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.
Overview

- 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

**SOURCES:** Handbook on Training in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, Series F, No. 84, United Nations, New York, 2002, Module 1
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

The Civil Registration System creates a data source for Vital Statistics

Civil Registration System → Civil Registry Database → 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?

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Administrative</th>
<th>Vital Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birth</strong></td>
<td>Proof of identity</td>
<td>Population registries</td>
<td>Population estimates &amp; predictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proof of age &amp; date of birth</td>
<td>Identity card systems</td>
<td>Natality rates &amp; trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proof of place of birth</td>
<td>Election rolls</td>
<td>Maternal &amp; infant health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>Social programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parentage</td>
<td>National security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Death</strong></td>
<td>Evidence of death for heirs</td>
<td>Purge population registry &amp; election rolls</td>
<td>Population estimates &amp; predictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collect insurance</td>
<td>Genealogical research</td>
<td>Mortality rates &amp; trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Probate estate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Study specific diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marriage</strong></td>
<td>Legal proof of marriage or divorce &amp; date and place</td>
<td>Administer family benefit programs</td>
<td>Life tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>/Divorce</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public Health Programs/Research**
- Sampling frame for research studies
- Identify population at risk
- Fertility data for family planning
- Monitor infectious diseases
- Study chronic disease patterns
- Infant & maternal mortality studies
- Accident, suicide & homicide studies

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

- 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
Overview of Civil Registration & Vital Statistics Systems

Review

- Use of Vital records
  - Legal
  - Administrative
  - Vital statistics
  - Public health and research

- Main records used for public health analyses
  - Births
  - Deaths
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.