



U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics
International Statistics Program



Overview of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems

These materials have been developed by the National Center for Health Statistics, International Statistics Program, Hyattsville, Md., as part of the CDC Global Program for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Improvement.

- **Purpose of Civil Registration System**
- **Purpose of Vital Statistics system**
- **Types of Vital Records**
- **Uses of Vital Records**



Picture from WHO web site; Health Metrics Network
http://www.who.int/healthmetrics/documents/Components_of_a_strong_HIS.pdf



Civil Registration System

A system government uses to record vital events as required by laws or regulations of the country

- **Main purpose – To establish the legal documents required by law**
- **Goal – To record all vital events occurring in the country as they occur**



Vital Statistics System

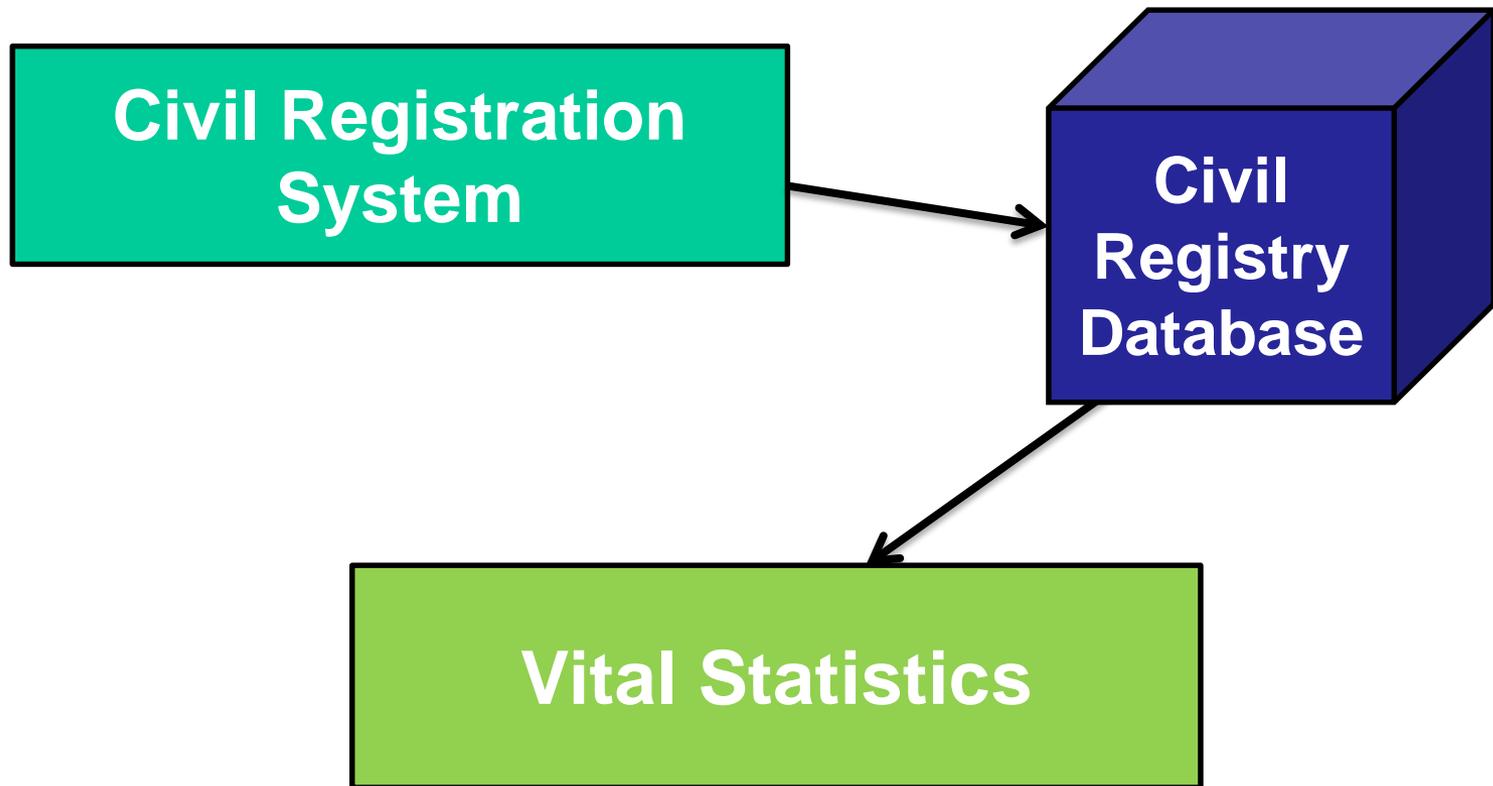
The process of collecting, compiling and analyzing information from vital events filed through the civil registration system

- **Main purpose – Presentation of vital event data in statistical form**
- **Goal – To have accurate data from all vital events occurring in the country**



Relationship

The Civil Registration System creates a data source for Vital Statistics





Discuss

What are some methods that can be used to supplement the data if civil registration does not provide complete coverage of the country?

How does civil registration differ from a census?

How does civil registration differ from a sample?



Types of Vital Records

- **10 types recognized by UN**
- **Main records for health analyses**
 1. **Birth**
 2. **Death**
- **Used for health analyses in some countries**
 3. **Fetal Death**
 4. **Marriage**
 5. **Divorce**



Types of Vital Records

- **Other records for legal purposes**
 - 6. Annulment of Marriage**
 - 7. Judicial Separation of Marriage**
 - 8. Adoption**
 - 9. Legitimation**
 - 10. Recognition**



Types of Vital Records

Slide with official types of records for country where course is being taught or comparison if students are from different countries.



Uses of Vital Records

SOURCES: *Handbook on Training in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems*, Series F, No. 84, United Nations, New York, 2002, Module 2

	Individual	Administrative	Vital Statistics	Public Health Programs/ Research
Birth	Proof of identity Proof of age & date of birth Proof of place of birth Citizenship Parentage	Population registries Identity card systems Election rolls Social programs National security	Population estimates & predictions Natality rates & trends Maternal & infant health	Sampling frame for research studies Identify population at risk Fertility data for family planning
Death	Evidence of death for heirs Collect insurance Probate estate	Purge population registry & election rolls Genealogical research	Population estimates & predictions Mortality rates & trends Study specific diseases Life tables	Monitor infectious diseases Study chronic disease patterns Infant & maternal mortality studies Accident, suicide & homicide studies
Marriage /Divorce	Legal proof of marriage or divorce & date and place	Administer family benefit programs Genealogical research	Marriage & divorce rates and trends	Demographic studies Study family patterns



Discuss

Give some examples of how you have used vital records in the past.

Did you have any problems obtaining or using the records, and if so, what were the problems?

- **Civil registration**
 - **Legal system to record vital events of a country**
 - **Goal to record all vital events occurring in the country as they occur**
- **Vital statistics**
 - **Data obtained from vital events filed through civil registration system**
 - **Goal to have accurate data from all vital events occurring in the country**

- **Use of Vital records**
 - **Legal**
 - **Administrative**
 - **Vital statistics**
 - **Public health and research**
- **Main records used for public health analyses**
 - **Births**
 - **Deaths**



Word Choice Questions

- 1. Vital statistics are data collected from vital events filed through *(the census/civil registration)*.**
- 2. The goal of a civil registration system is to record all vital events *(within 5 years/as they occur)*.**
- 3. Vital records *(are/are not)* legal documents.**
- 4. Purging administrative files, monitoring health trends, developing sampling frames, and conducting statistical research *(are/are not)* some uses of information from vital records.**