



Quality assurance and assessment in the vital statistics system



Basic framework

- Quality assurance and quality assessment are critical components of
 - Managing
 - Operating, and
 - Maintaining vital statistics system based on civil registration
- Elements of quality assurance
 - All vital events are registered without duplication
 - All related information is recorded
 - Information is compiled, validated and processed
 - Vital statistics are released in timely manner



Basic framework (continued)

- Quality assessment
 - Ad hoc and regular exercises assessing the quality of the system
 - Coverage of civil registration
 - Accuracy of variables
 - Overall functioning of the sub-systems



Standards

- Quality assurance standards refer to
 - Completeness
 - Every vital event is registered
 - Statistical report for every registered event is properly filed
 - Coverage error
 - Correctness / accuracy
 - No response errors
 - No missing items
 - Content error
 - Availability
 - Statistics are available to users in a friendly format
 - Timelines
 - For civil registration, refers to timely recording of vital events
 - For vital statistics, refers to as prompt dissemination as possible
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Quality assessment methods

- Direct methods
 - Matching of records
- Indirect methods
 - Demographic techniques



Direct methods

- Matching records from civil registration with independent sources
 - Birth registration match with death registration (infants deaths)
 - Use of administrative records
 - Use of list for population censuses
 - Dual record system
 - A special survey and civil registration records
 - Three classes – in both, in one but not the other, and in the other way around – possible to compute those missed in both



Indirect methods

- Comparison of trends
- Delayed registration
 - Proportion of delayed registration provides a measure of underreporting
- Comparison with census data
- Comparison of rates
- Indirect techniques
 - Manual X and its update
- Question in sample surveys on birth registration



Direct methods

Advantages

- Generally produce more accurate assessment
- Can be applied at lower geographical levels

Limitations

- Independency of the other source – difficult to secure
- In case of dual-records methods securing two independent sources practically impossible
- Matching can be difficult without PIN
- Costs, time



Indirect methods

Advantages

- Prompt assessment - as soon as statistics are out
- At any level

Limitations

- Based on assumptions that may not apply in a specific circumstance (stable population, for example)
- If stable population is not in the assumption, detailed statistics from two subsequent censuses are required – not always available



Choosing the appropriate method

- Objectives
- Degree of precision
- Timeliness
- Type of event
- Resources