



### **Coverage and Completeness**

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**United Nations ESCAP** 

Workshop on the midterm reporting of the Asia-Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Decade, 2015-2024

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## What is coverage?

The population served by the civil registration system

- Geographical national vs capital only
- Specific populations foreigners, off-island events

# What is completeness?

The proportion of events in the population covered by the civil registration system, that are recorded.

Note – assessing completeness at a national level assumes national coverage –that all events in the country should be recorded.

# Calculating completeness

#### Completeness for birth or death registration

Measuring completeness for either event can be done in several ways. A basic approach involves dividing the number of births or deaths registered within a year of occurrence in the country by the estimated number of births or deaths for the same period and then multiplying by 100 to give a percentage figure.

Number of registered births x 100 Estimated number of live births

How do we derive the numerator?
Where do we find data on what is expected?

### Calculating completeness

The number of registered births (numerator) would be sourced from the civil registration authority. National estimates on the number of births (denominator) can be developed based on estimates from the ministry of health, population census data or sample surveys. In the absence of national estimates, birth rates produced by the United Nations Population Division can be used for the denominator, as follows:

Number of registered births	- X 100
Crude birth rates as estimated by your NSO or the UN (per 1000) x Total pop size (in	- X 100
(000s)	

#### Issues and consideration

- To allow the reasons for improvements or a lack of progress to be better understood, completeness of civil registration should be disaggregated by:
  - Sex any differences in the tendency to register males or females may point to gender issues that require targeted education or services
  - Location geographic location to the level of census enumeration area and up to State/provincial/district/village/settlement level and urban/rural.
  - Late/delayed registration the prescribed period within which events are to be registered, as well as the length of grace periods and from when penalties are applied, should be prescribed in laws, rules or regulations. Disaggregated data, allowing the percentage of registrations that occur within these deadlines to be tracked, can help monitor the performance of the civil registration system
  - Ethnic and/or national group of mother and father (if collected, this
    information provides valuable insight into the tendency for
    underreporting by certain populations).