

Data back-up is essential for national vital statistics

NAURU



- In mid-August 2013, the Nauru National Hospital suffered a fire that burnt through both the medical records office and the adjacent pharmacy.
- As a result, most of the records were lost, and the Health Information System suffered a devastating setback.
- However, Nauru operates a direct registration system, where birth and death records are entered directly into the registration system for later verification by civil registry staff. As a result, data is stored at both locations.
- Nauru has subsequently been able to move ahead with an analysis of their birth, death, and cause of death data despite the hospital record losses.

CRVS in Nauru

Nauru is a small island country of 10,979 people.

Nauru has a national Health Information Committee, which also functions as the national CRVS committee. There is close cooperation between key departments (Statistics, Ministry of Health, and Civil Registry Office) on data sharing and reconciliation.

Nauru has essentially complete registration of births and deaths, in part due to the funeral assistance payments and a child payment at birth which are linked to formal registration.

Improving CRVS in Nauru

- 2011 – National CRVS committee formed and completed a rapid assessment of their CRVS system.
- 2011 – Representatives from Statistics, Health, and Civil Registry attended a sub-regional workshop (for Group 1 countries under the PVSAP): Completed a comprehensive assessment and developed a draft national CRVS improvement plan.
- 2012- Follow up work undertaken to reconcile data between ministries, improve medical records and coding, train doctors in medical certification of death, and address other identified issues.
- 2013 – Key representatives attend the second sub-regional workshop to report on progress and update plans.
- 2014 – Staff from the national Statistics Office and Ministry of Health attend a Data analysis and report writing workshop to analyse civil registration and cause of death indicators. The report is due to be released in late 2014.

Key Challenges

Although a commercial IT system for civil registration is in place and appears to be functional, much of the data is still managed through individual spreadsheets.

The non-Nauruan population fluctuates significantly in Nauru – greatly affecting population based indicators of mortality. While there is a need to ensure vital events in foreigners are registered and reviewed, in order to better understand trends in the resident population, analysis is generally conducted on the Nauruan population only.

Key Indicators for Nauru (2011-2013)

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) = 3.9
(3.5-4.3) births per woman

IMR = 18.0
(10.8-28.1) deaths in children under age 1 per 1,000 live births

Male Life Expectancy= 57.8
Males born today are estimated to live (53.1-62.4) years under age 1 per 1,000 live births

Teenage Fertility Rate = 94
(68-141) births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years

Under 5 Mortality= 22.7
(14.6-33.8) deaths in children under age 5 per 1,000 live births

Female Life Expectancy = 64.8
Females born today are estimated to live (59.7-70.0) years 5 per 1,000 live births

Off-site back up of data, particularly in small systems, is critical.



Next Steps:

Nauru is currently planning a National Strategy for Development Statistics, and will formally revisit their national CRVS improvement plan as part of this work.

Further work is planned to review the current CR database and how this can be more fully utilised to support good data quality and security in Nauru.

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