



Role of health institutions



Dual role

- Health institutions have a critical and dual role
 - Informants of the occurrence of births, deaths and foetal deaths
 - Certifiers of causes of deaths

- In addition, sources of health statistics



The informant function

- More and more births and deaths are occurring in health institutions
 - Hence, hospitals and clinics in unique position
- Civil registration law – the head of the health institutions responsible for informing on births, deaths and foetal deaths
 - In practice, civil registration office established within institution



The informant function (continued)

- In cases where the informant is an individual, health institutions acts as a certifier of the occurrence of the event
- Role of health institutions is critical
 - However, their role is not to issue birth and death certificate
 - That is the sole responsibility of civil registrar
 - Assigning this additional role to health institutions may be detrimental to delivering their core function
- In certain circumstances
 - When civil registration component is weak/missing
 - Health institutions source of vital statistics



Certification of cause of death function

- Death certificate
 - Final confirmation of the fact of death
 - Inheritance
 - Settlement of an estate
 - Burial of the deceased
 - Pension
 - Circumstances and medical cause of death are equally important from the general point of view
 - Hence, the requirement that birth certificate can be issued only if the notification of death is accompanied by a filled-out medical certificate of cause of deaths



Certification of cause of death function (continued)

- Underlying cause of death is
 - The disease or the injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or
 - The circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury

- To apply this definition uniformly and consistently WHO developed and recommends the International Form of Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (turn to page 103 of the Principles and Recommendations, Rev. 3)

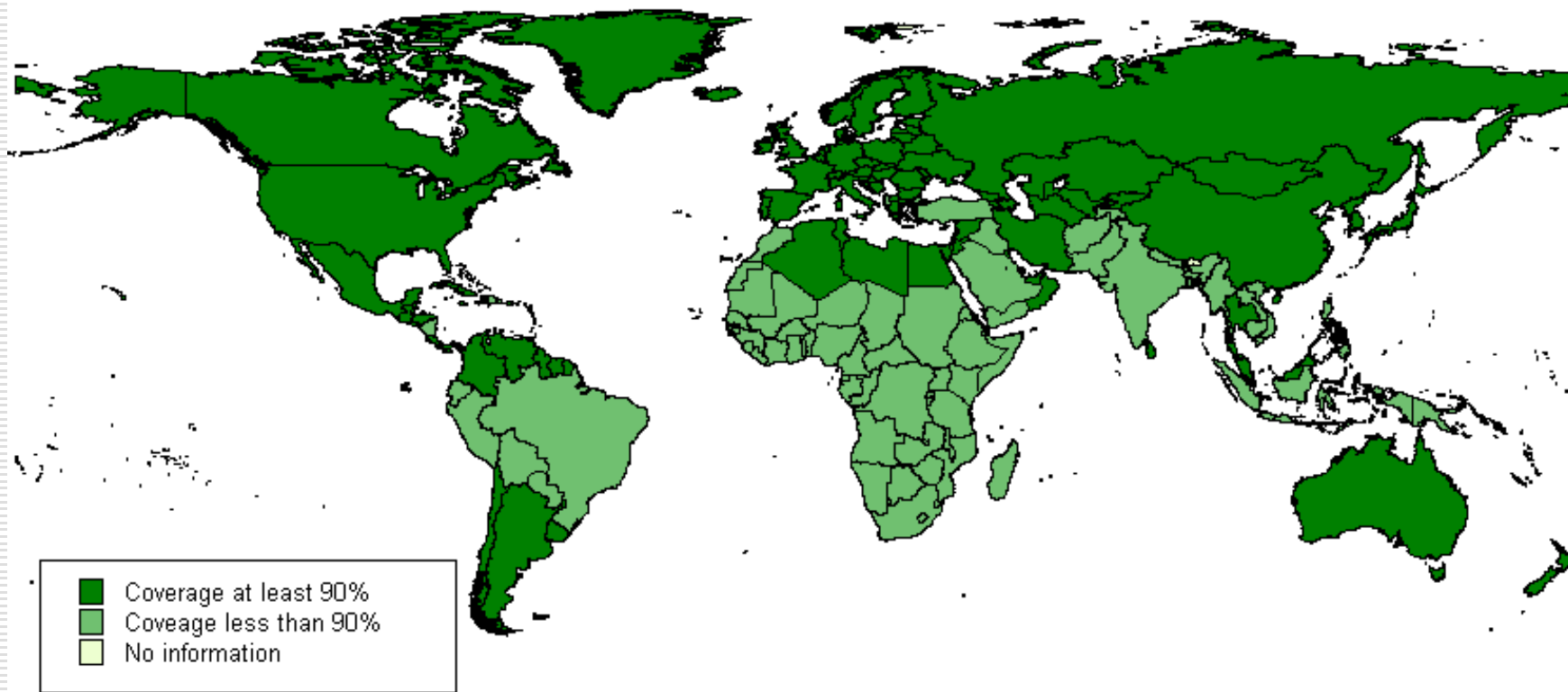


Certification of cause of death function (continued)

- ❑ Once the form is signed by a trained physician
- ❑ Registrar's responsibility is to ensure that the form is combined with other information and transmitted for statistical processing
- ❑ Another responsibility of the civil registrar is to ensure that the cause of death is disclosed only to the nearest relatives, as specified by law, and to otherwise ensure a complete confidentiality of the information
- ❑ Verbal autopsy ...



Coverage for birth registration





Quality of cause of death data

