The UN works to improve the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CR+VS)

Authors: María Isabel Cobos, Srdjan Mrkic and Adriana Skenderi
United Nations/Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Statistics Division

**ABSTRACT:** Vital statistics and their analysis are essential for setting targets and evaluating public policies. All sectors, incl. health, education, labour, urban planning, finance and economics, industry and trade, social insurance, environment, and population require solid and up-to-date statistics on levels and trends in fertility and mortality. There is urgent need to improve their availability, timeliness and quality. UNSD assists government statisticians, civil registration officials and other stakeholders to implement the international principles and recommendations for compiling, processing and disseminating vital statistics; and to improve their capability in identifying gaps and challenges and to address them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Knowledgebase</th>
<th>Coverage of CR and availability of VS</th>
<th>Meetings and Workshops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This Knowledge Center documents and disseminates methodological guidelines, research articles and country practices and activities in the area of civil registration and vital statistics. It aims at facilitating the international exchange and sharing of knowledge and information, as well as provision of guidance to countries, and monitoring progress made on civil registration and vital statistics.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Forging synergies with regional organisations, UNSD carries out workshops that gather representatives from national statistical offices, civil registration authorities and other actors involved in the CR+VS systems, such as the ministries of health. These workshops contribute to the initiatives at the global and regional levels to accelerate improvement of CRVS. UNSD aims at strengthening national technical capacities, increasing the knowledge of government statisticians and civil registration officers about the international principles and recommendations for compiling, processing and disseminating vital statistics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Knowledge Center is a searchable database that contains documents on civil registration and vital statistics guidelines, demographic methods, and development of civil registration and vital statistics in various countries.</td>
<td></td>
<td>In each region, UNSD partners with relevant actors working on CR+VS issues, so that participants in workshops get acquainted with the regional developments and initiatives. For example, in Asia and the Pacific, the Ministerial Conference, including the Ministerial Declaration to &quot;Get everyone in the picture&quot;, and the Regional Action Framework, are highlighted. In Latin America and the Caribbean, PAHO and RELACISIS are taking the lead in the improvement of the quality of vital statistics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://unstats.un.org/unsd/vitalstatkb/">http://unstats.un.org/unsd/vitalstatkb/</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Standards, Methods, and Technical Reports**

UNSD works with national experts to develop standards and norms for statistical activities. In the area of civil registration and vital statistics, the major international standard is the **Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System**, which was last revised in 2014 (Revision 3). To support in the implementation of these standards, UNSD develops a wide a range of handbooks and manuals dealing with particular aspects of the collection, compilation, management, generation and dissemination of data and vital statistics. In addition, UNSD produces in depth technical reports on the status of national civil registration and vital statistics systems.

- **Handbook on Training in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics**
- **Handbook on the Collection of Fertility and Mortality Data**
- **Principles and recommendations for the statistical de vital civil**
- **Global CR+VS Group**

**Global CR+VS Group**