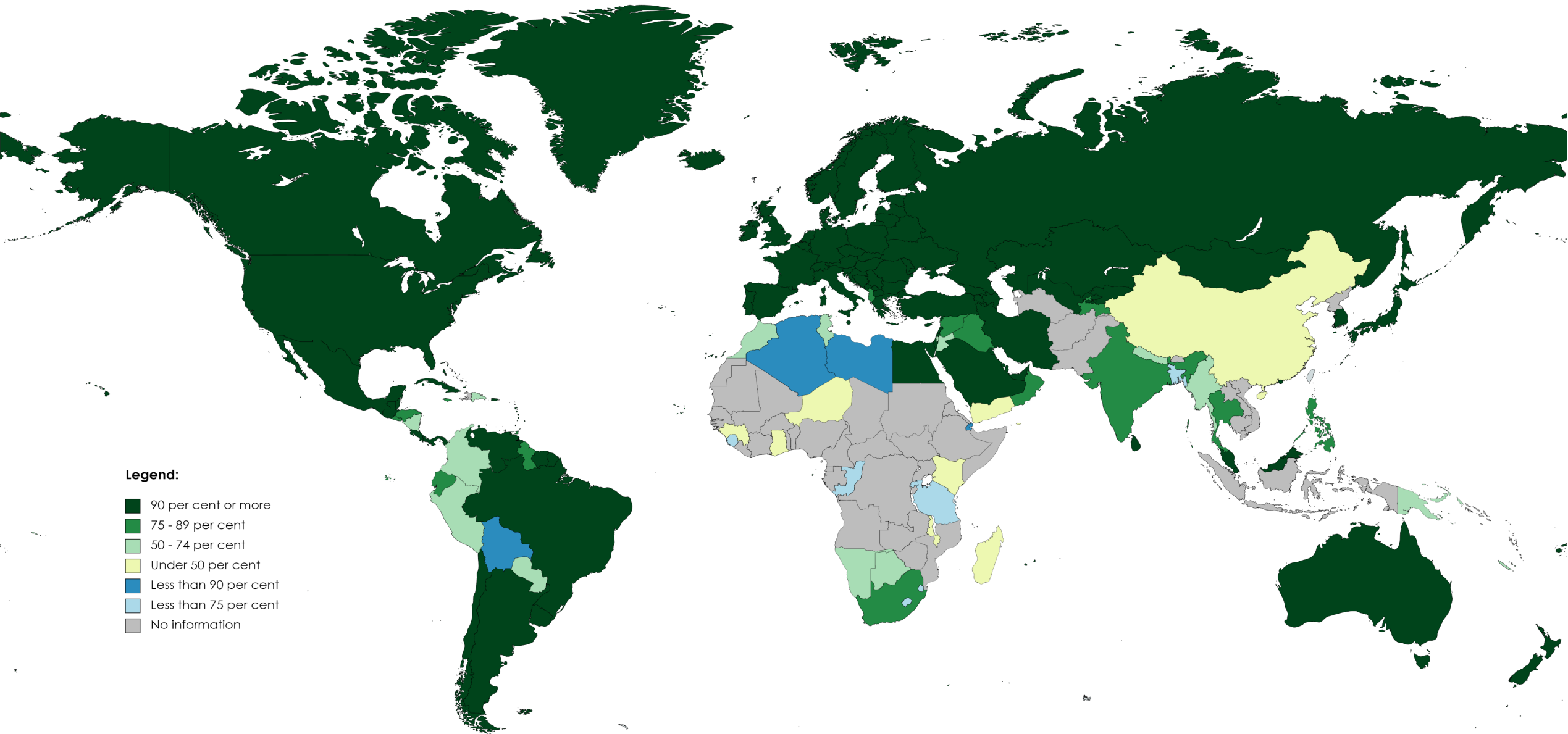
## Large differences in death registration coverage among regions

Share of countries registering at least 90 per cent of all deaths, by region:



Source: UNSD

# Coverage of Death Registration (last update: 2021)



**Legend:**

- 90 per cent or more
- 75 - 89 per cent
- 50 - 74 per cent
- Under 50 per cent
- Less than 90 per cent
- Less than 75 per cent
- No information

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## Final comments:

- Systematic recording remains a challenge, highlighting the urgent need to improve and strengthen civil registration and vital statistics.
- Lack of any data for: 4 countries (birth registration) and 44 countries (death registration)
- Substantial differences can exist between CRVS coverage and registration levels as captured by household surveys (including among HH surveys).
- This is work in progress – please visit UNSD webpage and provide feedback.

**Thank you!**