



# Functioning of the vital statistics system



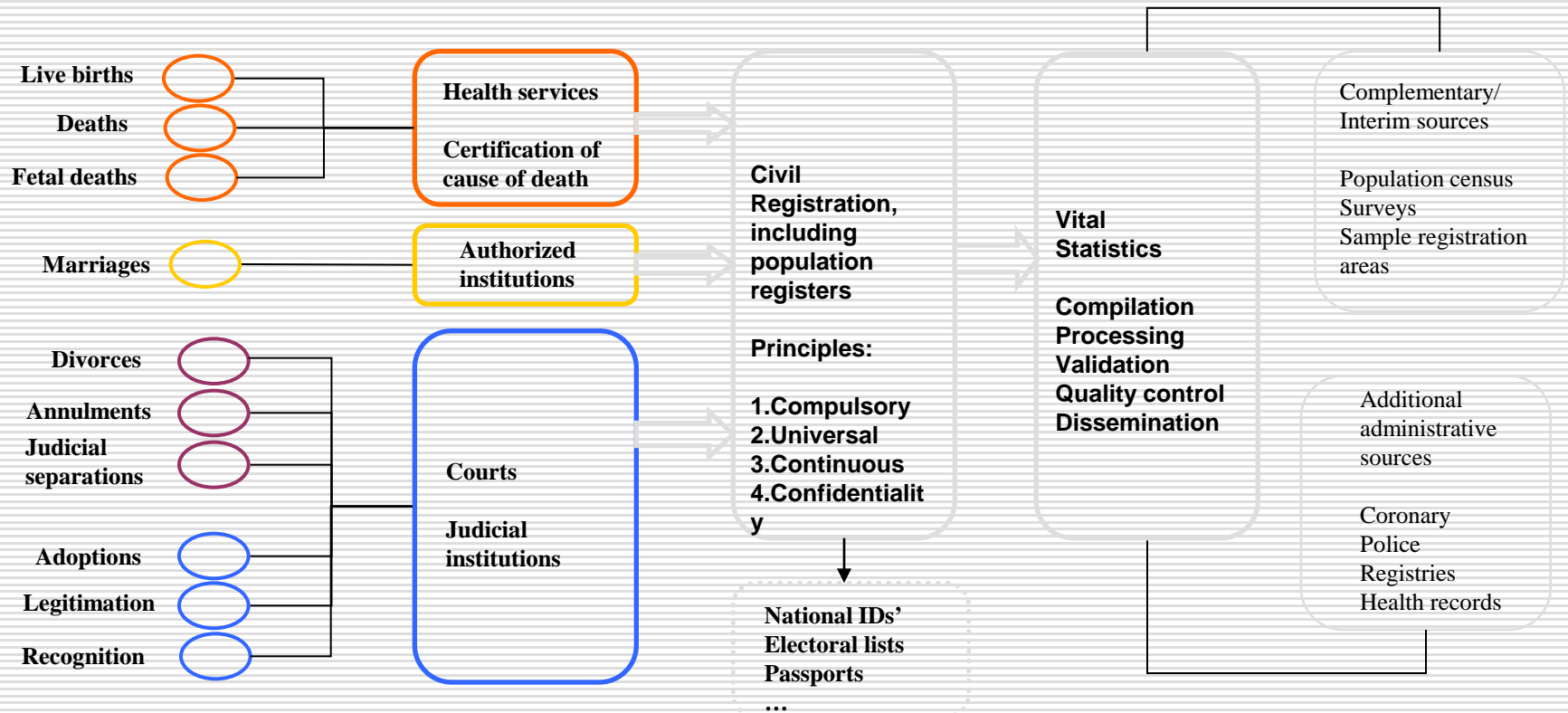
## Definition of a vital statistics system

---

- In a context of a system being a set of interacting components
- Vital statistics system components
  - Legal registration
  - Statistical reporting
  - Collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics



# Vital statistics system





## Sources of vital statistics

---

- ❑ Critical source – records of vital events derived from civil registration
- ❑ Complementary sources – for evaluation and enrichment of statistics
  - Population censuses
  - Household surveys
- ❑ Additional sources – used in the absence of civil registration and in combination with indirect techniques
  - Questions in population censuses
  - Household surveys
  - Sample registration and health records



## Priority in data collection

---

- First priority
    - Births
    - Deaths (including causes of deaths)
    - Foetal deaths
  - Second priority
    - Marriages
    - Divorces
  - Third priority
    - Annulments
    - Judicial separations
    - Adoptions
    - Legitimations
    - Recognitions
-



## Principles of a vital statistics system

---

### Continuity

- Short-term fluctuations
- Seasonality
- Long-term patterns

### Confidentiality

- Fundamental principles of official statistics
- Personal information used only for statistical purposes

### Regular dissemination

- Monthly/quarterly
- Comprehensive annual tabulations



## Organizational structure

---

### Legal framework should

- Assign the function of establishing and operating the system
- Provide clear designation of duties and responsibilities for
  - Registration
  - Recording
  - Reporting
  - Collection
  - Compilation
  - Analysis
  - Evaluation
  - Presentation
  - Dissemination



## Organizational structure (continued)

---

- Legal framework should
  - Establish the organizational structure for
    - Management
    - Operation
    - Maintenance
  - Link the production of vital statistics to the civil registration system
  - Designate a central government agency for maintaining the standards for the design and conduct of various operations





## Organizational structure (continued)

---

- Depending on national circumstances ...
  - Centralized and decentralized structure
  - Vital registration part of official statistics
  - Vital registration separate from official statistics
  - Role of courts
  - Role of health institutions
  - Protocols for ensuring quality of statistics



## Integration, coordination and collaboration

---

- Principles for coordination
    - Uniform legislation and regulations
    - Identical definitions of vital events
    - Statistical concepts, classifications and definitions
    - Consistency between the numerator and denominator
    - Implementation of international standards
  - Inter-agency coordination committee
  - Coordination within the system
    - Communication (conferences, workshops, training courses ...)
    - Evaluation
    - Professional association (statisticians/registrars/health workers)
-



## Quality assurance and assessment

---

- Strategies and procedures for ensuring the quality of vital statistics
- At each operational stage
- Regular and routine
- Quality of vital statistics is measured by:
  - Completeness
  - Correctness or accuracy
  - Availability
  - Timeliness



## In-depth sample surveys

---

- Important role within the vital statistics system
- Complement vital statistics derived from civil registration by providing information that
  - Cannot be collected efficiently through the civil registration
  - Is required only at long time intervals