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## ORGANIZATION AND STATUS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

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ORGANIZATION AND STATUS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS  
IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

Some kind of authority exists in virtually every country of the world for the registration of vital events and for the compilation of vital statistics. In about three-quarters of the countries, civil registries have been in existence for more than 60 years. In about one-half of the countries, the civil registration and vital statistics systems are solidly established. In the rest of the countries, the systems are in various stages of development.

Basic to the registration process is the structural organization and the administrative arrangements for the registration of vital events. The United Nations Statistical Office conducts periodically a questionnaire survey of sources of vital statistics to obtain up-to-date information on vital statistics methods, including the organization of the civil registration and vital statistics systems. The last such survey was undertaken between November 1976 to April 1979. To update the United Nations information on organizational structure of the civil registration and vital statistics systems, the IIVRS embarked on a questionnaire survey in August 1984. In the initial mailout, a vital statistics questionnaire and a civil registration questionnaire were sent to the respective offices represented in the IIVRS membership. This was later supplemented by a questionnaire to the national statistical offices on the United Nations Statistical Office mailing list which were not in the IIVRS membership directory.

The quality of responses received was generally good, but there was much to be desired in the response rate. After 3 follow-ups over a period of 7 to 8 months, only 69.5 percent of the questionnaires sent to the vital statistics offices were returned. The response rate for questionnaires mailed to national registration offices was considerably poorer, 46.7 percent.

The United Nations questionnaire was directed only to the national statistical offices but was much more comprehensive as compared to the simple questionnaires of the IIVRS. This may be a partial explanation for the lower response rate (58 percent as compared with 70 percent) in the United Nations survey. However, because the subject of inquiry was of direct interest and the information readily available to the respondents, one would have expected a higher response rate even in the IIVRS survey.

The questionnaire response rate varied considerably by regions of the world as may be seen in Table 1. The response from the vital statistics offices in South America was the best--only 1 country out of 10 failed to return a questionnaire. On the other hand, the response rate for the vital statistics offices in the European countries was the lowest--66 percent. For the civil registration offices, the response rate ranged from 34.5 percent for the African countries to 66.7 percent for countries in the Asian region. Further variations occurred in countries on the African continent. The response rate on the civil registration questionnaire was as low as 10 percent for the Francophone subsaharan countries (two countries, Madagascar and Zaire, out of 21 countries) as compared with 56 percent for the Anglophone subsaharan countries.

Table 1. Questionnaire Response Rate in Percent

	Vital Statistics	Civil Registration
Total	69.5	46.7
Africa	67.3	34.5
America, North	64.9	43.2
America, South	90.0	50.0
Asia	74.4	66.7
Europe	65.8	42.1
Oceania	72.2	61.1

The generally poor response on the civil registration questionnaire may be due to a number of factors. Perhaps the most important of these was the difficulty of identifying the national civil registration offices. Also, in countries with a federated system of government, the civil registration function is decentralized and there is no national registration office as such. Another possible problem is that of language. If the questionnaire had been in one of the official languages of the country instead of English, a better response may have resulted.

## Organization of the Civil Registration System

The civil registration system is essentially a national network of local registration offices operating under the technical and administrative direction of one or more agencies. Appendix A identifies the Ministry or department legally responsible for civil registration and vital statistics at the national level, and the organization of the civil registration system at the subnational level. The operational arrangement may be fairly simple as in the case of a small territory or area like Hong Kong, Macau and Singapore where the central registration office is located in the same area as one or more subregistration offices. The organization becomes more complex as the territory and the population to be covered increases and layers of authority are added to the hierarchical system. The administration of the system becomes more difficult still when the national civil registration office has to exercise technical direction through another ministry or department which has administrative control over the personnel in the local registration office. Other problems, primarily those of coordination arise where there is no central government agency to direct and give overall supervision to the personnel in the State civil registration offices. There are at least 12 countries (4 of these are in North America and 4 in Europe) where there is no national authority and the individual State or provincial governments have legal responsibility for registering births and deaths.

Responsible central authorities. In those countries with a centralized registration system (see Table 2), the legal responsibility for registration is most frequently lodged in the Ministry of Home or Interior (35 percent), followed by the Ministry of Justice (27 Percent) and the Ministry of Health (14 percent). The rest (24 percent) are in various administrations such as the prime minister's office, Ministry of Finance and others, or are independent national registers of births and deaths.

Table 2. Legal Responsibility for National Civil Registration by Region

	Home or Interior	Justice	Health	Other	No Data
All regions	50(35)	38(27)	20(14)	34(24)	37
Africa	19(48)	9(23)	4(10)	8(13)	11
America, North	3(16)	8(42)	2(11)	6(32)	11
America, South	2(25)	4(50)	1(13)	1(13)	0
Asia	16(47)	5(15)	10(27)	3(9)	5
Europe	9(30)	6(20)	1(3)	14(47)	5
Oceania	1(9)	6(55)	2(18)	2(18)	5

Note: Percent in parens.

There seems to be a kind of regional pattern in the national organization of a civil registration system. In Africa and Asia, the locus is most frequently in the Ministry of Home or Interior (including territorial administration, local governments and internal affairs). In North America, South America and Oceania, the legal responsibility for civil registration is most frequently that of the Ministry of Justice. In a relatively large number of countries of Asia, the Ministry of Health is responsible for national civil registration. The European countries do not fit into any of the regional patterns.

Supervision of Local Registration Offices. In the countries with a national registration office, the local registration offices may be supervised through the chain of authority in the same Ministry or Department, or through some other administrative channel depending upon the organization of the civil registration system. In general, the central registration offices situated in the Ministry of Interior and in the Ministry of Health have a channel of communication through its own Ministry. This is also true of the Registrar General's Department with regional and district offices. In most other situations, the national registration office gives technical advice and direction to the local registration personnel under the administrative control of another ministry, usually the home or health.

According to available information, some 60 percent of the national registration office and the local registration offices are in the same ministry or administration and 40 percent in another administration (Table 3). In Asia, the ratio is close to 80 percent. The percentage of countries with the national registration office and the local registration offices in the same administration is also relatively high on the African continent and in South America. On the other hand, in fewer than 50 percent of the countries in North America and Europe are the national and the local registration offices located in the same administration.

Table 3. Location of National and Local Registration Offices by Region

	Same Administration	Different Administration	Insufficient Data	No data
All regions	80(60)	53(40)	19	38
Africa	25(68)	12(22)	4	11
America, North	9(36)	13(64)	1	11
America, South	6(60)	4(40)	0	0
Asia	23(79)	6(21)	3	6
Europe	13(46)	14(54)	7	5
Oceania	4(50)	4(50)	4	5

Note: Percent in parens.

Discussion. Because of the legal implications of vital records, it would seem that the logical place for the civil registration function would be in the Ministry of Justice. This is so in one-half or more of the countries in South America and Oceania. In the countries of North America which includes a number of countries of Central America and the Carribean, some 42 percent of the national registration office is lodged in Justice. In the other regions, the court system is not favored nearly as much as the site for the central registration office.

The registration offices attached to local courts may be able to serve the population of small countries adequately. However, in the larger countries or in countries comprised of numerous islands, the court system may not extend far enough so that it reaches a large part of the population. In such cases, the national registration office in the Ministry of Justice will have to utilize the existing local offices of another ministry or department.

Of all the government agencies, the Ministry of Interior is generally best equipped to provide service to the public through its system of local governments. Because of this, the national civil registration offices are most frequently under the jurisdiction of this Ministry.

An important public service is the provision of medical care to the population. This involves the establishment of a network of hospitals, clinics and health centers. Because vital events frequently occur in health institutions, the Ministry of Health has been regarded by some as a suitable site for a national civil registration office.

In many countries, civil registration is tied in organizationally with other governmental functions such as population registration, personal identification, maintenance of national electoral rolls, and compilation of national vital statistics. In such cases, it depends on the situation in the country as to where the registration function will be attached. For example, civil registration is part of the population registration program in the Ministry of Interior in Denmark, Finland and Israel. In Hungary, it is associated with population registration under the Board of Councils of the Council of Ministers; whereas in Norway and Sweden, they are in the Ministry of Finance.

In countries with a centralized system, the national registration office may be in direct line of authority over the local registration offices. This appears to be the situation in about 60 percent of the countries. In the rest of the countries, the national registration office gives advice and direction on technical matters to the personnel of the local registration offices under the administrative control of another ministry or department. This may make for a more complex administrative operation, especially if the local personnel also has responsibilities for functions other than civil registration. However, this may not be a crucial factor in developing and maintaining an efficient registration system as evidenced from the fact that the national registration offices in Europe and North America where better registration systems exist do not have direct control over the local registration offices. It may be that in some countries where the local registration offices appear to be under the direct authority of the central office, civil registration has to compete with other activities of the local registrars. To assess the effect of the organizational and administrative structure of the registration system requires an in-depth case study in a country.

Number of local registration offices. Of all the information obtained in the survey, the data on the number of local registration offices is the shakiest. A comparison of the reported number of local registration offices in the IIVRS and the United Nations questionnaire surveys show a number

of discrepancies in the two sources of information. Some of the variations are probably due to the difference in reference periods. The others are much too large to be accounted for on this basis. In all likelihood, the large differences are due to the inclusion or exclusion of the sub-registration offices, that is, a matter of definition of a local registration office. Both the IIVRS and the UN questionnaires called for the "total number of local registration offices", but the UN questionnaire went further and asked for the "number of primary or basic registration unit" and the "number of secondary registration unit". Because of this, the UN questionnaire is more likely to get at a complete count of local registration offices than that of the IIVRS. Therefore, where there were large discrepancies in the number of local registration offices from the two sources of data, the UN count was used.

The number of local registration offices varies greatly by country. According to available information, the largest number is 225,000 to serve the population of 746 million in India. It is possible that there are more local units in the People's Republic of China, but information on this point is lacking.

For purposes of illustration, the lowest and highest values in each region for each of the parameters in Table 4 have been selected from the data at hand. These parameters are (1) the number of local registration offices, (2) population served by an average local registration office and (3) the land area served by an average local registration office. In every region, the range between the lowest and the highest is considerable. The averages which have been calculated are for the country as a whole. For urban areas, the actual population served by a local registration unit will be much greater than the estimated average. The reverse will be true of the rural areas. By the same token, the land area per average registration office for cities will be smaller than the given estimate, and larger in the rural areas.

Table 4. The number of local registration offices, population and land area per average registration unit in countries with highest and lowest values in each region

	No. of local offices	Population per average office	Area (Km <sup>2</sup> ) per average office
Africa			
Low	4 (Seychelles)	2,100 (Cape Verde)	44 (Mauritius)
High	1,295 (Ivory Coast)	472,000 (Kenya)	36,100 (Guinea-Bissau)
America, North			
Low	5 (Barbados)	1,727 (Bahamas)	4 (Cayman Islands)
High	8,310 (United States)	50,400 (Barbados)	7,775 (Suriname)
America, South			
Low	229 (Uruguay)	9,533 (Peru)	369 (Ecuador)
High	7,706 (Brazil)	29,341 (Colombia)	1,514 (Chile)
Asia			
Low	4 (Macao)	3,000 (Bangladesh)	4 (Macao)
High	225,245 (India)	491,000 (Hong Kong)	2,790 (Burma)
Europe			
Low	1 (Monaco)	1,067 (Iceland)	2 (Monaco)
High	36,000 (France)	356,000 (Malta)	5,712 (Finland)
Oceania			
Low	1 (Solomon Islands)	59 (Western Samoa)	0.4 (Vanuatu)
	1 (Guam)		
High	205 (New Zealand)	109,660 (Australia)	54,484 (Australia)

Another aspect of concern is the accessibility of informants to the local registration office. Although the estimates of land area covered by a registration office give some idea of travel involved in the registration of births and deaths, they do not indicate the difficulty of access to registration offices. Mountainous terrain may make access to registration offices difficult, especially in the absence of adequate public transportation. Isolated islanders without transport would certainly have problems in reaching population centers where the registration offices are located. Despite its limitation, data on land area give some indication of the travel involved in the registration of births and deaths.

Table 5 shows the estimated distance that needs to be traveled to an average local registration office in the various countries in the last column of Table 4. In converting land area to distance, it was assumed for the sake of simplicity that the average local registration office is located at the center of a circle and that the population is uniformly distributed in the circumscribed area.

Table 5. Distance to average local registration office in countries with lowest and highest land area per office in each region

	Distance in Km	
	Maximum	Average
Africa		
Mauritius	3	2
Guinea-Bissau	152	101
America, North		
Cayman Island	1.1	0.7
Suriname	70	47
America, South		
Ecuador	15	10
Chile	39	26
Asia		
Macao	1.1	0.7
Burma	53	35
Europe		
Monaco	1.4	0.9
Finland	76	50
Oceania		
Vanuatu	0.5	0.3
Australia	233	156

In small territories, it is generally not much of a problem for the informants to go to the local office to register the vital event. In larger areas, considerable travel may be involved in the registration of births and deaths. For example, it would appear that access to an average local registration office in Guinea-Bissau and in Australia may be a real problem for some of the informants. Although the actual geographic distribution of the population in these countries is probably much different from that assumed in the calculation of travel distance, certain segments of the population must find travel to the registration offices difficult, if not a hardship.

Estimates of the number of births and deaths expected to occur in the countries with the lowest and highest population for an average registration office were calculated using the birth and death rates estimated for the various countries by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.<sup>1</sup> The estimated expected annual numbers of births and deaths occurring in an average local registration office are shown in Table 6. The significance of these figures lies in the low values for each region which suggest that births and deaths are relatively rare events in an average local registration unit. In many countries of the world, the annual number of births and deaths registered in an average local registration unit is way below 1 per day. The actual number of births and deaths that will be registered in an average local registration office will be fewer than the figures shown. The volume of business of this order of magnitude will hardly sustain an office. Nor will it be possible to maintain high-level personnel that are needed to improve the civil registration system. The work load of the various primary registration units in a country need to be studied with a view to optimizing the registration system.

Repository of birth and death records. An incidental question on the civil registration questionnaire concerned the existence of a permanent file of birth and death records. The response to this question was poor--fewer than half the countries answered this question. The response was invariably affirmative. What seems significant is that 37 percent of those with a central repository of records did not have an alphabetic index to the records of births and deaths. In Asia, the countries without an alphabetic index was much higher--about 70 percent. Without an alphabetic index to the vital records, there is no way that an individual record can be found without great difficulty and labor.

Although the present demands for copies of birth and death records may be such that a record storage and retrieval system is not necessary, there will come a time when all the back records will have to be indexed. Because this will impose a large work load, consideration should be given by some of these countries to begin to establish a suitable record storage and retrieval system.

<sup>1</sup>Recent Demographic Estimates for Countries and Regions of the World. World Population: 1984, ISP-WP-84, Nov. 1984.

Table 6. Expected annual number of births and deaths in area covered by average local registration office in countries with the lowest and highest populations per average office in each region

	Expected Annual Number	
	Births	Deaths
Africa		
Cape Verde	66	17
Kenya	24,544	5,192
America, North		
Bahamas	38	9
Barbados	832	403
America, South		
Peru	329	95
Columbia	836	205
Asia		
Bangladesh	134	51
Hong Kong	8,101	2,455
Europe		
Iceland	20	7
Malta	5,518	3,382
Oceania		
Western Samoa	2	1
Australia	1,700	822

#### Organization of the vital statistics system

As may be expected, the central statistical office is responsible for the compilation of national vital statistics in most (75.8 percent) of the countries. The health administration is responsible for the production of vital statistics in 11.7 percent of the countries, followed closely by the national registration office (10.3 percent). An exception to this international pattern is found in South America and Europe where the legal responsibility for the production of national vital statistics lies in the statistical office in virtually every country.

In 68.0 percent of the countries, the vital statistics services depend on national registration offices for the reports of vital events. In the remainder of the countries, the health ministry (11.6 percent), the statistical office (3.8 percent), and other offices (5.4 percent) provide registration information to the vital statistics agency.

In 28, or 21 percent, of the countries, the civil registration and the vital statistics functions are carried out in the same agency. Fourteen of these are national registration offices, 9 are in the health administration and 5 in the statistical office. The advantage of having vital statistics and civil registration in the same ministry or administration is that it makes communication between the two agencies less difficult. This is most important from the standpoint of the vital statistics where uniformity of data is a prime requisite. It is essential that all the areas in the country use the same basic definitions and registration procedures, identical forms in the collection of data, and the same classifications so that there will be comparability in the statistics produced from records of vital events registered in different parts of the country. Without a close working relationship between the vital statistics and the registration authorities, it will not be possible to produce comparable vital statistics from place to place within the country and from year to year.

The problem of communication and coordination becomes more difficult when the vital statistics and the registration functions are in different ministries or departments. More difficult still are problems in some countries where the civil registration system is decentralized to a subnational level. In these countries, the vital statistics authorities have to deal with a number of autonomous bodies. Much of the success in these cases will depend on the quality of national leadership and the good will of all concerned.

Although the legal authority for the compilation of national vital statistics exists in most countries, the exact count of countries currently not producing national vital statistics is not known. However, there are indications that a number of countries in Africa, Asia, and Oceania have yet to issue vital statistics on a regular basis.

Basis of national vital statistics. Compilations of national vital statistics are generally made by processing information on individual vital records transmitted from the local registration offices through channels to the national vital statistics agency. In a number of countries, magnetic tapes or cards containing processed vital data on individuals are prepared by regional or state offices and sent to the national offices for national tabulations. In the United States, copies of individual vital records accompany the magnetic tapes for sample verification at the National Center for Health Statistics. However, out of the 132 countries which responded to this item on the questionnaire, 24 or 18 percent, aggregated into national totals the summary reports prepared at the subnational level and sent to the central office. The vital statistics offices of two of the most populous countries of the world, the People's Republic of China and India, are receiving summary reports, although the summary reports for India are not now being used for national compilations of vital statistics.

The advantage of summary reports is that the coding and data processing are done closer to the point of data collection, and problems arising from poor quality of returns can be more readily rectified. Another advantage is that the decentralization of coding and tabulating makes it unnecessary for the national vital statistics agency to maintain a large clerical staff. On the other hand, the centralization of coding and data processing is more efficient than a decentralized system. A much smaller clerical staff will be needed than the aggregate number of people involved in handling the same documents on a decentralized basis. More important is the possibility of obtaining greater uniformity in coding of records when coded by the same group centrally. Another important advantage of central coding and tabulating of data from individual records is that it provides flexibility in making data available. Summary reports limit the availability of national data to the contents of summary reports. Lastly, there is the question of timeliness. The decentralized coding and tabulating of data will take longer than the simple transmittal of individual reports of vital events to the national office. Because the central office will not be able to make national aggregations from these summary reports until data for the last reporting area are in, delays in the preparation of summary reports in just one area will hold up the issuance of national annual vital statistics. Another problem with summary reports is that all the coding and data processing skills will be in the offices at the subnational level. Without actual hands-on experience, the personnel in the national vital statistics office will be generally ignorant about the problems of classification and coding. This knowledge is essential if the central office is to prepare coding and data processing instructions for the subnational offices to follow for the preparation of summary reports. Also, it is essential for the central office staff to be thoroughly familiar with the artefacts in the data as the result of coding decisions and changes in classification. This again requires day-to-day experience with data processing in the central office.

The disadvantages of a decentralized data processing system far outweigh the advantages so that serious consideration should be given to the possibility of changing over to coding individual reports of vital events and preparing tabulations in the national vital statistics agency. Despite the overall economy that will result, it will increase the national expenditure for vital statistics. Therefore, it should be recognized that the transfer of functions from the States to the national vital statistics agency may take time to accomplish, especially in countries with large volumes of vital records to process centrally.

Also, it will take a little time to staff and develop the necessary skills to process vital records centrally, especially in countries where large volumes of individual records are involved. For countries like the People's Republic of China and India, it will be a major undertaking to change to a statistical reporting system of individual records. Perhaps the long range solution for China and India is to go the route taken by the United States where individual records are coded into magnetic tapes by the State offices with sample verification in the national office before national tabulations of vital statistics are made. The verification process should expose the important classification problems and maintain data processing skills in the central office.

#### STATUS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Although legal authority for the establishment of civil registration and vital statistics systems has existed for many years in virtually every country of the world, the registration system in fewer than half of the countries may be considered adequate insofar as registration completeness is concerned. The registration systems in the rest of the countries are in various stages of development.

In many countries, the registration laws are badly in need of up-dating to make registration of births and deaths compulsory for the entire population. In the Gambia, registration is voluntary, except in the capital. In Malawi, registration is voluntary, except for Europeans and Asians. In Botswana, registration is compulsory only for 11 areas. In others, registration may be limited to the capital only. In the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, the registration of births and deaths is limited to foreigners only. In Central African Republic, Somalia and Ethiopia, a nationwide civil registration system has yet to be established. In Oman, a system has been started, but it is not yet operational.

On the vital statistics side, there are countries like the Solomon Islands and Somalia where no agency has yet been designated to make national compilations of vital statistics. In Botswana, vital statistics data are not being processed. In Mali, vital statistics are available only for a few cities. In the Central African Republic, only summary reports for the capital city, Bangui, are being collected. In India, a dual record survey is being used to derive estimates of birth and death rates until such time as registration data become adequate for use in the compilation of national statistics.

A comprehensive evaluation of status or the state of development of the civil registration and vital statistics systems will involve the assessment of various aspects of the registration and statistical process such as the adequacy of registration laws and regulations, promptness and completeness of registration, efficiency of services in providing certification of vital events, quality and completeness of data, efficiency of data processing, adequacy and usefulness of data produced, timeliness in the issuance of data, etc. Of these, perhaps the most useful single index of status is the measure of completeness with which births and deaths are registered.

Periodically, the countries are asked by the United Nations to make an assessment of the registration completeness of births and deaths. These evaluations, (C) for registration completeness of 90 percent or more and (U) for completeness of less than 90 percent, are published in the United Nations Yearbook. In some cases, the evaluations are based on the results of sample surveys. Most of them are "guesstimates". However, in terms of the United Nations standard of completeness, these estimates probably represent a reasonably good assessment of the situation. In a few instances, the authorities may be over-optimistic about the effectiveness of the compulsory provisions of the registration law.

In Appendix Table B are shown the completeness of registration of births and deaths for the various countries from the IIVRS survey, the United Nations and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. These data are summarized in Table 7, and indicate that the registration of births is complete in about one-half of the countries of the world. The countries did not do nearly as well in death registration.

Table 7. Number and percent of countries with complete registration of births and deaths by region

	Birth Registration		Death Registration	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
All regions	97	49.2	89	45.1
Africa	8	14.8	6	11.1
America, North	27	71.0	26	68.4
America, South	4	40.0	4	40.0
Asia	14	39.0	11	28.2
East	11	44.0	9	36.0
West	3	21.4	2	14.3
Europe	34	89.5	33	86.8
Oceania	10	55.6	9	50.0

There are large regional differences in completeness of registration. Almost 90 percent of the countries in Europe and 70 percent of the countries in North America registered 90 percent or more of the births occurring in their territory. On the other hand, only 15 percent of the countries in Africa measured up to the UN standard for the registration of births. These are the countries on the Mediterranean coast of Africa and the small island countries of sub-Saharan Africa. None of the sub-Saharan countries on the African continent met the criterion of satisfactory registration completeness. On the Asian continent, the registration of births is complete in 44 percent of the countries in East Asia whereas in the Arab countries of West Asia, the corresponding figure is 21 percent.

Many countries have a long way to go before it can achieve a registration completeness of 90 percent or more. There has been a great proliferation of sample demographic surveys and the development of various direct and indirect methods for the estimation of birth and death rates to fill partially the existing void. However, because of the limitations of survey data and of the estimation techniques, the resulting estimates cannot serve as substitutes for conventional vital statistics data.

The present UN standard of completeness of registration was adopted for use of vital records for statistical purposes. Although the criterion of 90 percent or more registration completeness may be adequate for statistical purposes, it may be too rigorous from the standpoint of legal and administrative purposes of individual uses of vital records. If a segment of the country's population lives outside the usual national cultural and economic milieu, the immediate need for registration of births and deaths may not exist. The legal record has value for proving identity, age, citizenship, filiation, etc., primarily for the population in the settled, largely urban areas, while nomadic and tribal populations may have little need for such proof. To bring them into the mainstream would be contingent on social change that may take many years.

One of the frequent uses of the birth certificate is for proof of age for admission to elementary school. Except for the increased work load in delayed registration, relatively little harm is done if the registration of birth is delayed beyond the first year. On the other hand, if a country has instituted a population register or a personal identity system, the integrity of such a system cannot be maintained without an adequate civil registration system for a continuous update.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The civil registration and vital statistics systems appear to be functioning satisfactorily in about one-half of the countries. In the rest of the world, relatively little progress has been made over the years in the development of civil registration and vital statistics even though the legal authority and the organizational and administrative arrangements for the registration of vital events have existed for many many years.

A centralized civil registration system is a network of local registration offices under the administrative and/or technical direction of an office in the national government whereas a decentralized system is one where the direction comes from an office at the regional, district or state level. Almost all are centralized registration systems. The relatively few countries with a decentralized system face special problems of coordination in order to maintain uniformity of procedures, definitions and classification throughout the country.

Most of the civil registration systems are centered in the Ministry of Interior or Home Affairs. In other countries, the legal responsibility for civil registration is in the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, and in a miscellany of other government agencies. There seems to be a different organizational pattern by region, but it is not possible to associate the various patterns with the efficiency of the registration system. In-depth studies are needed for this purpose.

The present systems of registration have evolved for many different reasons. In the Scandinavian countries, it was a transfer from an ecclesiastical to a civil function. In many countries of Asia, Africa and Oceania, they are legacies from the colonial period with or without subsequent changes in the law and the system. The promulgation of the Napoleonic code is said to have had a significant influence on the development of the civil registration system in Europe and South America. In some countries of Asia, namely, China, Japan and Korea, the civil registration system is linked to the family register. In other regions, the civil registration system provides a continuous source of data to update the population register and/or the system of person identification. According to a UN survey, there were at least 65 countries with a population register at the end of 1967. Currently, there are probably many more countries that have or are in the process of establishing a population register or a person identification system.

In many countries, the central office has direct supervisory control over the local registration offices whereas in others, the national office gives direction on technical matters to local registration personnel under the administrative control of another ministry or department. The latter situation places a premium on cooperation and collaboration of the two participating agencies.

The number and location of local registration offices vary greatly depending upon the country. In many countries, there seems to be an over abundance rather than a paucity of local registration offices. This results in an occasional registration of a birth and death which make it difficult to provide such offices with highly trained personnel or otherwise upgrade the positions of local registrars. In other countries, especially in the sparsely settled areas without adequate public transportation, there are problems of providing sufficient facilities to accommodate the population living in those areas. The problem of local registration offices, its number and distribution, is a difficult but an important one and needs special study in the various countries.

The lack of progress in the development of the civil registration and vital statistics systems in the developing countries has brought on a proliferation of sample surveys for the estimation of birth and death rates. Also, different techniques have been devised and employed to estimate birth and death rates from population data. These estimates are useful as stop gap measures but they have many limitations and cannot substitute for conventional vital statistics, that is, data from the registration of vital events.

From a historical perspective, it would be fair to say that the prospects of obtaining substantial improvements in civil registration in the foreseeable future are not good without a determined and sustained effort on the part of governments. First of all, there needs to be recognition by high level government officials of the value and importance of vital records for legal and administrative purposes and of vital statistics for planning and administration of national programs for social and economic development. Central to the recommendations made by the IIVRS Committees for the Latin American Region and for East Asia, respectively, is the formation of a high level national committee to conduct under its direction studies of the national legislative background, obstacles to improvement of civil registration, organization of the civil registration and vital statistics systems, problems of coordination, etc. These studies are to form the basis for proposals for a program of reform to serve the needs of modern society. While these activities constitute a useful start of a program for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics, in the final analysis, the success of the program will depend largely on the commitment that the government is willing to make in the support of the civil registration and vital statistics functions.

Appendix A. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent

REGION AND COUNTRY <u>AFRICA</u>	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
Algeria	...	...	...
Angola	Registo civil	Direccao Nacional dos Registos Notariado e Identificacao, Ministerio da Justica	Direccao Nacional de Estadistica Ministerio da Plano
Benin	Maire	Ministere de l'Interieur	Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique, Ministere du Plan et de la Statistique
Botswana	District administration	Registration Section Ministry of Home Affairs	Central Statistical Office Ministry of Finance & Development Planning
Burkina Faso <sup>1</sup>	Centres d'etat civil	Ministere de l'Interieur	None
Burundi	...	...	...
Cameroon	Les centres d'etat civil dans les communes	Service d'Etat Civil Administration Territorial	Direction de la Statistique et de la Comptabilite National, Ministere du Plan et Amenagement du Territoire
Cape Verde	Secretariado administrativos	Direccao Geral dos Registos e Notariado, Ministerio la Justica	Direccao Geral de Estadistica
Central African	Les centres d'etat-civil	None	Service de l'Etat-Civil et du Recensement Demographique, Ministere de l'Interieur
Chad <sup>1</sup>	Centres d'etat civil	Ministere de l'Interieur	Sous-direction de la Statistique, Direction du Plan, Ministere de l'Economic du Plan des Transports
Comoros	...	...	...
Congo <sup>1</sup>	Bureau d'etat civil (de chaque zone)	Direction Nationale de l'Etat Civil Departement de l'administration du Territoire	Centre National de la Statistique Department du Plan
Djibouti	...	...	...
Egypt	Health centers	Civil Registration Department, Ministry of Interior	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics
Equatorial Guinea	District courts of justice	Juzgado de Distrito Ministerio de Justicia Culto y Registro Civil	Direccion General de Estadistica
Ethiopia	...	Ministry of Interior (rural areas), Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (urban areas)	Planning & Programing Service

Appendix A. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent (Cont.)

REGION AND COUNTRY	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
<u>AFRICA</u>			
Gabon <sup>2</sup>	Centres Principaux et secondaires	Ministeries of the Interior and Justice	
Gambia	Health inspectors	Medical & Health Dept., Ministry of Health, Labour & Social Welfare	Medical & Health Dept., Ministry of Health, Labour & Social Welfare
Ghana	Regional Registration Offices	Birth & Death Registry Ministry of Local Government	Birth & Death Registry Ministry of Local Government
Guinea-Bissau <sup>1</sup>	Delegacoes do Registro Civil (Sector Regional)	Registro Civil, Comissariado de Estado de Justica	Direcao General de Estadistica, Comissariado de Estado de Desenvolvimento Economico e Planificacao
Ivory Coast	Les Mairies et Sous-Prefectures	Ministere de l'Interieur	Direction de la Statistique Ministere de l'Economie et des Finances
Kenya <sup>1</sup>	Local registry, offices & District registers	Department of Registrar General, Attorney General's Office	Statistics Section, Registrar General of Births & Deaths
Lesotho	Chiefs & other village administrators	Registrar General's Office Prime Minister's Office	Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Employment & Economic Affairs
Liberia	County registrars	Bureau of Health & Vital Statistics, Ministry of Health & Social Welfare	Bureau of Health & Vital Statistics Ministry of Health & Social Welfare
Libya	Civil registration office	Civil Registration Section Secretariat of Utilities	Census & Statistics Department, Secretariat of Planning
Madagascar	Communes	Direction du Controle et de la Tutelle des Collectivites, Ministere de l'Interieur	Institut National de la Statistique et de la Resherche Economique Presidence charge des Finance et du Plan
Malawi	District Commissioner's office	Registrar General's Dept., Ministry of Justice (coordination & National files of births & death records)	Registrar General's Department Ministry of Justice
Mali	Centres l'Etat Civil	Direction Nationale de l'Interieur et de Collectivite Territoriale Ministere de l'Interieur	Direction National de la Statisque et de l'Informatique Ministere du Plan
Mauritania			
Mauritius	Civil Status Office	Civil Status Office Prime Minister's Office	Central Statistical Office Ministry of Economic Planning & Development

Appendix A. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent (Cont.)

REGION AND COUNTRY	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
<u>AFRICA</u>			
Morocco	Bureau locaux d'etat civil	Division d'etat Civil Ministere de l'Interieur	Direction de la Statistique Ministere du Plan
Mozambique	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Namibia	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Niger	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Nigeria	State ministries of health local government & teaching hospitals	National Population Bureau Cabinet Office	National Population Bureau Cabinet Office
Reunion	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Rwanda	Bureaux communaux d'etat civil	Direction General des Affaires Politiques et Administrative Ministere de l'Interieur et du Development Communal	Direction Generale de la Statistique, Ministere du Plan
Saint Helena	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Sao Tome & Principe	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Senegal <sup>1</sup>	Centres d'etat civil	Division de l'etat Civil Secretariat d'Etat a la Decentralisation	Direction de la Statistique Ministere des Finance et des Affaires Economiques
Seychelles	Government Administration	Civil Status Division Department of Youth and Defense	Statistics Division
Sierra Leone	Births & deaths office Ministry of Health	Office of Chief Registrar Ministry of Health	Medical Statistics Unit Ministry of Health
Somalia	None	None	None
South Africa	. . . .	Department of Home Affairs Department of Co-operation & Development	Central Statistical Services Department of Constitutional Development & Planning
Sudan	Hospitals, dispensaries, dressing stations	Ministry of Health	Department of Statistics Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning
Swaziland	Hospitals, clinics, police stations, chiefs of area	Registrar General's Office Ministry of Justice	Central Statistical Office Department of Economic Planning & Statistics
Tanzania	District registry	Office of Registrar General	Bureau of Statistics Ministry of Planning & Economic Affairs

Appendix A. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent (Cont).

REGION AND COUNTRY	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
<u>AFRICA</u>			
Togo	Centres d'etat civil	Division des Affaires Politiques et Administratives, Minister de l'Interieur	Direction de la Statistique Ministere du Plan
Tunisia <sup>1</sup>	Centres d'etat civil (Commune)	Ministere de l'Interieur	Direction des Statistiques, Demographiques et Sociales Institut Nationale de la Statistique Ministere du Plan
Uganda <sup>1</sup>	District civil registry	Registrar General of Births & Deaths Ministry of Justice	Statistics Department Ministry of Planning
Western Sahara	.....	.....	.....
Zaire	Bureaux de l'etat civil	Etat Zairois Ministere de Administration du Territoire	Institut National de la Statistique Ministry du Plan
Zambia	Provincial, district & subcenters (schools, health centers & local courts)	Department of National Registration Ministry of Home Affairs	Census & Statistics Department
Zimbabwe	Provincial & district registries	Central Registry Ministry of Home Affairs	Central Statistical Office Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning & Development
<u>AMERICA, NORTH</u>			
Aguila	.....	.....	.....
Antigua & Barbuda	.....	.....	.....
Bahamas	District Register Office <sup>1</sup>	Registrar General's Dept.; Ministry of Economic Affairs	Department of Statistics Ministry of Finance
Barbados	Subsidiary registration offices	Registration Office Ministry of Legal affairs	Statistical Service
Belize	District Offices for Civil Registry <sup>1</sup>	Registry Judiciary Department	Central Statistical Office Ministry of Economic Development
Bermuda	.....	Registrar General's Dept.; Ministry of Home Affairs	Registrar General's Dept.; Ministry of Home Affairs
Bristish Virgin Islands	.....	.....	.....
Canada	Provincial & Territorial Vital Statistics offices (Health)	None	Statistics Canada
Cayman	Subregistration Office District Post Office	Registrar of Companies Dept., Dept. of Finance & Development	Statistics Unit, Department of Finance & Development

Appendix A. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent (Cont).

REGION AND COUNTRY <u>AMERICA, NORTH</u>	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
Costa Rica	Regional offices	Registro Civil Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones	Dirrecion General de Estadistica y Censos, Ministerio de Economia y Comercio
Cuba	Oficina de Registro Civil <sup>1</sup>	Direccion Registro Civil y Notariado, Ministerio de Justicia	Instituto de Demografia y Censos; Comite Estatal de Estadisticas
Dominica	.....	.....	.....
Dominican Republic	Oficina de Estado Civil <sup>1</sup>	Junta Central Electoral Organismo O Tribunal qua Organizalas Elecciones Nacionales	Oficina Nacional de Estadistica; Direccion Nacional de Estadistica
El Salvador	Oficina de Registro Civil	None	Direccion General de Estadistica; Ministerio de Economia y Censos
French Guiana	.....	.....	.....
Greenland	.....	.....	.....
Grenada	District Revenue Offices	Registrar General's Dept.; Ministry of Health	Register General's Dept. Ministry of Health
Guadeloupe	.....	.....	.....
Guatemala	Registro Civil	None	Direccion General de Estadistica; Ministerio de Economia
Guyana	.....	.....	.....
Haiti	Ministere de la Sante Publique	d'Etat Civil Ministere de la Justice	Institut Hatien de Statistique et d'Informatique
Honduras	.....	.....	.....
Jamaica	.....	Registrar General Ministry of National Security & Justice	Statistical Institute
Martinique	.....	.....	.....
Mexico	Registro Civil	Direccion General del Registro Nacional de Poblacion Secretaria de Gobernacion	Instituto Nacional de Estadistica; Geografia e Informatica; Secretaria de Programacion y Presupuesto
Monserrat	Local registration offices	Registrar General of Births, Deaths & Marriages Judicial Department	Statistics Office
Netherland Antilles	.....	.....	.....
Nicaragua	Registro Civil	Direccion General de Registro Ministerio de Justicia	Instituto Nacional de Estadistica y Censos

Appendix A. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent (Cont).

REGION AND COUNTRY	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
<u>AMERICA, NORTH</u>			
Panama	Oficina del Registro Auxiliar de Estado Civil <sup>1</sup>	Direccion General del Registro Civil Ministerio de Tribunal Electoral	Direccion de Estadistica y Censos Controloria General de la Republica
St. Christopher-Nevis	District Registrars	Registrar General's Dept. Ministry of Health	Statistical Unit Health Department
Saint Lucia	District Registrars	Registry of the Supreme Court Ministry of Legal Affairs	Government Statistics Dept. Ministry of Finance, Planning & Statistics
Saint Pierre & Miquelon	...	...	...
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	District Registrars	Registrar General's Office Ministry of Registry	Statistical Office Ministry of Finance & Foreign Affairs
Suriname	District Registrars	Central Institute for Civil Registration Ministry of Home Affairs Bureau of Public Health	Central Institute for Civil Registration Ministry of Home Affairs Bureau of Public Health (Death statistics)
Trinidad & Tobago	Registry Office <sup>1</sup>	Registrar General's Dept. Ministry of Legal Affairs	Central Statistical Office Ministry of Finance & Planning
Turks & Cacos Islands	...	...	...
United States	State health departments	None	National Center for Health Statistics Department of Health & Human Services
<u>AMERICA, SOUTH</u>			
Argentina	Oficina del Registro Civil	None	Direccion de Estadistica de Salud Ministerio de Salud y Accion Social
Bolivia <sup>1</sup>	Direcciones Departamentales y Oficina Locales de Registro Civil	Direccion Nacional de Registro Civil Ministerio del Interior	Estadistica de Hechoa Vitales, Instituto Nacional de Estadistica Ministerio de Planieamiento y Coordinacion
Brazil	Cartorios de Registro de Pessoas Naturais	Ministerio da Justica	Fundacao Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estadistica, Secretaria de Planejamento da Presidencia da Republica
Chile	Oficina de Registro Civil e Identificacion	Servicio de Registro Civil e Identificacion Ministerio de Justica	Instituto Nacional de Estadisticas Ministerio de Economia, Fomento y Reconstruccion
Colombia	Oficina del Notario Publico o Alcaldias Municipales <sup>1</sup>	Superintendencia de Notorodo y Registro Ministerio de Justica	Departamento Nacional de Estadistica
Ecuador	Oficina de Registro Civil	Direccion General de Registro Civil, Identificacion y Cedulacion Ministerio de Gobierno	Instituto Nacional de Estadistica y Censo Junta Nacional de Coordinacion y Planificacion

Appendix A. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent (Cont).

REGION AND COUNTRY	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
<u>AMERICA, SOUTH</u>			
Paraguay	Oficina de Registro Civil	Direccion General del Registro de Estado Civil de las Personas, Ministerio da Justicia y Trabajo	Direccion General de Estadistica y Censos, Ministerio de Hacienda
Peru	Oficina de Registro Civil <sup>1</sup>	None	Instituto Nacional de Estadistica Primer Ministro
Uruguay	Oficina de Registro de Estado Civil	Direccion General del Registro del Estado Civil, Ministerio de Educacion y Cultura	Division Estadistica Ministerio de Salud Publica
Venezuela	Prefecturas, Municipales, Gobernaciones de Estado <sup>1</sup>	Direccion Sectorial de Planificacion, Ministerio de Sanidad y Asistencia Social	Oficina Central de Estadistica e Informatica Secretaria de la Presidencia
<u>ASIA</u>			
Afghanistan	Population Registration & Vital Statistics Div.	Population Registration Department, Ministry of Interior	Census and Survey Department Central Statistics Office
Bahrain	Births & Deaths Registration Office	Births & Deaths Registration Office, Ministry of Health	Central Statistics Organization Council of Ministers
Bangladesh <sup>1</sup>	District Health Office	Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research, Directorate of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Labor & Social Welfare	Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research, Directorate of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Labor & Social Welfare (VS not compiled at present)
Bhutan	Local administrative offices	Directorate of Registration, Census & Immigration Division, Ministry of Home Affairs	Statistics Division Planning Commission
Brunei <sup>1</sup>		Registrar of Births & Deaths, Medical & Health Dept., & Judicial Dept.	Statistical Section Economic Planning Unit
Burma	Township medical officers	Health Department Ministry of Health	Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Planning & Finance
China	City or County Public Bureau	Administration Division for Population Registration, Third Bureau, Ministry of Public Security	Administration Division for Population Registrations, Third Bureau, Ministry of Public Security
Cyprus	District Office	Registration Service Ministry of Interior	Department of Statistics & Research, Ministry of Finance

Appendix A: Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent (Cont).

REGION AND COUNTRY	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
ASIA			
Hong Kong	Birth & Death Register Offices	Births, Deaths & Marriage Subdivision, Immigration Dept.	Census & Statistics Dept., Government Secretariat
India	Office of Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths (State & Union Territory)	Office of Registrar General, India Ministry of Home Affairs	Office of Registrar General, India Ministry of Home Affairs
Indonesia	Civil Registration Office in the Regencies	Directorate General of Government & Regional Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs	Central Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Home Affairs
Iran	...	...	...
Iraq <sup>1</sup>	Chief Medical Office (Governorato)	Directorate of Vital & Health Statistics Ministry of Health	Directorate of Vital & Health Statistics Ministry of Health
Israel	Regional Offices Administration of Population	Administration of Population Ministry of Interior	Central Bureau of Statistics Prime Minister's Office
Japan	City, town & village Administration offices	Civil Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice	Statistics & Information Dept., Ministry of Health and Welfare
Jordan	Civil Registration Office	Civil Status Department Ministry of Interior	Civil Status Department Ministry of Interior
Kampuchea	...	...	...
Korea, Rep.	City & town administration offices	Ministry of Home Affairs	National Bureau of Statistics, Economic Planning Board
Kuwait <sup>1</sup>	Civil Registration Units Department of Courts	Department of Central Civil Registration Ministry of Health	Central Statistical Office Ministry of Planning
Laos	...	...	...
Lebanon	...	...	...
Macao	Conservatoria do Registo Civil	Gabineti dos Assuntos de Justica, Secretario-adjunto para a Administracao	Statistics Department Economic Affairs
Malaysia	State Superintendent-Registrar	National Registration Dept. Ministry of Home Affairs	Dept. of Statistics Prime Minister's Dept.
Maldives	Atoll Chiefs	Health Information Unit Ministry of Health	Health Information Unit Ministry of Health
Mongolia	Civil Registrar's Office	Notaries Office Ministry of Justice	Central Statistical Office, Cultural Education & Health Dept.
Nepal	Village Panchayat Office	Office of the Registrar Ministry of Home	Office of the Registrar Ministry of Home
Oman	...	Ministry of Health (not operational)	Directorate General of National Statistics

Appendix A. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent (Cont).

REGION AND COUNTRY	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
<u>ASIA</u>			
Pakistan	Dept. of Local Bodies & Rural Development	Directorate General of Registration, Ministry of Interior	Statistical Office, Ministry of Health, Special Education, and Social Welfare
Philippines	City health offices, Treasurer's office of municipalities	National Census & Statistics Office, National Economic & Development Authority	National Census & Statistics Office, National Economic & Development Authority
Qatar	Health centers	Preventive Health Dept. Ministry of Public Health	Central Statistical Organization Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Saudi Arabia	Directorate of Health Affairs	Department of Preventive Medicine Ministry of Health	Department of Preventive Medicine Ministry of Health
Singapore	Registry of Births & Deaths	National Registration Dept. Ministry of Home Affairs	Dept. of Statistics Ministry of Trade & Industry
Sri Lanka	District Registrar in 24 Administrative Districts	Dept. of Registrar General Ministry of Home Affairs	Depart. of Registrar General Ministry of Trade & Affairs
Syria	Department of Civil Registration	General Directorate for Civil Registration Ministry of Interior	General Directorate for Civil Registration Ministry of Interior
Thailand	Provincial & district administration	Administrative & Civil Registration Div. Ministry of Interior	Health Statistics Division Ministry of Public Health
United Arabs Emirate	...	...	...
Viet Nam	Local People's Committee Office	Ministry of Home	Population Statistics Division General Statistical Office
Yemen, Arab Rep.	...	...	...
Yemen, Dem.	Local Registration Offices	Civil Registration Dept. Ministry of Justice	...
<u>EUROPE</u>			
Albania	...	...	...
Andorra	...	...	...
Austria	Gemeinde; Standesamtsverband	Federal Ministry of Interior	Central Statistical Office
Belgium	Administrations Communales <sup>1</sup>	Ministere de la Justice	Institut National de Statistique Ministere des Affaires Economique
Bulgaria <sup>1</sup>	Comites executifs des conseils populaires communaux	Commission de comites executifs aupres des conseils populaires Conseil des Ministres	Comite sur les Problemes du systeme integre d'information

Appendix A. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National  
Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent (Cont).

REGION AND COUNTRY	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
<u>EUROPE</u>			
Channel Islands			
Guernsey	None	Registrar General of Births Deaths and Marriages	Public Health Department Board of Health
Jersey	None	Superintendent Registrar	Economic Advisor's Office
Czechoslovakia	Local National Committee <sup>1</sup>	Ministry of Interior	Federal Statistical Office
Denmark	Folkeregisteret State church office (births), Probate courts (deaths)	Dept. of Person Registration Ministry of Interior	Danmarks Statistik Ministry of Economics
England & Wales	District Register Office	General Register Office Office of Population Censuses	Office of Population Censuses & Surveys
Faroe Islands			
Finland	Local civil registry	Population Register Center Ministry of Interior	Central Statistical Office
France	Les Maires de commune	Ministere de la Justice	Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques Ministere de l'Economie, des Finances et du Budget
Germany, Dem. Rep. <sup>1</sup>	Registry Officer	None	State Central Statistical Office Council of Ministers
Germany, Fed. Rep.	Local registry	Ministry of Interior	Federal Statistical Office
Gibraltar <sup>1</sup>	None	Registrar of Births & Deaths	Statistics Office
Greece	Registry Office	Division on Citizenship Ministry of Interior	National Statistical Service Ministry of National Economy
Hungary	Municipal councils	National Population Registry Office Board of Councils of Council of Ministers	Central Statistical Office
Iceland	Hospitals & clergy	National Registry Statistical Bureau	Statistical Bureau Ministry of Commerce
Ireland	Health Boards	General Register Office Department of Health	Central Statistics Office Department of the Taoiseach
Isle of Man <sup>1</sup>	None	General Registry	General Registry & Treasury Statistician
Italy	Uffici di stato Civile dei Comuni	Direzione Generale Affari Civili e Libere Professioni Ministero di Grazia e Giustizia	Instituto Centrale di Statistica
Lichtenstein	...	...	...

Appendix A. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent (Cont).

REGION AND COUNTRY	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
<u>EUROPE</u>			
Luxembourg	Administrations Communale	None	Service Central de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques Ministere de l'Economie
Malta	Police Department Health Dept. (deaths)	Public Registry Ministry of Justice & Parliamentary Affairs	Central statistical Office
Monaco	None	Mairie de Monaco	Service des Statistiques et des Etudes e Economiques Ministere des Finances e Economie
Netherlands	Local registration office	None	Central Bureau of Statistics Ministry of Economic Affairs
Norway	Local registration office	Central Office of Population Register Ministry of Finance	Central Bureau of Statistics
Poland	Civil registry offices <sup>1</sup>	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Central Statistical Bureau
Portugal		Direccao-Geral Registos e Notariado Ministry of Justice	National Statistical Institute Ministry of Finance & Planning
Romania	Municipal, city & village councils	None	Directia Centrala de Statistica
San Marino			
Scotland	Local registration offices	General Register Office	General Register Office
Spain	Registro civil	Direccion General de los Registros y del Notariado Ministerio de Justicia	Instituto Nacional de Estadistica Ministerio de Economia y Hacienda
Sweden	Parish civil Registration office	National Tax Board Ministry of Finance	Statistics Sweden Ministry of Home Affairs
Switzerland	Civil Register offices	Service de l'etat civil Ministry of Justice	Federal Statistical Office Department of Interior
Turkey	Population organization (births), Health Organizations (deaths)	General Directorate of Population & Citizen- ship Affairs Ministry of Internal Affairs	State Institute of Statistics Prime Minister's Office
USSR <sup>1</sup>	Executive Committees of the Councils of Deputies of Workers	Deputies of Workers & Agricultural Committees	Central Statistical Board
Yugoslavia	Local Registrar Office of Secretariats for Internal Affairs	Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs	Federal Statistical Office

OCEANIA

American Samoa

Appendix A. Agencies Responsible for Civil Registration and National Vital Statistics: Countries by Continent (Cont).

REGION AND COUNTRY	CIVIL REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION		NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS OFFICE
	Subnational	National	
<u>OCEANIA</u>			
Australia	State Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages	None	Bureau of Statistics
Cook Islands	Island Registry	Births & Deaths Registry Department of Justice	Statistics Office
Fiji	Civil Registry District Administration <sup>1</sup>	Office of Registrar General, Office of Attorney-General	Bureau of Statistics Ministry of Finance
French Polynesia <sup>1</sup>	Mairies	...	...
Guam	Health offices	Department of Public Health & Social Services	Department of Public Health & Social Services
Kirbati	Local Government	Registrar-General's Office Statistics Office Ministry of Finance	Statistics Office Ministry of Finance
Nauru	...	...	...
New Caledonia	...	...	...
New Zealand	District courts Post offices	Office of Registrar General Department of Justice	Department of Statistics
Niue	Local registration office	Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages Department of Justice, Land & Survey	Statistics Unit Dept. of Economic Development
Papua New Guinea		Registrar General's Office*	
Soloman Islands	None	Registrar General's Office**, Ministry of Agruculture & Lands	None
Tonga	Office of Magistrate Government Representative (outer islands)	Registrar General's Office Dept. of Justice	Vital Statistics Division Department of Justice
Tuvalu	Health Division	Medical Division Office of Prime Minister	Health & Planning Department Ministry of Social Services
Vanuatu	Local Government councils	Civil Status Department Department of Home Affairs	Civil Status Department Department of Home Affairs
Wallis & Fortuna	...	...	...
Wester Samoa	Registrar in Apia Government representatives in villages	Births, Deaths & Marriages Registration Office Department of Justice	Department of Statistics

\* Registration limited to births and deaths among non-citizens. Department of Health compiles births and deaths statistics based on information from hospitals and health centers.

\*\* Civil registration for expatriates only.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations. Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods Vol. II. Review of National Practices, Series F, No. 35, P. 51, 1985.

<sup>2</sup> Makannah, T.J., Methods and Problems of Civil Registration Practices and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa, IIVRS Technical Reports No. 16, July 1981.

Appendix B. Estimated Completeness of Birth and Death Registration:  
Each country by region

Country by Region	% Registration Completeness		Country by Region	% Registration Completeness	
	Birth	Death		Birth	Death
<u>AFRICA</u>					
Algeria <sup>1</sup>	U	U	Malawi	1	1
Angola <sup>1</sup>	U	U	Mali <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Benin <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Mauritania <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Botswana <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Mauritius	100	100
Burkina Faso <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Morocco	40	40
Burundi <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Mozambique <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Cameroon	...	...	Nambia	...	...
Cape Verde	C	C	Niger <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Central African Republic	11	6	Nigeria <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Chad <sup>1</sup>	U	U	Reunion	C	C
Comoros <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Rwanda	51	5
Congo	85	78	St. Helena <sup>1</sup>	U	U
Djibouti <sup>1</sup>	U	U	Sao Tome & Principe	C	C
Egypt	100	100	Senegal <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Equatorial Guinea	53	58	Seychelles	100	100
Ethiopia <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Sierra Leone <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Gabon	...	...	Somalia	...	...
Gambia	50	10	South Africa <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Ghana	43	28	Sudan	25	5
Guinea <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Swaziland <sup>2</sup>	23	26
Guinea-Bissau	U	U	Tanzania	U	U
Ivory Coast	...	...	Togo	80	15
Kenya <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Tunisia <sup>1</sup>	C	U
Lesotho	25	15	Uganda <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Liberia	35	12	Western Sahara <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Libya	90	62	Zaire <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Madagascar <sup>1</sup>	U	U	Zambia <sup>2</sup>	U	U
			Zimbabwe <sup>1</sup>	U	20
<u>AMERICA, NORTH</u>					
Aguila	...	...	Guyana	...	...
Antigua & Barbados	C	C	Haiti	...	...
Bahamas	87	97	Honduras <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Barbados	96	90	Jamaica	90	90
Belize	...	...	Martinique <sup>2</sup>	C	C
Bermuda	100	99	Mexico	89	72
British Virgin Islands <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Montserrat	100	100
Canada	100	100	Netherlands Antilles <sup>2</sup>	U	U
Cayman Islands	100	100	Nicaragua	80	40
Costa Rica	97	95	Panama	95	75
Cuba	100	100	Saint Christopher-Nevis	100	100
Dominica <sup>2</sup>	C	...	Saint Lucia	100	100
Dominican Republic	35	5	Saint Pierre & Miquelon <sup>2</sup>	C	C
El Salvador <sup>2</sup>	C	C	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	99	97
French Guiana	...	...	Suriname	95	95
Greenland <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Trinidad & Tobago	100	100
Grenada	94	90	Turks & Cacas Islands <sup>2</sup>	C	C
Guadeloupe <sup>2</sup>	C	C	United States	99	99
Guatemala	95	90	Virgin Islands	C	C

Appendix B. Estimated Completeness of Birth and Death Registration:  
Each country by region (cont.)

Country by Region	% Registration Completeness		Country by Region	% Registration Completeness	
	Birth	Death		Birth	Death
<u>AMERICA, SOUTH</u>					
Argentina	98	100	Ecuador	15	22
Bolivia	U	U	Paraguay	27	48
Brazil	75	75	Peru	88	80
Chile	95	100	Uruguay	95	100
Colombia	75	65	Venezuela	100	100
<u>ASIA</u>					
Afghanistan	...	...	Lebanon <sup>2</sup>	U	...
Bahrain	87	...	Macao	100	100
Bangladesh	...	...	Malaysia	93	74
Bhutan	70	70	Maldives	...	...
Brunei <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Mongolia	100	100
Burma	95	70	Nepal	24	9
China	90	90	Oman	...	...
Cyprus	85	45	Pakistan	35	35
Hong Kong	99	100	Philippines	83	73
India	47	54	Qatar	95	95
Indonesia	...	...	Saudi Arabia	...	...
Iran <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Singapore	100	100
Iraq <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Sri Lanka	99	94
Israel	100	100	Syria	88	54
Japan	100	100	Thailand	70	60
Jordan	95	60	United Arab Emirates	...	...
Kampuchea	...	...	Viet Nam	...	...
Korea, Rep. of	95	95	Yemen, People's Dem. Rep.	...	...
Kuwait <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Yemen, Rep.	...	...
Laos	...	...			
<u>EUROPE</u>					
Albania	...	...	Isle of Man <sup>2</sup>	C	C
Andorra	...	...	Italy	100	100
Austria	100	100	Lichtenstein <sup>2</sup>	C	U
Belgium	100	100	Luxembourg	100	100
Bulgaria <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Malta	100	100
Channel Islands <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Monaco <sup>2</sup>	C	U
Czechoslovakia	100	100	Netherlands	100	100
Denmark	100	100	Norway	100	100
England & Wales	99	99	Poland	100	100
Faroe Islands <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Portugal	85	99
Finland	100	100	Romania	100	100
France	100	100	San Marino <sup>2</sup>	C	C
Germany, Dem. Rep. <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Scotland <sup>2</sup>	C	C
Germany, Fed. Rep.	100	100	Spain <sup>2</sup>	C	C
Gibraltar <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Sweden	100	100
Greece	99	99	Switzerland	100	100
Hungary	100	100	Turkey	...	...
Iceland	100	100	Yugoslavia	100	100
Ireland	100	100	USSR <sup>2</sup>	C	C

Appendix B. Estimated Completeness of Birth and Death Registration:  
Each country by region (cont.)

Country by Region	% Registration Completeness		Country by Region	% Registration Completeness	
	Birth	Death		Birth	Death
<u>OCEANIA</u>					
American Samoa <sup>2</sup>	C	C	New Zealand	100	100
Australia	99	99	Niue	100	100
Cook Islands	100	100	Papua New Guinea	...	...
Fiji	93	83	Solomon Islands	75	75
French Polynesia <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Tonga	95	90
Guam	100	100	Tuvalu	100	100
Kiribati	70	60	Vanuatu	40	30
Nauru <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Wallis & Fortuna	...	...
New Caledonia <sup>2</sup>	U	U	Western Samoa	30	36

<sup>1</sup> Makannah, T. J., Methods and Problems of Civil Registration Practices and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa. IIVRS Technical Papers No. 16, p. 17 and 18, July 1981.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods, Vol. II. Review of National Practices, Series F, No. 35, P. 73, 1985.

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