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HANDBOOK OF VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS AND METHODS

Volume II:

Review of national practices



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NOTE

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PREFACE

The United Nations Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System were adopted by the Statistical Commission at its sixteenth session, in 1970, and subsequently published by the United Nations.¹ The *Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods* has been prepared to provide guidance to Member States and other interested organizations and individuals in implementing those principles and recommendations.

Although recognizing that a comprehensive national system of vital statistics may draw on data from a number of sources, the principles and recommendations give priority to civil registration as a method of collecting information on vital events. For this reason, the present *Handbook*, while concerned with all aspects of a comprehensive system for the collection and compilation of vital statistics, strives to give special attention to civil registration of vital events, including the special problems of integrating the registration and statistical aspects of a vital statistics system. As such, the *Handbook* is designed to assist those concerned with both the registration and the statistical aspects of vital statistics. In addition, portions of the *Handbook* may also be of use to users of vital statistics.

The *Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods* is being issued in two volumes. Volume I, which is the main body of the *Handbook*, considers the legal structures of the civil registration and the vital statistics system, issues of organization and co-ordination of the system, methods of recording and compiling vital records, methods of evaluation of vital statistics and methods for improving coverage, timeliness and quality of vital statistics. A draft version of volume I of the *Handbook* was considered by a United Nations expert group meeting in December 1983 and will be published once the recommended revisions have been carried out. Volume II of the *Handbook*, the present publication, presents the results of a study of national practices, which was conducted by the United Nations during the period 1976 to 1979, of national civil registration systems and vital statistics methods for 105 countries or areas of the world. With the passage of time since the study of national practices was carried out, changes have inevitably occurred in specific items of information shown for some of the countries. Never-

theless, the pattern of wide diversity, revealed by the study, among countries and areas in their organizational arrangements and definitions and methods used, remains fully valid.

The issuance of the *Handbook* is part of the continuing work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in implementing the United Nations World Programme for the Improvement of Vital Statistics, adopted by the Economic and Social Council in accordance with its resolution 1307 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968.² The present *Handbook* revised the 1955 *Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods*³ which analysed the national vital statistics systems of 66 countries and which was prepared in connection with the 1953 *Principles for a Vital Statistics System*.⁴

Users of the present *Handbook* may wish to refer to one or more of the following United Nations publications dealing with related issues and subjects: *Handbook of Statistical Organization*,⁵ *Handbook of Household Surveys*⁶ and *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*.⁷ For a more general consideration of the use of administrative records for statistical purposes, see the report of the Secretary-General on the use of administrative records for statistical purposes, prepared for the twenty-second session of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/1983/2).

NOTES

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/4938)*, paras. 100-106, and *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.XVII.9). Henceforth this title will be abbreviated in the text as *Recommendations*.

² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10 (E/4471)*, para. 134 and chap. XV.

³ United Nations publication, Sales No. 1955.XVII.1.

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. 53.XVII.8.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XVII.17.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XVII.13.

⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.XVII.8.

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INTRODUCTION

1. A primary source of national vital statistics is the administrative records of vital events collected through the civil registration system. Other important sources of vital statistics are health and judicial records, which register the occurrence of selected vital events and which can be compiled to produce vital statistics. Furthermore, data collected in the household sample surveys and population censuses often contain vital statistics. The surveys usually devote a part of or the entire undertaking to the investigation of, for example, fertility and mortality, and the censuses also collect selected statistics concerning births, deaths, marriages and divorces.

2. Volume II of the present *Handbook* discusses national practices in the recording of vital events and the compilation of vital statistics through the civil registration system. It also discusses other recording and processing of vital events through administrative systems such as health, judicial and related systems, if they are closely co-ordinated with or are considered, in a broad sense, as a part of the civil registration system. The household sample survey and population census are different kinds of data collection systems and are not covered in the *Handbook*.

3. The present volume is set forth in seven chapters. In each chapter, the national practices of selected subjects are discussed and compared with relevant United Nations recommendations contained in the *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*. Summary statistics of civil registration and vital statistics systems and methods for major continents of the world are given in each chapter and detailed information on national practices is given in the annex tables.

4. The introduction describes the organization of the present volume of the *Handbook* and the sources of data used in the analysis. Chapter I discusses the organizational and administrative arrangement of the national system for the registration of vital events. The registration process of vital events is carried out through either the civil registration, population registration, health or other systems. Chapter II discusses the organizational and administrative arrangement of the national system of vital statistics. The process of producing vital statistics is carried out through either the statistical system, the civil registration administration or other authorities. Chapter III introduces the type and function of the local civil registrar. The local civil registrar is the person representing the civil registration authority in the field and carrying out the registration functions. Chapter IV discusses the role of the informant in the registration process and the requirements for registration. Informants are persons legally responsible for registering the occurrence of a vital event with the local registrar. Chapter V looks into the time and place of registration. Chapter VI discusses the time and geographic basis for statistical tabulations. Chapter VII presents the characteristics of births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriages and

divorces investigated by countries and compares them with the characteristics recommended for investigation by the United Nations.

5. The major sources of data used in volume II of the *Handbook* are the results of the Survey of Vital Statistics Methods (hereafter referred to as the Survey), which was undertaken by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat during the period 1976 to 1979. Other sources used include technical reports and books on population registration, civil registration and vital statistics published by national and international organizations and other research institutes, as well as information on vital statistics provided to the United Nations through the *Demographic Yearbook* Questionnaire on Vital Statistics. The purpose of the Survey was to obtain up-to-date information on vital statistics methods in as many countries as possible for use in the revision of the 1955 *Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods*. In September 1974, the draft Vital Statistics Methods Questionnaire was completed and circulated to the United Nations regional commissions and other international agencies for comments. The finalized questionnaire was circulated to 193 countries or areas between November 1976 and March 1977. The first response was received in December 1976 and the last in April 1979. The total number of countries or areas that responded was 112. The overall response to the questionnaire was 58 per cent (see table 1.0), ranging from 40 per cent for countries in Africa to 85 per cent for countries in Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Because the information received from a few countries is so limited, data for only 105 countries or areas are used in the analysis.

TABLE 1.0. RESPONSE TO THE SURVEY OF VITAL STATISTICS METHODS

Continent	Number of countries or areas to which questionnaires were sent	Number of countries or areas responding	Percentage responding
Total	193	112	58
Africa	53	21	40
America, North	31	17	55
America, South	13	10	77
Asia	40	20	50
Europe-USSR	40	34	85
Oceania	16	10	63

6. The questionnaire used in the Survey has four sections. Section I was designed to obtain conveniently summarized information on the different methods of vital statistics collection in each country. Three broad sources of basic vital statistics were recognized in this section: the civil registration system, the sample registration area scheme and the demographic sample survey. Section I also asked for information on the date of introduction or the duration of the civil registration system, the type of vital events covered, the geographic and population coverage, an indication of whether

statistical data were compiled and published and the bases for the computation of vital rates. Section II contained detailed questions on the civil registration system. It was organized so as to provide information on the history, legal basis and administrative organization of the registration system as well as on the registration process, the compilation of data, methods of evaluation of both the registration and statistical processes, personnel and other costs of maintaining the civil registration and vital statistics system.

7. Section III asked for information on any sample registration area scheme operated in the country and section IV asked for data on demographic sample surveys. Both sections sought detailed information on the objectives of those means of data collection, their administrative organizations and collection and processing procedures, as well as information on the compilation, evaluation, publication and budget procedures.

8. Countries were requested to provide information on the practices and procedures that existed as of 1 January 1977 and to supply a complete set of forms for vital registration as well as statistical reports and

instruction manuals then in use in the collection and compilation of vital statistics. The response to questions on section I, summary information on sources of vital statistics, and section II, the civil registration system, was generally good, but most countries gave very limited information on such questions as the administrative organization for registration and statistical processing and almost no information on evaluation, budget-personnel and other cost items. The response to open-ended questions was, on the whole, quite low. Four countries replied briefly to section III on the use of the sample registration area scheme to improve vital statistics collections but the answers of only two were considered to be adequate. Some 20 countries replied to section IV on the use of sample surveys to collect vital statistics but most of the replies were also too simple to be useful. Because the answers to those two sections were very incomplete, they are not discussed in the study. Volume II of the *Handbook* therefore covers only the national vital statistics system operating through the civil registration and other administrative processes. In annex II, sections I and II of the Vital Statistics Methods Questionnaire are reproduced.

I. LEGAL PROVISIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES OF THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

9. The foundation of every civil registration and vital statistics system is the legislation which defines the type of vital events that must be registered when they occur, specifies the time allowed and other registration requirements, designates the person or informant who is responsible for notifying the registrar, outlines the place where the registration is to be made and describes the information that is to be collected. On the basis of the legislation, the civil registration and vital statistics systems are developed and organizations, either as independent governmental agencies or as branches of a related agency, are established. The legislation also defines the power and resources that the agencies may use to carry out their responsibility, establishes the manner in which the registration records should be inscribed, maintained and processed to generate vital statistics and specifies the responsibilities and duties of the registrars. This legislation is commonly referred to as civil registration laws or regulations, statistical acts etc. In addition, there are civil codes, health regulations and others outside the civil registration and vital statistics system that may also provide similar power and resources for carrying the registration functions for selected vital events. Because of different historical and social backgrounds, there are various types of civil registration legislation and statistical laws and different kinds of administrative arrangements to carry out the registration and statistical functions.

10. The present chapter describes the development of the civil registration system from a historical perspective and analyses the coverage of the national civil registration system in terms of geographic and administrative areas and by population groups. It discusses the availability of the civil registration legislation and the compulsoriness of the legal provisions in the national civil registration system. For this purpose, the United Nations Survey of Vital Statistics Methods (hereafter referred to as the Survey) asked countries to describe their civil registration systems. It first asked countries to state whether there was a civil registration system in the country. If there was, then for each vital event, namely, live birth, foetal death, marriage and divorce, it asked for the date of enactment of the civil registration law, the date when the civil registry was established and the date when the law became compulsory. The Survey further asked countries to state the penalties for non-compliance with registration, the incentives for registration and whether the registration system covered the entire country in terms of geographic and population groups. The responses to the inquiry are given below.

A. LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF VITAL EVENTS

11. The existence of laws on civil registration is usually the first step for the establishment of a civil registration and a vital statistics system. However, the

recording of vital events does not necessarily begin with the enactment of a specific law. Historically, vital events were registered and records kept by private and religious institutions in many societies before there were government interventions. As the usefulness of vital records increased, either for identification, verification, administration, research or other legal and statistical purposes, laws were required to legitimize, regulate, maintain and improve the registration process on a permanent basis.

1. Availability of civil registration laws

12. The civil registration laws that are discussed in the present *Handbook* are those concerning the events of live births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriages and divorces. Other events, such as annulments, judicial separation, adoption, legitimation and recognition, are also vital events and their registration is generally covered either by the same law or by other laws and regulations. For the purpose of establishing or improving a civil registration system, the United Nations gives priority to setting up procedures for the registration of the first five vital events mentioned above, with priority given to live births and deaths.¹ These five events are closely linked with the growth of population. The Survey therefore sought the dates of enactment of laws for these five vital events.

13. All the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey indicated that they had registration laws concerning live births and deaths. Among them, 98 also had laws on marriage registration, 71 on divorce registration and 81 on foetal death registration (table 1.1 and table A.1). Of the 34 countries or areas that did not have civil laws for divorce registration, nine were in Asia, six were in Africa, seven each in South America and Europe, three in Oceania and two in North America. Every responding country or area in North America, South America and Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had a registration law on marriage.

14. The absence of civil registration laws on marriages and divorces in many countries did not necessari-

TABLE 1.1. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS HAVING LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR REGISTRATION, BY VITAL EVENT AND BY CONTINENT

Continent	Vital event			
	Births and deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
All areas	105	81	98	71
Africa	20	12	17	14
America, North	15	12	15	13
America, South	10	7	10	3
Asia	20	14	17	11
Europe-USSR	32	29	32	25
Oceania	8	7	7	5

ly mean that marriages and divorces were not registered or statistics not compiled there. In many countries, marriage and divorce registrations were functions of the judicial system and not the duties of the civil registry. Marriages constituted by religious and other non-civil ceremonies and dissolved in the court, in temples or churches or other places were often recorded by the religious authorities, the court or the system that performed such functions. For example, records of divorce were kept by the Supreme Courts in Australia, the Bahamas, Belize, Botswana, Brunei, Iraq, Malaysia, Peru, Singapore and the United Kingdom (England and Wales and Northern Ireland) even though divorce registration was not covered under the civil registration laws in those countries. Furthermore, civil marriages and divorces did not play the same role in African, Asian and Latin American societies as they did in North American or European societies. In some countries, there were no legal provisions for dissolution of marriages by means of divorce with consequent conferment of the right to remarry. The concept of divorce did not exist in such societies.

15. Legal provisions concerning the registration of foetal deaths was the least systematic among those of all vital events. Above all, not all countries or areas used the same concept and definition of foetal death and many had provisions only for the registration of still births, or late foetal deaths, which generally meant foetal deaths at 28 weeks or more of gestation. Many countries or areas, mostly developing countries, made no special distinction between foetal deaths and other deaths of infants, and their registration was often covered by the same death registration regulations. There were also a few countries that required that foetal deaths be registered as both births and deaths;² that registration was being carried out in countries or areas without legal provision for registration although the practice was neither compulsory nor complete.³

2. Establishment of civil registry

16. The establishment of a civil registration system in a country usually began with the enactment of a civil registration law. However, some countries had established some forms of registries, at least for live births, deaths and marriages, before there were legal provisions for civil registration. A few countries introduced their civil registration laws on a voluntary basis and subsequently changed to a compulsory basis when sufficient experience had been accumulated and when the civil registry was well developed.

17. The Survey has collected, for each vital event, the year of enactment of the earliest civil registration law, the year of the establishment of the civil registry and the year when registration became compulsory (table A.1). For the great majority of the countries or areas, however, the year of enactment of a law for the registration of a vital event was the same or very close to the year that the civil registry was established. Most laws were considered as compulsory although they might not have been reinforced in a compulsory manner. In the following sections, the years of enactment of registration laws are treated as the same as the years when registration became compulsory, unless otherwise stated.

18. Since the second half of the nineteenth century,

an increasing number of countries began to introduce the system of civil registration and enacted relevant laws for its implementation. Many of those laws, which might have been amended in the course of time, were still being used today. In some European countries the legal registration provisions, in rudimentary forms, could be traced as far back as the middle of the sixteenth century. However, it was during the hundred years from 1850 to 1950 that the civil registration system began to develop and expand to other continents of the world. Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 66 indicated that they had established the civil registration system for live births and deaths during the period 1850 to 1950, 23 had the system before 1850 and 16 set up their system only after 1950 (table 1.2). Major developments in establishing civil registration systems covering other vital events also occurred during the period 1850 to 1950.

TABLE 1.2. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVIL REGISTRY FOR EACH VITAL EVENT, BY CONTINENT

Date	Vital event			
	Births, deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
ALL AREAS				
<i>All countries</i>	105	78	98	64
Before 1800	13	8	13	7
1800-1824	2	4	1	2
1825-1849	8	2	8	0
1850-1874	17	8	13	4
1875-1899	22	14	22	11
1900-1924	16	11	17	18
1925-1949	11	14	10	8
1950-1976	16	17	14	14
AFRICA				
<i>All countries</i>	20	12	17	12
Before 1800	1	0	1	1
1800-1824	0	1	0	0
1825-1849	0	0	0	0
1850-1874	1	1	1	0
1875-1899	2	0	1	0
1900-1924	5	3	4	2
1925-1949	2	0	2	1
1950-1976	9	7	8	8
AMERICA, NORTH				
<i>All countries</i>	15	11	15	10
Before 1800	1	1	2	1
1800-1824	1	1	0	0
1825-1849	1	1	1	0
1850-1874	1	1	1	1
1875-1899	8	5	8	5
1900-1924	2	1	3	2
1925-1949	1	1	0	0
1950-1976	0	0	0	1
AMERICA, SOUTH				
<i>All countries</i>	10	7	10	2
Before 1800	0	0	0	0
1800-1824	0	0	0	0
1825-1849	1	0	0	0
1850-1874	3	2	1	0
1875-1899	5	3	6	0
1900-1924	1	1	2	2
1925-1949	0	1	1	0
1950-1976	0	0	0	0

TABLE 1.2 (continued)

Date	Vital event			
	Births, Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
ASIA				
<i>All countries</i>	20	12	17	10
Before 1800	0	0	0	0
1800-1824	0	0	0	0
1825-1849	0	0	0	0
1850-1874	4	0	2	1
1875-1899	2	1	2	0
1900-1924	6	3	5	5
1925-1949	4	3	4	2
1950-1976	4	5	4	2
EUROPE-USSR				
<i>All countries</i>	32	29	32	25
Before 1800	11	7	10	5
1800-1824	1	2	1	2
1825-1849	4	1	6	0
1850-1874	6	3	5	1
1875-1899	5	5	5	6
1900-1924	2	3	3	6
1925-1949	3	6	2	4
1950-1976	0	2	0	1
OCEANIA				
<i>All countries</i>	8	7	7	5
Before 1800	0	0	0	0
1800-1824	0	0	0	0
1825-1849	2	0	1	0
1850-1874	2	1	3	1
1875-1899	0	0	0	0
1900-1924	0	0	0	1
1925-1949	1	3	1	1
1950-1976	3	3	2	2

19. In the African continent, about half of the countries or areas reported that they had established their civil registry for live births, deaths and marriages after 1950 when many former colonies became independent. A few have amended the colonial civil registration rules, which were first introduced in the nineteenth century or earlier, for example, Malawi (1886), Mauritius (1539), Seychelles (1893) and Sierra Leone (1857). For the registration of foetal deaths and divorces, respectively 7 and 8 of the 12 countries or areas that responded to the Survey established their civil registry after 1950.

20. In North America, 10 countries set up their civil registry for live births and deaths and 11 countries for marriages in the 50 years between 1875 and 1925; four countries set up the system before 1875. Both Canada and the United States of America had regional laws to regulate their civil registration systems and the dates of enactment of the laws varied among different provinces and states. The first Canadian province to enact a birth and death registration law was Quebec Province in 1678. By 1916 all Canadian provinces had set up their civil registries. The earliest civil registration law in the United States of America could be traced back to 1632 when the birth and death registration law was enacted in the colony of Virginia.

21. The majority of South American countries have had a century of experience in civil registration. Many established their registration systems for live births,

deaths, foetal deaths and marriages in the second half of the nineteenth century. For example, Peru, the country in the Western Hemisphere with the most ancient experience in recording births and deaths,⁴ established its civil registry for births, deaths and marriages in 1852. But Peru had no laws for the registration of foetal deaths and divorces, although foetal death records were collected for statistical purposes and divorce records were kept by the court registry. In Argentina, each province had its own registration law, enacted during the period 1884 to 1890, except one, enacted in 1902.

22. The 20 Asian countries or areas that responded to the Survey all established their civil registries after 1850 and 14 of them after 1900. The earliest one was Sri Lanka in 1868 for the registration of live births, deaths and marriages. It was not clear whether there were legal provisions for the registration of foetal deaths at the present although the event was recorded in 57 selected urban areas. The oldest civil registration act of India was introduced in 1866 in the province of Berar. In 1969 the Registration of Births and Deaths Act replaced all regional registration laws and unified the registration system throughout the country. It made reporting and registration of births and deaths compulsory. However, the system was still not very effective. The collection of vital statistics was dependent upon a sample registration area scheme introduced in the mid-1960s. In Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia), uniform legislation for the compulsory registration of live births, deaths and foetal deaths was introduced in 1957 with the issuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance. In Singapore, the history of the registration of births, deaths and foetal deaths dated back to 1938. At present, those registrations were regulated by three Acts, namely, the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (1938), the Women's Charter (1961) and the Muslim Law Act (1966). The Women's Charter authorized compulsory registration of all marriages other than Muslim marriages and the Muslim Law Act administered the registration of Muslim marriages.

23. Registration laws of Denmark (1646), Finland (1686), Norway (1685) and Sweden (1686) were ancient laws of Europe. Registration in Denmark began with the introduction of the parish registers which recorded the family status and the legal name of every citizen. Certificates issued on the basis of the information of those registers were treated as legal documents. The parish registers were also used to update the municipal population registers which were established in 1924. Compulsory registration for the ecclesiastical records in Norway started in 1685 for births, deaths and marriages and in 1797 for late foetal deaths. However, civil registry was introduced between 1910 and 1920. Prior to 1785, Iceland also had a voluntary registration system carried out by parsons; vital statistics have been available since 1735. In the United Kingdom (England and Wales), the Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act was promulgated in 1836 but it was the Birth and Death Registration Act of 1874 that made registration compulsory.

24. In Oceania, the eight states of Australia enacted their own civil registration laws for births, deaths and marriages at various times from 1838 to 1856. Foetal death registration laws were enacted much later, during the period 1907 to 1966. Divorce registration was, however, a function of the court, rather than of civil

registry. New Zealand enacted laws for birth, death and marriage registration about 1850 and for foetal deaths and divorce registration in 1925 and 1920, respectively. Fiji established its civil registry for live births, deaths and marriages in 1874, as did French Polynesia. With respect to the other small areas of Oceania, namely, the Pacific Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, all civil registries were established in the twentieth century, particularly after 1950.

3. *The compulsory nature and coverage of the civil registration system*

25. The legal obligation to register a vital event when it occurred was a basic requirement upon which a civil registration system could be operated. When registration was voluntary rather than compulsory, there could be no assurance of complete or accurate registration records and vital statistics.

26. It was recommended that

"registration of every vital event occurring within the boundaries of the country should be made legally compulsory, for every group of the population, and parallel provision should be established for enforcement of this requirement. The efficiency with which these provisions operate or may be presumed to operate should not be a factor in their establishment."⁵

As for the coverage of the system, it was suggested that "provision for uniform registration throughout the country is desirable, even when compliance with the registration law is apt to vary in quality among different regions or sectors of the population. The limitation of compulsory registration to a segment of the population, however large this segment may be, is not recommended, except in countries where very primitive conditions prevail."⁶

27. The Survey asked countries to state the date that civil registration laws became compulsory and whether the registration system covered the entire country. The responses suggested that the civil registration system was a compulsory system in all but seven countries. In those seven countries, namely, Botswana, Chad, Malawi, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland and the Upper Volta, compulsory registration was in effect only in selected areas or in specific ethnic groups, and voluntary registration or no civil registration was carried out in other parts or ethnic groups of the country.

(a) *Penalties for non-compliance with registration*

28. The existence of a registration law in a country was a necessary but not a sufficient condition to make the general public register the occurrence of a vital event. The fact that registration, having the full sanction of the law, has been in force in a country for a certain period of time did not necessarily assure that the registration could meet the required standards, although the country might have detailed recording procedures or regulations. Very closely linked with the compulsoriness of registration was the idea of imposing a penalty for those who failed to comply with the registration regulations. That is to say, a failure to register the occurrence of a vital event should be punishable by law. However,

"it is recognized that the principle of penalizing failure to comply with registration laws may not always be invoked; for the order to invoke it would

require knowledge that an event had actually occurred, that registration of this event was wilfully neglected, and that continued delinquency is to be expected — all of which may be difficult to establish legally. The threat of penalty may also be a deterrent to compliance with a registration requirement at some later date on the part of persons who, for whatever reason, did not register the event during the period specified by the law. None the less, it would seem necessary to have at least the legal basis for prosecution if general compliance with the law is to be achieved."⁷

29. Most of the registration laws or regulations in existence contained penalties for non-compliance. In responding to the question "If registration is compulsory, what are the penalties for non-compliance to register?" the Survey learned that 53 out of the 91 reporting countries or areas have imposed a fine of a fixed sum of money as the means of penalty, 18 stated both fine and imprisonment and 2 gave "others" as the penalty. In addition, 18 countries did not impose any penalties for non-compliance (table 1.3).

TABLE 1.3. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	All types	Penalties			
		Fine	Fine and imprisonment	Others	None
All continents	91 ^a	53	18	2	18
Africa	17	9	5	0	3
America, North . .	11	6	2	0	3
America, South . .	9	5	1	0	3
Asia	19	13	5	0	1
Europe-USSR . . .	28	16	2	2	8
Oceania	7	4	3	0	—

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 14 did not provide information on this subject.

30. The penalties, either fine, imprisonment or both, were not all nominal penalties. For example, the fine that Austria imposed for non-compliance was as much as 10,000 shillings. In Hungary, a failure to notify a birth or a death was liable to a fine not exceeding 1,000 forint. In the United States of America, the fine ranged among states from 25 to 100 dollars. In Italy, the fine was 20,000 lire in the case of live births and 2,500 lire in the case of deaths. The fine was 30 shillings in Kenya, 10 to 150 marks in the German Democratic Republic and not more than 20 pounds in the United Kingdom (England and Wales). Concerning imprisonment, for example, it was 10 days to one month in French Polynesia, 61 days to four years in Chile in the case of failure to notify a marriage, and a maximum of three months in the Bahamas, Botswana, the Dominican Republic, Tonga, Tunisia and a number of other countries or areas. In Australia, Belgium, Rwanda and Senegal, both fine and imprisonment might be imposed for non-compliance.

31. For two countries the penalty was "others". In Finland, because the informants of vital events were government officials, the penalty for non-compliance was impeachment of the concerned official. The penalty in Malta was "court action", which left the specifics of the action to the discretion of the court.

(b) *Incentives for registration*

32. Despite provisions of penalties for non-compliance, the level of registration completeness found in about half of the countries of the world (see chap. VI) seemed to suggest that, in general, there was a lack of motivation for registering the occurrence of a vital event. As may be seen in chapter IV, it was often the law which has not designated in a clear manner who should be responsible for the registration, which has contributed significantly to incomplete registration. It was also true that many cases of non-compliance have not been penalized. But perhaps the most important reason for non-compliance was that there was no incentive for registration. When certificates of births, deaths, marriages and divorces were of no value in a person's daily life, few would bother to register a vital event and obtain a certificate, particularly when fees and other requirements were needed for the registration.

33. A number of recommendations have been made concerning the need for incentives for registration. It was suggested that

"the best incentives to register are, of course, the privileges and rights, enjoyment of which is contingent upon proof of registration. The enjoyment of rights contingent upon attainment of a certain age, for example, often requires proof of one's *date of birth*. Privileges such as being allowed to enter school or to obtain permission to work—especially in certain industries or in government civil service—are often contingent upon such proof, as is the obligation to serve in, or the right to be excused from service in, the armed forces; the right to apply for a license such as that required to operate a motor vehicle or to carry firearms; and the right to enter certain professions, marry without parental consent, vote, qualify for social-security pensions payable only at a specified age, enter into legal contracts, and establish those inheritance rights contingent upon age.

"Other incentives of lesser importance are the free proof of registration and the provision of free registration."⁸

34. The Survey asked: "Are there incentives to register vital events through proof of registration being required for eligibility for certain benefits?" and, if the answer was yes, "please give the type of requirements, such as birth certificates as a prerequisite to enter school; death certificate as a requirement for issuance of a burial permit; marriage certificate to establish citizenship rights, etc." Sixty-nine countries or areas replied to that question for births, 57 for deaths, 38 for marriages and only two for divorces (table 1.4). Those response

rates were quite low considering that 105 countries or areas replied to the Survey.

35. The incentives for birth registration given by the 69 countries or areas could be grouped into three categories: proof of age, legal purposes and social benefits. All of the countries or areas considered that proof of age was the major incentive for the general public to register a birth and to apply for a birth certificate, which was often needed for entering school, entering into legal contracts, applying for a driver's license, exercising voting rights, applying for identification cards etc. Among those countries or areas, 38 also indicated that a birth certificate was needed for proof of nationality or citizenship, applying for passports, settling insurance and inheritance claims, transferring properties etc. Another 31 stated that a birth certificate was needed in order to apply for family assistance, maternity benefits, tax allowances, medical services, child allowances and other social benefits.

36. The main incentive for registering a death was to obtain a permit for burial. Fifty-four of the 57 reporting countries or areas stated that the death certificate was needed for applying for the burial permit, 22 also mentioned the settling of inheritance and insurance claims and 19 mentioned applying for social benefits, family allowances etc. In the case of marriages, 38 countries or areas indicated that conjugal rights, rights of inheritance, child legitimacy and citizenship established through marriage must be supported by the marriage certificate. Eighteen countries or areas said that the marriage certificate was needed for applying for pensions and other social benefits. Only two countries gave the right to remarry as the incentive for divorce registration. No country stated any incentives for foetal death registration.

37. The low level of response to the question concerning incentives for registration of vital events seemed to suggest two major problems in many national civil registration systems. First, the registration records were still of little use, and second, many civil registries might have difficulties in identifying the incentives for registration. When social customs and sanctions were more important and effective means than civil laws and regulations in exerting social control concerning births, deaths, marriages and divorces, there was little incentive for people to give strong support to civil registration. When, for example, age was still not a clear and important concept in some societies and there was no need for anyone to prove one's age, the usefulness of the birth certificate as a legal proof of age was not recognized. Moreover, it was the social, legal and other public and private services, rather than the occurrence

TABLE 1.4. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS ACCORDING TO INCENTIVES FOR CIVIL REGISTRATION, BY VITAL EVENT AND BY CONTINENT

Continent	Live births			Deaths			Marriages		Divorces:	
	Proof of age	Legal purposes	Social benefits	Issuance of burial permit	Claims of inheritance	Claim of death benefits	Legal rights	Qualify for pensions	Claims of inheritance	Establish right to remarry
All areas	69	38	31	54	22	19	38	18	5	2
Africa	15	6	4	11	3	2	4	4	1	0
America, North	9	6	2	4	1	2	6	1	1	0
America, South	9	5	4	7	3	4	5	3	0	0
Asia	13	10	6	12	4	3	9	4	0	0
Europe-USSR	18	9	13	19	7	7	13	5	2	2
Oceania	5	2	2	1	4	1	1	1	1	0

of vital events, that generated incentives for civil registration. The civil registration administration may have devoted considerable efforts to improve its registration procedures and to facilitate the registration process, but it must have the support and co-operation of other administrative systems to improve its registration completeness and reliability.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES OF THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

1. Types of organization

38. The establishment of a permanent civil registration administration was required for the continuous and compulsory recording of vital events, the safekeeping and retrieval of those records to be used as legal documents and the compilation of individual records as vital statistics. This administration might be organized and operated along a centralized system or a decentralized system. A centralized system might have two types of administrative structures. The first, referred to as the principal centralized system in the present *Handbook*, was a system in which the network of local registration offices was directly controlled and administered by a central authority mandated exclusively for civil registration administration. The second, referred to as the other centralized system, was one where the local registration offices were directed by a government agency other than a national civil registry, for example, the statistical office or the health ministry in which the civil registration administration was a part of its overall administrative programmes. The decentralized civil registration system was one in which local registration offices were administered by regional authorities following regional civil registration laws or regulations; there was no national office to overlook the local registration system except perhaps an office to co-ordinate the compilation of vital statistics.

39. The view was expressed that

“in organizing and administering a civil registration system it is essential to give thought to the relationship between the registration function and the statistical function. The two functions are generally performed under the auspices of different ministries of the Government. Registration is a function of the registration offices and is under the jurisdiction of either the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Health, or, in some instances, ecclesiastical authorities. The statistical function for vital events, on the other hand, is primarily under the jurisdiction of the country's statistical services, which may be constituent parts of the ministries of economy, finance or commerce, or of the Ministry of Health. In general, the compiling agencies rarely have more than a co-ordinating management function involving the collection of raw materials. It is important, therefore, that a structure of detailed responsibilities be established. The choice of such an administrative structure will be largely determined by national conditions. To operate successfully, this structure must furnish a clearly spelled out specification of functions and responsibilities of the various agencies of the Government involved in the registration of vital events and in the compilation of vital statistics.”⁹

40. The Survey asked countries or areas to give the name of the agency responsible for the civil registration

function at the national and subnational levels. It requested a brief description of the administrative and organizational structures of their civil registration systems, for example, “what is the responsibility of the national agency, of the local offices, who exercises control over the local registry offices”.

41. Detailed responses received from countries or areas are given in table A.2 which contains the names of the governmental agencies in charge of civil registration administration at the national and subnational levels. The table also gives the name of the national agency responsible for the compilation and publishing of vital statistics. It should be noted that these names are those used at the time the countries or areas responded to the United Nations inquiry, during the period 1977 to 1979. Some agencies might have changed their name since then.

42. Information summarized from table A.2, showing the number of countries or areas by the type of civil registration system, is given in table 1.5. It can be seen that 55 countries or areas had a national civil registry either under the direction of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Justice Department or other ministries, exercising direct control over local civil registries; these were the countries or areas having a principal centralized system. Half of the countries or areas in all the continents except Africa and three quarters of those in Asia have adopted this system.

TABLE 1.5. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Type of civil registration system			
	All systems	Principal centralized system	Other centralized system	Decentralized system
All countries	103 ^a	55	33	15
Africa	19	8	11	0
America, North	15	7	3	5
America, South	10	5	2	3
Asia	20	15	5	0
Europe-USSR	32	15	11	6
Oceania	7	5	1	1

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, two did not provide information on this subject.

43. Some 33 countries or areas had an agency other than a national civil registration administration. That agency was usually an office under the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Justice Department or the Ministry of Home Affairs. Under that type of system, the authority of the national agency over the local civil registry was limited. That was the other centralized system and over half of the African countries have adopted it.

44. In addition, 15 countries, five in North America, three in South America, six in Europe and one in Oceania, had a decentralized civil registration system. Most of those countries had a federated political system, with each province or state of the country managing its own civil registration system.

2. Examples of civil registration systems

45. A few countries have been selected to illustrate briefly the general administrative structures of the three registration systems.

(a) *The principal centralized system*

(i) *Costa Rica*

46. This country had almost a century of experience in civil registration. The Directorate of Civil Registry (Dirección de Registro Civil), which was created in 1965 under the Supreme Tribunal of Elections, was in charge of the civil registration administration, the protection and maintenance of vital records and other personal documents, the issuance of population identification cards and the preparation of voters lists. It had a network of 1,350 local civil registration offices which reported directly to the national registry. However, vital statistics were compiled and published by the General Directorate of Statistics and Census which was under the authority of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

(ii) *Chile*

47. The agency responsible for national civil registration administration was the Civil Registration and Identification Services (Servicios de Registro Civil e Identificación). The present registration system dates back to 1943 when a government decree made the civil registry and the identification service a joint national agency. The agency was responsible for co-ordinating the registration work of the 460 local civil registries (oficinas de registro civil) which carried out the registration of vital events and the issuance of identification cards. Vital statistics were published by the National Statistical Institute.

(iii) *Ecuador*

48. The General Directorate of Civil Registry and Identification (Dirección General de Registro Civil Identificación y Cedulación), under the Ministry of Government, was created in 1976. It was responsible for national civil registration and identification administration and directly supervised the work of the 871 local civil registries (oficinas de registro civil). All civil registrars were government employees and received a regular salary. The local registry reported all registered vital events to both the General Directorate of Civil Registry and the National Institute of Statistics and Census. The latter was responsible for the compilation and publication of vital statistics.

(iv) *Philippines*

49. The national authority of civil registration and vital statistics administration rested with the Office of the Registrar General which in turn was under the National Census and Statistics Office of the National Economic and Development Authority. The director of the National Census and Statistics Office was the *ex officio* Registrar General. Within that Office there was the Civil Registry and Vital Statistics Division which managed national civil registration. At the sub-national level, there was a network of local civil registration offices. The local health officers, the city secretaries in the city and the municipal treasurers in the municipalities were *ex officio* civil registrars. Vital statistics were compiled and published annually by the National Census and Statistics Office.

(v) *Spain*

50. The national agency responsible for civil registration was the General Directorate of Registration and Notary (Dirección General de los Registros y Notariado) under the Ministry of Justice. It supervised and co-ordinated the registration work of the 8,194 local

civil registries (oficinas de registro civil). Municipal judges, regional judges and justices of the peace were designated as local registrars. They did not receive salaries or payment for their registration work. The national agency had a special group of well-trained inspectors who went to local offices to inspect the registration work. The compilation of vital statistics, however, was the function of the National Statistical Institute.

(vi) *Uganda*

51. The Registrar General of Births and Deaths of the Ministry of Justice was responsible for registration administration and the issuance of certificates for each vital event. It supervised directly the 1,215 district civil registries located in sub-counties, towns and hospitals. The civil registrars, who were either sub-county chiefs, town clerks or hospital superintendents, did not receive a salary for their registration duties. Local register offices were responsible for reporting the vital events to the national office each month, although no vital statistics were compiled.

(vii) *Swaziland*

52. The Registrar General's Office, under the Ministry of Justice, was responsible for enforcing the 1950 compulsory registration regulations of vital events and the processing of vital records. The registration of vital events was done in the district offices, with the district commissioners or their deputies serving as local civil registrars. The district offices were under the authority of the Ministry of Local Administration, which collected and processed registration records and passed them to the Registrar General's Office for central registration and record keeping. The current system covered only the urban and industrial areas in which health services were available. No vital statistics were yet compiled.

(b) *Other centralized systems*

(i) *Austria*

53. The Federal Ministry of Interior was the national authority that oversaw the legal aspects of the civil registration system and provided technical services to local registration offices, but there were neither national nor provincial offices to supervise the registration work. Registration was carried out by the 1,280 community-based local registrars. The provincial governments had an office responsible for supervising the organization and the technical performance of the local registration offices, and the mayors of cities and districts were responsible for any disciplinary matters concerning the local registrars. All civil registrar offices were managed by salaried registrars. They represented the communal authority in civil registration based on the 1935 German Registration Law which replaced all parochial registrars by civil registrars. Vital statistics compilation was a responsibility of the Austrian Central Statistical Office.

(ii) *Bangladesh*

54. The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, under the Directorate of Health Services of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare, exercised control over national registration administration. According to the Birth and Death Registration Law of 1960, vital events were registered at the local sanitary inspector's office. The office submitted birth and death records monthly to the District Health Officer, who forwarded a monthly summary of the district's registration to the Directorate of Health Ser-

vices. However, no vital statistics were being compiled.

(iii) *Peru*

55. Three national agencies, namely, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Interior and the National Statistical Institute, were involved in civil registration administration and each had different functions. The rules of the Supreme Court of 1937 stipulated that legal records of vital events should be kept in the civil registration office and copies of them should be sent to the regional court which was the custodian of the records. The court designated judges to supervise the 1,952 local civil registration offices (oficinas de registro civil) which were located in the municipality of the capital of each district and in special authorized secondary units within the district. The Ministry of Interior had an indirect responsibility in civil registration through its general supervision of the administration of municipalities, as the local civil registrars were appointed by the mayor of the municipality. The National Statistical Institute, on the other hand, provided standards for civil registration and statistical reporting and compiled vital statistics.

(iv) *Thailand*

56. The national authority for civil registration was the Civil Registration Division of the Ministry of Interior. The registration process was carried out locally by salaried civil registrars throughout the 116 municipalities, 648 districts and 5,647 communes. In addition, Thailand had a population registration system, with the civil registrars supplying all relevant information to both the Population Register and the Division of Vital Statistics of the Ministry of Health. The latter organization was in charge of vital statistics compilation. Under that arrangement, the civil registration process and the vital statistics process were under the responsibility of different agencies. The first law of Thailand relating to the registration of births and deaths in the capital city dates back to 1909. In 1916 legal provision was extended to rural areas and the last amendment of 1972 enforced registration in the entire country.

(c) *The decentralized system*

(i) *Canada*

57. Each province of Canada had its own civil registration system and an office for civil registration administration. Those offices were administered under either the Department of Health, the Population Registry or the Registrar General. Each province was divided into a number of registration units. The area size and population covered in those units were determined by the resources available to the local registration office, including, among other things, means of communication and transportation, as well as administrative boundaries. Local registrars were mostly paid with regular salaries. In addition, there were city or municipal employees, mayors, judges and medical officers who served as civil registrars. Under the Statistics Act of 1918, which created the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and later became Statistics Canada, uniform procedures for statistical reporting and compilation were introduced and the comparability of vital statistics among provinces was achieved.

(ii) *Mexico*

58. Each state of Mexico had its own civil code and civil registration procedures, although all of them were very similar. The local registration offices (oficialías de

registro civil) were in most cases located in cities and towns. Vital events were registered in special books which were kept at the local registry. A copy of the book was sent to the Court for safekeeping. A separate form was filled out for statistical reporting and forwarded to the General Directorate of Statistics of Mexico, which was in charge of vital statistics compilation and publication. Since 1978, when the General Directorate of National Population Registration and Personal Identification (Dirección General de Registro Nacional de Población e Identificación Personal) was created, there have been major changes in the civil registration system. The agency planned to introduce standard procedures for recording and reporting of vital events and to issue identification numbers to infants born since 1982. In order to co-ordinate the systems of national population registration and the state civil registration, a five-member Permanent Committee was created in 1978 within the National Council of Civil Registrars (Consejo Nacional de Funcionarios de Registro Civil), of which each Mexican state, the Presidential Office and the Ministry of Interior were members. The Committee also provided technical assistance to local registration offices concerning the implementation of the federal recommendations on civil registration and on the training of local registrars.

(iii) *United States of America*

59. Each state had its own laws, regulations and procedures concerning the registration of vital events and the compilation of vital statistics. It had a central office, either the state statistical office or the state health department, to administer the registration work, designed its own registration and statistical forms and had its own programme of vital statistics publication. The number, area size and population covered in the local civil registration units were, as in the case of Canada, determined by the available resources, communication and transportation facilities, administrative boundaries etc. Co-ordination in vital registration among states was made through the National Center for Health Statistics, which, upon receiving permission from the state registration systems, compiled the state data and published national vital statistics on births, deaths and other vital events. The agency, in turn, provided technical guidance and assistance to all the states to improve their capability in both civil registration and vital statistics programmes and recommended a model vital statistics act for the improvement of state registration work. Through an association of state registrars the agency maintained an operational tie with the state registration authorities.

3. *Local registration units*

60. Local registration units were the lowest local administrative units carrying out registration functions and statistical data compilations. It was suggested that

"local registration offices should be established in adequate numbers and in such locations as will ensure that they are easily accessible to the public, and they should be kept open for business during convenient hours, so that the informant may comply with the registration requirements within the time allowed by the law. If, for administrative reasons, it is impossible to extend the office hours of registrars beyond the normal business day, consideration might be given to allowing persons to absent themselves from their places of employment for purposes of registration.

TABLE 1.6. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY AVERAGE AREA SIZE AND POPULATION IN A REGISTRATION UNIT

Average area size (km ²)	All units	Average population per registration unit (in thousands)										
		100 and over	90-100	80-90	70-80	60-70	50-60	40-50	30-40	20-30	10-20	Less than 10
All areas	93 ^a	6	2	0	4	0	3	3	6	8	26	35
5,000 and over	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
2,500-4,999	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
1,000-2,499	10	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	4	0
500-999	11	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	5
100-499	26	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	0	9	9
50-99	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	6
Less than 50	25	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	6	15

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 12 did not provide any information on this subject.

"The size of the primary registration unit should be such that the registrar in charge can give to that unit the attention required to produce good registration."¹⁰

In order to gain some understanding of how the population of a country was being served by the registration network, the Survey asked countries to give the total number of local registration offices in existence. It also classified those local registration offices located in municipalities, communes, towns, townships, districts etc. as the primary registration units and those located in hamlets, projects, cantons, quarters, villages, hospitals or health centres that were usually attached to, and administratively dependent on, a primary registration unit as other registration units.

61. A total of 93 countries or areas replied to this question. Detailed data are given in table A.3. A number of countries had only primary registration units. The replies also suggested that a few countries might have misunderstood the Survey, giving the national and provincial units, rather than the local units, as the primary units. A few very small areas, namely, Guernsey, Jersey, Macau, Monaco, Tonga, etc., had only one primary registration unit. Large countries, such as India, Brazil and the United States of America, understandably had more primary and other units than the smaller countries; however, Afghanistan, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia had more registration units than all of the countries or areas, except India, France and the Federal Republic of Germany.

62. Tables 1.6 and A.3 present the average size of the registration unit and the average population covered by each registration unit for 93 countries or areas. Those averages were derived by dividing the total number of population by the total number of registration units, that is, primary and other units together. The population figures used in the calculation were the estimated total for mid-1977, the year in which most of

the survey questionnaires were returned. It can be seen that, for about 40 per cent of the countries, the average area size of the unit was less than 100 square kilometres, for about 30 per cent it was between 100 and 500 square kilometres and for another one third the average area size was larger than 500 square kilometres. In 35 countries or areas the average number of persons covered by a registration unit was less than 10,000 persons and in 59, or about two thirds of the countries, was less than 20,000 persons. Only 15 countries had a registration unit of over 50,000 persons on the average. In those cases, the average size of the registration unit was also over 500 square kilometres. For countries having smaller registration areas, that is, those with less than 100 square kilometres, more than 80 per cent of the units were smaller than 20,000 inhabitants. The percentage reduced to 70 when the area size increased to 100-500 square kilometres and to 40 when the area size was greater than 500 square kilometres.

63. One must be cautious in interpreting those averages since some very large registration units might have covered a large area of uninhabitable land. That could be seen in Australia, Botswana and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, where the average registration units were, respectively, 54,517, 19,367 and 38,251 square kilometres. Some countries might have small registration units in terms of average area size and population, while the actual situation was quite different in individual communities. For example, in Honduras, the 282 primary registration units had an average size of 397 square kilometres and each covered an average of 12,000 persons. However, it was reported that "for cities like Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula (300,000 inhabitants) there is only one civil registration office. In large towns (10,000 inhabitants and more) the municipal secretary does not personally keep the civil registers; one or more municipal employees are in charge of these activities."¹¹

II. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES OF THE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

64. A vital statistics system was

“the total process of (a) collecting by registration, enumeration or indirect estimation, information on the frequency of occurrence of certain vital events, as well as relevant characteristics of the events themselves and of the person(s) concerned, and (b) compiling, analysing, evaluating, presenting and disseminating these data in statistical form”.¹²

That process was carried out by the civil registration administration in a number of countries and by the vital statistics administration in others. Under any type of administrative arrangement, a vital statistics system always involved several government agencies, and close co-ordination among the agencies was imperative.

65. A long-term goal in vital statistics collection was the establishment of a vital record and statistics system which would yield reliable vital statistics capable of meeting the need for such data. In order to achieve that goal it was of primary importance that the government agency or agencies responsible for the compilation of vital statistics was clearly designated. Because the collection and compilation of vital records was a continuous work, the needed personnel, equipment, supplies etc. should also be provided on a continuous basis. The channels and time schedules for sending reports of vital records from the registration office to the agency responsible for the compilation of vital statistics should be clearly established.

66. The present chapter looks into two aspects of the vital statistics system based on the registration method. The first concerns the administrative arrangement of the system at the national level, namely, which government agency or agencies was responsible for the collection and compilation of national vital statistics. The second concerns the procedures and methods of data collection and compilation. Examples of vital statistics systems in selected countries are given below.

A. VITAL STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION

1. Type of vital statistics

67. The events for which data should be collected in a vital statistics system included live births, deaths,

foetal deaths, marriages, divorces, annulment, judicial separation, adoption, legitimation and recognition. Other events which were of recognized demographic importance, such as change of place of residence, change of citizenship and change of name, were not included in this system because information on those events was usually derived from other statistical systems, such as population registers or port statistics. The registration and statistical compilation of annulment, judicial separation, adoption, legitimation and recognition should have a lower priority than other vital events, although they were an ultimate registration goal. The types of vital statistics discussed in the present *Handbook* are thus limited to live births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriages and divorces.

68. A country having a compulsory civil registration system did not imply that vital statistics were being compiled and published or that they were compiled and published on a complete basis. Many countries or areas had only compiled certain types of vital statistics. Among the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, birth and death statistics were compiled and published in 97 countries or areas and marriage statistics were published in 92, but foetal death and divorce data were available from, respectively, 78 and 77 countries or areas (table 2.1).

69. In Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 28 of the 32 countries or areas compiled and published all five types of vital statistics, three did not publish divorce data and one did not publish foetal death data (table 2.1). Thirteen of the 15 North American countries or areas and five of the eight Oceanian countries or areas also published all five types of vital statistics; in each of the continents two countries did not publish foetal death statistics. About half of the countries in South America and Asia published all five types of vital statistics and four countries in each of the continents did not publish divorce data. For the eight countries that did not compile any vital statistics at all, five were in Africa, two in Asia and one in Oceania.

TABLE 2.1. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF VITAL STATISTICS COMPILED AND PUBLISHED, BY CONTINENT

Continent	All types	Type of vital statistics						Not compiled
		Births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriages, divorces	Births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriages	Births, deaths, marriages, divorces	Births, deaths, marriages	Births, deaths, foetal deaths	Births, deaths	
All areas	105	64	11	13	4	3	2	8
Africa	20	4	1	5	2	1	2	5
America, North	15	13	0	2	0	0	0	0
America, South	10	5	3	0	2	0	0	0
Asia	20	9	3	5	0	1	0	2
Europe-USSR	32	28	3	1	0	0	0	0
Oceania	8	5	1	0	0	1	0	1

2. Type of vital statistics organization

70. Provisions of responsibility for the compilation of vital statistics were generally contained in the national statistics laws or in laws or regulations pertinent to vital statistics, civil registration, public health and so forth. The organization responsible for data compilation was usually one of the following four types: the national statistical services, the national or regional civil registration office, a government agency other than statistics or civil registration, and other offices (including where vital statistics were compiled by two or more government agencies).

71. No recommendations were made concerning the type of vital statistics organization that a country should have since the administrative structures of each country would determine the structure of the vital statistics organization. However, it was recommended that

“responsibility for the maintenance of standards for the design and conduct of the various operations by which vital statistics are collected and compiled should be allocated to a central government agency or agencies. The place of the agency or agencies in the administrative structure will depend on local circumstances, but the aim must be to achieve centralized and peripheral co-ordination amongst the civil registration service, general statistical service, population and migration statistical services, health statistical service, etc., and with research projects which involve consideration of demographic factors, as, for example, in the economic, social or medical field.”¹³

It was further suggested that

“while the arrangements within a given country will naturally depend on the administrative structure existing in that country, centralized co-ordination of statistical activities is desirable in order to ensure that the structure functions efficiently in producing statistics which are based on standard concepts, definitions and classifications and which are embodied in tabulations which meet the needs of the consumers without duplications or omissions. This is important not only in regard to data which are specifically collected by statistical agencies but also for statistical data which are by-products of administrative activities such as those collected by the civil registration system itself, social security services, medical services, labour bureaux, education departments, and alien registers.”¹⁴

72. The Survey asked each country to state the name of the agency responsible for the compilation of vital statistics and the name of the ministry or department which directed or supervised that agency. The names for the 97 countries or areas that have published vital statistics are given in table A.2 of annex I. A summary table showing the number of countries by type of administration is given in table 2.2.

73. The Survey response clearly showed that three quarters of the countries or areas designated the national statistical services as responsible for the compilation of vital statistics. However, that responsibility rested with the Ministry of Health in eight countries or areas and with the national civil registration offices in eight countries.

74. In four countries, namely, the Dominican Republic, Peru, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uruguay, the function was shared by two government agencies,

TABLE 2.2. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR VITAL STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION

Type of administration	Number of countries or areas
All types	97 ^a
National statistical services	73
National health services	8
National civil registration office	8
Two or more agencies	4
Other governmental agencies	3
No information	1

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, eight were not compiling vital statistics.

each of which compiled different types of vital statistics. In Peru, birth and marriage statistics were compiled by the National Statistical Institute (Instituto Nacional de Estadística) and death statistics were compiled by the Ministry of Health. In Uruguay, the General Directorate of Statistics and Census compiled birth, marriage and divorce statistics and the Health Ministry compiled death and foetal death statistics. In the Dominican Republic, the National Statistical Office and Census and the State Secretariat of Public Health shared the responsibility of data compilation and in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bureau of Statistics and the General Directorate of Registration, under the Ministry of Interior, shared this responsibility.

75. In three countries or areas, namely, Belize, Jersey and Monaco, vital statistics were compiled by other governmental agencies. In Belize, the agency was the Central Planning Unit of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. In Monaco, it was the Ministry of Interior. In Jersey, it was the Economic Adviser's Office.

B. VITAL STATISTICS COMPILATION AND REPORTING

1. System of vital statistics compilation

76. When vital events were recorded by the registration method there were generally two distinctive types of systems of vital statistics compilation: the centralized system and the decentralized system. In the centralized system, the local civil registration offices sent the statistical data of all recorded vital events to a national agency through the regular administrative channel on a regular basis. The national agency then compiled and published vital statistics for the country as a whole. The local offices did not compile data or publish vital statistical reports. In the decentralized system, statistical offices at the state, provincial or other local level collected, compiled and might publish vital statistics for that level. The national statistical service compiled the data received from the local offices and published the national and selected local vital statistical reports.

77. It was recommended that

“reports on vital events for statistical purposes should be collected centrally by the agency which is responsible for the statistical compilation”.

However,

“if it is desirable to have data on a subnational basis as well, provision should be made either for channeling original statistical reports through local, state or provincial departments of government or for supplying these agencies with copies of these reports.”¹⁵

78. Some 85 countries or areas had a centralized vital statistics system, and 20 had a decentralized system. As a general rule, countries that had a decentralized civil registration system also had a decentralized system in vital statistics collection and compilation; however, countries that had a centralized civil registration system might have a decentralized vital statistics system. The 85 national agencies responsible for the compilation of vital statistics are given in table A.2. The subnational agencies in the 20 countries that had a decentralized vital statistics system are given in table 2.3.

TABLE 2.3. SUBNATIONAL OFFICES RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPILATION OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR SELECTED COUNTRIES AND AREAS

Country or area	Subnational office
Argentina	Dirección Provincial de Estadística o Dependencias de la Secretaría de Salud Pública (según la provincia)
Australia	State Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics
Brunei	Medical and Health Department, Judicial Department, Religious Department
Canada	Department of Health, Vital Statistics Division
Germany, Federal Republic of	Land Statistical Offices, Federal Ministry of Interior
India	State Office of the Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths
Italy	Officio di statistica comunale, Istituto Centrale di Statistica
Malaysia	
Peninsular Malaysia	Statistical Department
Sarawak	Statistical Department
Pacific Islands	Administrative Districts, Department of Health Service
Poland	Voivodship statistical office, Central Statistical Office
Rwanda	Antennes statistiques préfectorales, Direction générale de la statistique
Spain	Delegaciones Provinciales de Estadística y Delegaciones Ministeriales, Instituto Nacional de Estadística
Sri Lanka	District Registry, Registrar's Department
Switzerland	Bureau de statistique des villes et des cantons, Bureau fédéral de statistique
Thailand	Provincial Medical Office
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Central Statistical Office of each Soviet Republic
United States of America	Office of Vital Statistics, State Health Department
Yugoslavia	Republican statistical offices and statistical offices of the autonomous provinces
Zaire	Divisions régionales de l'institut national de la statistique

2. Methods of statistical reporting

79. For the reporting of vital statistical information from local registrars to the national agency responsible for statistical processing, the following four types of reports were generally used: individual report, collective or list report, summary report and magnetic tapes or cards. The individual report contained all relevant

statistical information of a vital event for a single individual. In some countries, that report was the same as the individual registration form. In other countries it was a different form designed specially for statistical reporting. The collective or list report contained all relevant statistical information of a vital event for more than one individual. The summary report contained only summary vital statistics of an area compiled by a subnational civil registrar or statistical office. No individual information could be identified from this type of report. The magnetic tapes or cards contained individual vital information recorded at either the local registration office or the regional office, based on information provided by local registrars.

80. Those methods of statistical reporting bore no direct relationship to the methods of civil registration which might record all vital events on either the individual form or the book form. Some countries or areas registered all vital events in the book form but used the individual report for statistical reporting, while others might register a vital event in an individual form and reported vital statistics either in the summary type report or the collective type report.

81. The responses from 93 countries or areas on their methods of statistical reporting showed that 66 used the individual report, 16 used the collective or list report, 6 used the summary report and 5 used magnetic tapes or cards (table 2.4). The summary report was used only in Africa and Asia. The methods of magnetic tapes or cards were not used in North or South America and the five countries or areas that were using this method used it to report vital statistics from the regional office to the national office and not from local registrars to the regional office.

TABLE 2.4. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY METHODS OF VITAL STATISTICS REPORTING, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Methods of reporting				
	All types	Individual report	Summary report	Collective report	Magnetic tape or card
All areas	93 ^a	66	6	16	5
Africa	12	3	3	5	1
America, North ..	15	11	0	4	0
America, South ...	9	8	0	1	0
Asia	18	10	3	4	1
Europe-USSR	33	31	0	0	2
Oceania	6	3	0	2	1

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, seven did not respond to this question.

3. Examples of the vital statistics system

(a) Centralized system

(i) Kenya

82. The responsibility of vital statistics compilation rested with the Statistics Section of the Department of Registrar-General, which was also vested with the authority of civil registration administration. The local registrars were responsible for recording the vital events, checking the consistency of the vital records, coding the data and transmitting them to the Registrar-General. No vital statistics were compiled at the local level. The Department of Registrar-General tabulated the local data and produced both local and national reports on an annual basis.

(ii) *Mexico*

83. The Office of Vital Statistics of the General Directorate of Statistics (Dirección General de Estadística) was the national agency responsible for the compilation of vital statistics. Since it had no authority over the local civil registration offices, which were about 4,500 in number and were autonomous in each state, special arrangements have been made with the states to have statistical forms prepared and sent to the Office of Vital Statistics on a monthly basis. Coding and editing of those forms were done in the Office of Vital Statistics. Vital statistics were published annually.

(iii) *Brazil*

84. At the national level, data compilation was the responsibility of the Brazilian Centre for Demographic Studies of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (Fundacao Instituto Brasileiro do Geografia e Estadística). The Institute had no authority over local registration offices which were operated as private enterprises but were regulated by the Tribunal of Justice of each state. The registration offices were obliged by law to submit on a quarterly basis all vital registration data, in the list type of report, to the Institute for processing. The Institute published vital statistics annually.

(iv) *Israel*

85. The Demographic Section of the Central Bureau of Statistics was responsible for the compilation of vital statistics collected from the civil registration offices which were under the direction of the Population Registration Division. The Central Bureau of Statistics processed the vital records and produced vital statistics. The Population Registration Division utilized the processed data to update all registered records. In order to achieve better co-ordination between vital statistics and health statistics, a National Committee of Vital Statistics and Health Statistics was established in 1956 to improve the quality of the data.

(v) *Japan*

86. For each vital event, the local registrar prepared an individual statistical report and sent it to the local health office, which, after editing the reports received, forwarded them monthly to the Statistics and Information Department of the Ministry of Health and Welfare for processing. The Vital Statistics Division of the Statistics and Information Department was exclusively responsible for the compilation of all local and national vital statistics. The results were published in the *Monthly Prompt Report of Vital Statistics*, the *Monthly Report of Vital Statistics* and the annual *Vital Statistics of Japan*.

(vi) *Hungary*

87. The Section of Population Statistics of the Central Statistical Office was in charge of vital statistics compilation. It received the individual vital statistics reports from every district registration inspector who collected and examined the reports prepared by the local registration office. All events recorded in each month must reach the inspectors before the eighth day of the following month. At the central agency, preliminary data were published in the *Monthly Statistical Bulletin* and final data were published on a yearly basis.

(vii) *France*

88. The Division of Population Change and Demographic Studies of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques) was in charge of the compilation of vital statistics. Every three months local registrars sent individual statistical forms to the Institute, where editing, coding and tabulation were carried out. Data were published annually in *La Situation démographique* and in the *Mouvement de la population*.

(b) *Decentralized system*

(i) *Argentina*

89. The responsibility of vital statistics compilation at the provincial level rested with the statistics office of the public health services. The local registrar recorded a vital event in a book and at the same time filled out an individual form for statistical reporting. A duplicate set of the registration record and the individual statistical report were transmitted to the central office of each province for safekeeping, compilation and tabulation. The compilation of vital statistics at the national level was the responsibility of the Department of Vital and Health Statistics of the State Secretariat of Public Health, Ministry of Social Welfare (Departamento de Estadísticas Vitales y de Salud, Secretaría de Estadísticas de Salud Pública, Ministerio de Bienestar Social). The co-ordination of the compilation of the vital statistics of the provinces was a function of the National Committee of Vital and Health Statistics (Comite Nacional de Estadísticas Vitales y de Salud).

(ii) *Canada*

90. The responsibility for gathering vital statistics rested with the vital statistics division of the health authority of each province or territory. The same division was also responsible for civil registration administration. Every vital event was registered on an individual form. The original form was sent to the provincial offices and the copy was kept in the Office of the District Registrar. Those records, which served for both legal and statistical purposes, were numbered, micro-filmed, compiled and tabulated and statistics were published monthly and annually by the province. At the national level, the compilation of vital statistics was a function of the Vital Statistics Section of the Health and Welfare Division, Statistics Canada. According to the general federal-provincial agreement, original vital records of births, deaths, foetal deaths and marriages were made available to Statistics Canada and after processing were returned to the province. Divorce data, however, were provided once a year to Statistics Canada from the Central Divorce Registry of the Department of Justice.

(iii) *India*

91. The State Chief Registrar was responsible for implementing the provisions for the registration of births and deaths as well as for vital statistics compilation within every state. It received registration and statistical reports regularly from the district registrars who supervised the work of the local registrars. After the data were edited, coded and compiled they were transcribed onto a special form and sent to the national Office of the Registrar General in New Delhi. That Office, which was under the Ministry of Home Affairs, was responsible for both civil registration administration and vital statistics compilation for the entire country.

However, no vital statistics were compiled through this system at present. Meanwhile, India had a separate sample registration scheme and all vital statistics were estimated on a sample basis.

(iv) *United States of America*

92. The state vital statistics office, which was under the health authority of each state, was the agency responsible for civil registration administration as well as for vital statistics compilation. It supervised the work of the local vital statistics offices, processed the individual vital records received and produced vital statistics reports. At the national level, the National Center for Health Statistics was in charge of the federal vital statistics programme and provided technical guidance to state vital statistics programmes for improving methods of statistical collection, analysis and dissemination. It also made recommendations on the standardization of vital statistics reporting.

(v) *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*

93. The civil registration administration and the vital statistics administration were functioning under different authorities. At the district and town level, local registration offices prepared two copies of vital records for every event. One copy of the records was sent to the regional or Soviet Republic registration office and the second copy was forwarded to the regional statistical office where the record was classified, edited, coded, processed and recorded. The regional statistical office was obliged to send the compiled data to the Soviet Republic Statistical Board which forwarded the data to the Central Statistics Board of the Soviet Union, where the national vital statistics were compiled and tabulated. Monthly and annual vital statistics were published by the Central Statistics Board and by the Statistical Board of the Republics.

III. THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR

94. The civil registrar was the official legally authorized to register the occurrence of vital events and to represent the legal authority of government in the field of vital registration. That function could be performed by a person designated for the job, by the mayor of a city or a town, by the local prefect, the judge or other officials. There were full-time, part-time, paid and unpaid civil registrars.

95. The function of the civil registrar has also been performed by police officers, physicians, nurses, matrons, church authorities, heads of communities etc. Most of those people did not receive regular salaries as registrars but might be paid certain allowances for their registration duties. Some registrars were not paid explicitly for doing registration work. Some were entirely honorary registrars. The honorary status gave them prestige in the community.

96. Local registrars were those civil registrars who came in contact with the informants. They were the very basis of the civil registration system.¹⁶ There were also civil registrars at higher administrative levels who might not come in contact with the informants. In the present chapter, the identity, duties, responsibilities and type of remuneration of the local registrars are discussed.

A. TYPES OF LOCAL REGISTRARS

97. No recommendation was made concerning the type of person qualified to be a local registrar since it would depend to a great extent on the administrative system as well as the needs and traditions of each country. However, as a means of improving the efficiency of registration work, it was suggested that

“the position of ‘registrar’ should be one of local prestige and responsibility, and remunerated sufficiently to attract competent personnel. . . .

“The national registration authority or its equivalent should take such steps as are necessary to provide guidance and instruction for registrars in carrying out their responsibilities. . . .

“A method of training which can be utilized either alone or in conjunction with the issuance of manuals is the technique of bringing a number of registrars together for group instruction in the elements of their work, or to introduce them to new forms and procedures.

“The establishment of a professional association of registrars for the purpose of exchanging views on the administration of registration as well as its problems is still another method by which the status and work of registrars may be improved. . . .”¹⁷

98. The Survey asked each country to state the identity of the local registrars, for example, the mayor or his deputy, judge, justice of the peace, town or city treasurer, tax collector, civil registrar, village head, school teacher, sub-prefect. A total of 102 countries replied. Details of the answers are given in table A.4 and a summary is given in table 3.1.

TABLE 3.1. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRARS, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Type of local registrar			
	All registrars	Full-time civil registrars	Part-time	
			Administrative/ political and judicial officials	Clergy, health workers and others
Total	102 ^a	55	31	16
Africa	19	7	12	0
America, North	14	8	3	3
America, South	10	7	3	0
Asia	19	7	4	8
Europe-USSR	32	21	7	4
Oceania	8	5	2	1

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, three did not provide any information on this subject.

99. The 102 countries or areas could be grouped into three major categories. The first category included 55 countries in which the recording of vital events was performed by a full-time civil registrar. In those countries or areas, a civil registrar was known as either the civil registry officer, the civil status officer, the chief of the civil registry, the district registrar or other titles. The second category included 31 countries or areas in which administrative, political and judicial officials, for example, mayors, prefects, judges etc. and their deputies, were appointed as local registrars. The third group included 16 countries in which civil registration was carried out by a wide range of persons, such as clergy, school headmasters, teachers, health workers and others. The second and third group of registrars usually carried out the registration function on a part-time basis.

100. About two thirds of the reporting countries in North and South America, Oceania and Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had full-time local registrars to carry out the registration functions. However, more than half of the countries or areas in Africa and Asia relied on local judges, administrative officials, religious and health and other workers to do the registration work on a part-time basis. No matter who were the local registrars, their basic duties and responsibilities were very similar among countries or areas, as may be seen below. There were of course functional differences. For example, a registrar might be responsible for the registration of births and deaths but not for marriages and divorces because the latter registration work was performed by another local registrar in a different department.

101. A local registrar was primarily responsible for his work to the authority that appointed him as registrar. Depending upon the civil registration system, a local registrar might be appointed either by the national registrar or by the state or provincial registrar. He might also be appointed by the mayor of the city or

town, the health authority or by the religious authority. The role of the local registrar in the civil registration system and the ways in which he was appointed are given below for selected countries.

1. Full-time local registrars

102. In Brazil, the local civil registry (*cartorios do registro civil*) was a private enterprise and its operation was supervised by a notary public. Local registrars were hired and thus were paid by the owner of the registry. In Guatemala, the local registrars were nominated by the mayors of cities and towns in accordance with the municipal statute. In general, the tenure of those positions was of a temporary nature because it lasted as long as the tenure of the mayors. A similar situation existed in Peru. The Hungarian commune registrars were commissioned by the Executive Committee of the local council, and town registrars were commissioned either by the leader of the management division of the municipal council or of the metropolitan district council or by the president of the town office. A person was qualified to be a registrar after passing the special examination for registrar. The Mauritius "local civil status officers" were designated by the Registrar General of the Civil Status Department. If a regular local registrar was not appointed, the person in charge of the administrative affairs of the community acted as the civil status officer. In Mexico, the Governor of the Federal District was responsible for appointing the local registrars within his district. Depending upon the vital event, local registrars in Panama were appointed by different political and administrative authorities. In some municipalities the municipal judges were appointed as local registrars on a part-time basis. In the United Kingdom, local civil registrars were known as District Registrars and were appointed by the Registrar-General. They received instructions from the Registrar-General on all matters concerning the regulations and practices of civil registration. In the Soviet Union, local registrars were appointed by the chairman of the local Soviet of Working People's Deputies.

2. Administrative, political and judicial officials as local registrars

103. The mayor of a city, the head of a town or village, the municipal secretary, the town clerk, the local judge, the justice of the peace etc. have served as local registrars in Belgium, Costa Rica, France, French Polynesia, Greece, Honduras, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco and Spain. They represented the local authority in their regular work and were fully responsible for civil registration. Their appointments as civil registrars were stipulated in the civil registration laws and regulations and their work was directed and supervised by the regional and national civil registration administration.

3. Religious and health workers as local registrars

104. Four countries, namely, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden, relied on the clergy to carry out civil registration. In Iceland, the community parson or minister, the head of the community, a judge, a physician or a midwife was responsible for local civil registration. In Denmark and Finland, local registrars were the vicars of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Orthodox Church. However, persons who were not members of a religious group registered the vital event at the district registrar, which was an intermediate administration between municipalities and the national

Government. In Sweden, the local civil registry was administered by the clergy of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church.

105. In Brunei, Canada, India, the Philippines, the United States of America, and Vanuatu, civil registration was carried out by a variety of persons. In India, local registrars in urban areas were generally officials of the health departments, municipal corporations and cantonment boards. In rural areas, they were officials of the local revenue, police, health or *Panchayat* departments. At the state or district level, the district registrar was usually the district medical/health officer or the district statistical officer. In the Philippines, municipal treasurers and municipal district officers were local registrars. In the chartered cities, the city health officers were usually the civil registrars. The local civil registrars of the United States of America were generally appointed by the state registrar or the director of the state vital statistics office. In some states, however, municipal authorities could also appoint local registrars. In Vanuatu, priests, teachers, physicians, nurses, officials of the local council and town clerks were acting as local registrars.

B. TYPES OF REMUNERATION FOR LOCAL REGISTRARS

106. The Survey asked countries or areas to state whether their local registrars received a regular salary as registrars, and if the answer was yes, they were asked how the salary of the local registrar compared with other local personnel, for example, school teachers. Among the 98 countries or areas that responded to the questions, 42 paid their local registrars regular salaries, nine paid fixed fees for each registration and six paid certain allowances. In the remaining 41 countries or areas, local registrars either were not paid explicitly for the registration work or were honorary registrars (tables 3.2 and A.4).

107. In many countries registrars were civil servants and thus were paid as such. For example, the parish clerk of Sweden was paid from tax revenue in the same manner as civil servants doing similar work. In Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Switzerland, civil registrars were also paid regular salaries according to the pay scale of government officials. In the Brazilian private civil registration system, the owners of the registration offices paid their employees or civil registrars salaries plus a bonus on the basis of their performance. The civil registrars in the Congo, Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom (England and Wales)

TABLE 3.2 NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF REMUNERATION FOR LOCAL REGISTRARS, BY CONTINENT

Continent	All types	Type of remuneration				
		Regular salary	Fee per registration	Allowance	Salary but not explicitly as registrar	Honorary
All areas	98 ^a	42	9	6	27	14
Africa	18	5	—	—	7	6
America, North	13	4	5	2	1	1
America, South	10	5	3	—	1	1
Asia	19	6	1	1	10	1
Europe-USSR	31	18	—	2	7	4
Oceania	7	4	—	1	1	1

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, seven did not reply to this part of the inquiry.

were also salaried personnel although they devoted only part of their time to civil registration. The local registrars in Ecuador, Samoa, Swaziland and the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) were civil servants but their salaries were comparatively lower than school teachers or other civil servants.

108. In the Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Sri Lanka and the United States of America, local civil registrars received only fees for their work. In the United States of America, the local registrars were paid a fee by the local authority for each registration they had accomplished except when they were full-time employees of the health or other departments. In Colombia, mayors and notaries public were paid a fee by the informant only if a legal certificate was issued. They were not paid for the registration.

109. Civil registrars received allowances for registration in Brunei, Greece, Ireland, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago and Vanuatu. In Greece, civil registrars were usually mayors or presidents of communes and received a small remuneration in the form of overtime allowances. In Panama, registrars received a nominal payment of about 10 balboas per month. Local registrars in Ireland received annual allowances plus fee per registration.

110. In 27 countries or areas registration work was performed by local government officials as part of their regular work. They received regular salaries as local officials and thus were not explicitly paid for the registration work. In another 14 countries mayors, court judges, clergy or ordinary citizens served as local registrars on an honorary basis and did not receive any form of remuneration for registration work.

C. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL REGISTRARS

111. It was recommended that local registrars "should take responsibility as appropriate for: recording the specified information regarding vital events; ensuring compliance with the registration law; ensuring the accuracy and completeness of each record; adopting such measures as are required to inform the public of the necessity, procedures and requirements for effecting registration, and the value of vital statistics; taking custody of records; and recording and reporting data for statistical purposes".¹⁸

112. The basic duties and responsibilities of local registrars differed very little from the above recommendations among countries. There were, of course, functional differences as the systems of civil registration and vital statistics, the identity of registrars, the procedure of registration etc. were different among countries. Furthermore, the same registration functions might be performed by one registrar singularly or by a number of them collectively. In some countries, the local registrar might designate his deputies to carry out the function of recording and reporting. However, he was responsible for all the registration and statistical functions.

113. The Survey asked countries or areas to state the duties and responsibilities of the local registrar in registration and statistical reporting. Some countries have responded with detailed explanations and supplied

relevant manuals and documents on their systems. A few examples follow.

1. *France*

114. The registrar was responsible for verifying the occurrence of births and deaths and entering them in the respective registers, celebrating civil marriages, recording all other vital events in the registers, maintaining past and current registration records, delivering copies of extracts of the registration records to the persons concerned, concurrently with notaries, legitimizing children born out of wedlock, and preparing reports of vital events for statistical compilation.¹⁹

2. *Hong Kong*

115. In addition to registering all vital events and reporting statistics for compilation, the registrar was responsible for procuring by all the means at his disposal the best and most accurate information concerning any possible omissions of births and deaths which might have occurred in his district. The registrar was responsible for issuing certificates of birth and death and the order for burial, and for instituting inquiries to ascertain the true cause of death if such cause had not been established by a registered medical practitioner. He was also responsible for issuing marriage certificates, filling out and exhibiting in public places notices of marriage and entering the marriages in the appropriate book. He gave written consent to marriages if no parent or lawful guardian was residing in Hong Kong and solemnized marriages upon request.²⁰

3. *Hungary*

116. The registrar was responsible for keeping the registers of births, deaths and marriages, for taking part in ceremonies in connection with vital events, such as marriage, name-giving, civil funerals etc., and for sending reports of vital statistics every month to the district inspectors of the Central Statistics Office.

4. *Philippines*

117. The local registrar was responsible for recording all vital events in his district, publicizing the functions of his office and the obligations of the public for registration, examining the records and certificates presented to him for registration for completeness, legibility and accuracy, signing and dating all certificates when accepting them for filing, maintaining usable files of all records and keeping up-to-date the posting of entries in the corresponding civil registers, and collaborating with census officers of various levels in conducting educational campaigns for improving the level of registration.²¹

5. *United Kingdom (Scotland)*

118. The local registrar was responsible for registering all births, still births and deaths, reporting certain types of deaths and still births to the Fiscal Procurator (a member of the court responsible for investigating crimes and bringing prosecutions), carrying out the statutory preliminaries for marriage, registering all marriages occurring in the registration district and, if authorized for the purpose, officiating at civil marriage ceremonies, recording amendments and other annotations to the entries in the registers, advising the public on registration matters and sending periodical returns and notifications to the Registrar-General for vital statistics compilation.²²

IV. THE INFORMANT

A. TYPES OF INFORMANTS

119. As designated by law, the informant was the individual who reported to the local registrar the fact of the occurrence of a vital event, its characteristics, the persons directly concerned with the event and their characteristics. It was only on the basis of the informant's report that the event was registered and that data for statistical purposes were obtained. Since the identity of the informant had potential effects on the completeness of registrations and on the reliability and usefulness of vital statistics, the informant should be the person best equipped to provide all the facts within the time allowed and at the place specified by law.

120. No recommendations were made with respect to the identity of an informant, but it was stated that "it is important that he should be clearly and unequivocally designated so that one and only one person will have primary responsibility for providing the information needed for registration".²³ Moreover, the responsibilities of an informant "should be clearly and unequivocally designated by law or regulation, and publicized to the degree necessary to establish familiarity with the legal obligations".²⁴ Unless the informant, whether he was the parent, the physician, the midwife, the undertaker, the representative of the hospital or other institution, the participant or the priest, was aware that he was required by law to register the vital event and that no one else shared his responsibility, he could not be expected to comply.

121. The Survey asked the countries or areas to state the identity of the individual legally responsible for declaring to the registrar the fact of the occurrence of live births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriages and divorces. A total of 102 countries or areas responded to the inquiry for live births and deaths, 73 for foetal deaths, 93 for marriages and 60 for divorces. A number of countries listed alternative informants for each of the vital events. In the following discussion, only the main informant is given. The main informant was the individual who appeared first on the list of alternative informants that a country provided in the questionnaire. Details of the informant by type of vital event and by

country are given in table A.5. Summary tables for each type of vital event are given in tables 4.1 to 4.6. The following sections discuss the informant of each vital event separately.

1. Live birth informant

122. Live birth informants could be grouped into three general categories: parents or relatives, attendants and institutional representatives. The first category included the father, the mother, the head of the family, the nearest relative or a family member. Those persons generally had the most detailed knowledge about the characteristics of the family in which the birth occurred. The second category primarily included the persons who delivered or assisted in the delivery of the child, such as the attending physician, the nurse, the midwife or others. Those persons generally had all the necessary medical facts about the new-born but, for birth registration, had to obtain information on the family characteristics of the child from the parents or relatives. The third category included the official of the health system, or of other government agencies, who was assigned to be the informant. He reported the birth to the registrar based on information obtained from the parents or relatives and the persons who assisted in the delivery of the child.

123. Of the 102 countries or areas that responded, 90 stated that the informant was the parents (table 4.1) and 28 stated specifically that it was the father (table A.4). Among them, Austria, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Israel and Yugoslavia indicated that the head of the institution was the informant if the birth occurred in an institution and that the parent must report the birth if it occurred in a house.

124. In nine countries, namely, the Bahamas, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, the Philippines, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United States of America, the attendant had the primary responsibility for reporting the occurrence of a live birth. Only three countries or areas assigned the responsibility of informant to a government official. In Jordan, it was an employee of the Ministry of Health, in the Pacific Islands, it was a district director of health services, and in Tonga, a town officer.

125. It should be borne in mind that the types of main informants given in table 4.1 refer only to those who had the primary responsibility for reporting births. In case the primary informant was unable to fulfil his obligation, other persons were named as alternative informants, including various consanguineous relationships as well as the owner of the house where the event took place or any person having knowledge of the event. However, for most countries, the attendant or a relative who was present at the birth or a person who lived in the same house was usually the person second in line to report the birth. For example, in India, if the birth occurred in a house and the head of the household was absent, the person responsible for reporting the birth

TABLE 4.1 NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF MAIN INFORMANT FOR LIVE BIRTH REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Type of main informant			
	All types	Parents or relatives	Attendant	Institutional representatives
All areas	102 ^a	90	9	3
Africa	19	19	0	0
America, North	14	12	2	0
America, South	10	10	0	0
Asia	19	16	2	1
Europe-USSR	32	27	5	0
Oceania	8	6	0	2

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, three did not provide any information on this subject.

was the nearest relative of the head of the household and, in his absence, the oldest adult male in the house. In the United Kingdom (England and Wales), the second informant, after the father or the mother, was the occupier of the house where the event took place who had knowledge of the birth or any person present at the birth or the person having charge of the child. In countries where the attendant was the main informant, the parents were always the second informant.

2. Death informant

126. The same 102 countries or areas that responded to the question concerning live birth informants gave the identities of death informants. According to the name given, death informants could be grouped into four major categories: relatives, physician or medical personnel, institutional representative and anyone having personal knowledge about the death. The first category included the closest adult relative, the surviving partner or relative, the closest relative present at the death, the head of the household or family, parents or a relative, a member of the family, and so on. They were the persons who had the most detailed knowledge about the personal characteristics of the deceased. The second category included the medical practitioner who attended the illness that caused the death or who had made the post-mortem examination of the body, the representative of the medical institution where the death took place and others. They had the necessary medical knowledge about the deceased, including the cause of death, but, for death registration, they had to obtain the personal characteristics of the deceased from the family, relatives or others. The third category included health officials, other government employees, the undertaker, the funeral director etc. They notified the local registrar of the death, based on information obtained from the family of the deceased and from resources that could provide medical information about the death. The fourth category included anyone having personal knowledge, any person present at the death, two persons present at the death or an owner or occupier of the house.

127. The great majority of countries or areas, 73 of them (table 4.2), placed the primary responsibility for death registration on one of the surviving relatives, who was most likely to have the required information about the deceased and to have an interest in registering the death properly. Many countries stated especially that the informant should be the head of the household or family, the surviving partner or member of the family or

the parents. Some countries gave relatives as the informants without explaining who those relatives were. A few cases required that the relative share the primary responsibility with another person. For example, in the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany and India, the head of the institution was responsible for reporting the death, if the event occurred in an institution. However, if the death occurred in a house, a relative must report it.

128. Nine countries, namely, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Finland, Guinea-Bissau, Israel, Malta, the Philippines, Swaziland and Trinidad and Tobago, designated the physician and other medical personnel as the main informants, and eight countries or areas gave the primary responsibility for reporting a death to a representative of an institution or of a government agency. In the latter group, for example, the informant was an employee of the Ministry of Health in Jordan, a district director of health services in the Pacific Islands and a town officer in Tonga. In Norway, the registration office received from the Probate Court a special report of death, which was issued on the basis of a medical certificate or of a statement given by the relatives of the deceased person. In that case, the court became the informant. In Canada, Jersey, New Zealand and the United States of America, the informant was the person responsible for the disposition of the body, that is, the undertaker.

129. The fourth group of countries or areas assigned a wide range of people as the death informant. In five countries or areas, namely, Australia, Hungary, Malaysia (Sarawak), Samoa and Seychelles, the informant was an owner or an occupier of the house. In another seven countries, the informant was anyone having personal knowledge or any person present at the death or two persons present at the death. In those cases, the informant, for all practical purposes, must be a relative of the deceased person. For example, in Belize, in accordance with the Registration of Birth and Death Ordinance, the principal informants were the relatives of the deceased person present at the death or in attendance during the last illness of the deceased. However, in default of such relatives, the informant was any person present at the death or, in default of such person, the occupier of the house in which the death occurred, if he had knowledge of the fact, or, in default of such occupier, the person responsible for burying the deceased.

3. Foetal death informant

130. Foetal death informants could be grouped into three major categories: parents or relatives, the attendant or medical personnel and others. These classifications were basically the same as those for live births. The first category included the father, the mother, the head of the household or family, and relatives. The second category included the attending physician, the nurse, the midwife or the person who delivered the child. The third category included anyone having personal knowledge, any person present at the foetal death, the person who buried the foetus, an employee of the Ministry of Health etc.

131. Of the 73 countries or areas that provided information on this subject, 52 stated that the main informant was the parents or relatives (table 4.3). In six countries, namely, Austria, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, India,

TABLE 4.2. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF MAIN INFORMANT FOR DEATH REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	All types	Type of main informant			
		Relatives	Physician or medical personnel	Institution representatives	Anyone having personal knowledge
All areas	102 ^a	73	9	8	12
Africa	19	14	2	0	3
America, North ..	14	10	1	2	1
America, South ...	10	8	1	0	1
Asia	19	15	2	1	1
Europe-USSR	32	23	3	2	4
Oceania	8	3	0	3	2

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, three did not provide any information on this subject.

TABLE 4.3. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF MAIN INFORMANT FOR FOETAL DEATH REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Type of main informant			
	All types	Parents or relatives	Attendant	Others
All areas	73 ^a	52	14	7
Africa	10	7	2	1
America, North	10	6	3	1
America, South	5	3	1	1
Asia	12	11	1	0
Europe-USSR	29	20	7	2
Oceania	7	5	0	2

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 24 had no legal provision for foetal death registration and eight did not provide any information on this subject.

Hungary and Yugoslavia, the parents were the informants when the event occurred at home, but the head or a representative of the institution was the informant when the event occurred in an institution, which, in most cases, was a hospital or a clinic.

132. Fourteen countries or areas designated either the physician, the midwife, the person who delivered the child, or the head or a representative of the medical institution as the person responsible for reporting the foetal death. Ten of those countries were in Europe and North America.

133. Seven countries or areas had "other persons" as the main informants. Four countries, namely, Guyana, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Zaire, relied on either two persons present, someone present or anyone having personal knowledge to report the foetal death. The Pacific Islands assigned a district director of health services, Tonga used the town officer and the Canadian provinces relied on funeral directors to report foetal deaths.

134. The majority of the countries or areas, 56 out of 73, stated that the main informant for foetal deaths was the same person responsible for reporting live births. Many of those countries treated foetal death registration as a part of birth registration since only still births were registered. In another 12 countries or areas, the foetal death informant was the same as the death informant. Six countries designated the same person as the main informant for live births, deaths and foetal deaths. In only five countries, the foetal death informant was different from the main informant of either live births or deaths.

4. Marriage informant

135. There were two types of marriage informants: the participants and the official. The participants were the man and woman who got married. They, or one of them, were responsible for reporting to the registrar their marriage within the time allowed by law. An official was the person authorized by law to solemnize the marriage. He might be either a mayor, a judge, a clergyman, a justice of the peace, a marriage officer or a registrar.

136. Of the 93 countries or areas for which data were available, 51 stated that the primary responsibility for reporting the event of marriage rested with the participant and 42 stated that it rested with the official (table 4.4). Three countries, namely, Ireland, Luxembourg and Vanuatu, stated that the identity of the

TABLE 4.4. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF MAIN INFORMANT FOR MARRIAGE REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Type of main informant		
	All types	Participants	Official
All areas	93 ^a	51	42
Africa	15	10	5
America, North	14	2	12
America, South	10	8	2
Asia	16	8	8
Europe-USSR	32	20	12
Oceania	6	3	3

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, seven had no legal provision for marriage registration and five did not provide any answer on this subject.

TABLE 4.5. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF MAIN INFORMANT FOR DIVORCE REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Type of main informant		
	All types	Participants	Clerk of court, representative of religious authorities
All areas	60 ^a	23	37
Africa	10	5	5
America, North	12	3	9
America, South	3	2	1
Asia	9	5	4
Europe, USSR	23	6	17
Oceania	3	2	1

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 34 did not have legal provisions for divorce registration and 11 did not provide any information on this subject.

informant depended on the type of marriage celebration. In Ireland, for example, the informant for a Roman Catholic marriage was the clergy but for all other marriages it was the bridegroom.

5. Divorce informant

137. Divorce informants could be grouped into two categories: the participants and the representative of the court or the religious authority. The first category included, according to the titles given by the countries, either party involved, the participants, the husband, the petitioner, the party to whom the divorce was granted etc. The second category included the representative of the court or the religious authority that granted the divorce. Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 34 did not have legal provisions for divorce registration and 11 did not provide information on this subject. Information was therefore available for only 60 countries or areas. Thirty-seven of them stated that the primary responsibility for reporting a divorce rested with a clerk of the court or a representative of the religious authority, and only 23 countries or areas indicated the participants as the informant (table 4.5).

B. REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

138. In order to ensure proper registration, countries had established different requirements for the informant to report the vital event. The Survey asked the countries or areas to indicate whether the following requirements were needed for registration: (a) fee (for live birth, death, foetal death, marriage and divorce), (b) witness(es) (for live birth, death, foetal death and marriage), (c) doctor's or midwife's certificate or medi-

cal certificate (for live birth, death and foetal death), (d) marriage certificate (for marriage and divorce), (e) presentation of the child before the registrar (for live birth), (f) notice of intended marriage (for marriage), and (g) transcript or certified copy of the divorce record (for divorce). The number of countries or areas that responded to the Survey with respect to live birth, death, foetal death, marriage and divorce registrations were, respectively, 95, 96, 66, 90 and 59. Details of the requirements by type of vital event by country are given in table A.6 and the summaries are given in tables 4.6 to 4.9.

139. Since the requirements for registration were different for each vital event, the following discussion is divided into (a) the requirement for fees, (b) other requirements for birth, death and foetal death registrations and (c) other requirements for marriage and divorce registrations.

1. Registration fees

140. A civil registration system was a compulsory institution by nature. The question of whether the informant should be charged a fee for declaring and registering the occurrence of a vital event had been of interest to civil registration officials for many years. For rites or ceremonies of marriage, baptism and burials, performed by a civil or religious authority, a fee was usually charged for the service. Most countries did not charge a fee for the registration of a vital event but might impose a nominal charge for the issuance of a certificate about the event.

141. The view was expressed that

"in recognition of the fact that the registration of vital events is a legal and obligatory function prescribed by the State, and one which should be facilitated rather than hindered, it is recommended that the registration of vital events, as prescribed by law, be free of charge to the person making the registration, if legal provision with respect to such items as time are complied with".²⁵

That recommendation, however, "does not preclude the imposition of a fee for late (delayed) registrations, i.e., those effected after the expiration of the statutory period, or for searches of the registers and the certification of true copies".²⁶

142. According to data obtained from the Survey, 15 countries or areas required a fee for the registration of a birth, 13 for death registration and five for foetal death registration. Twelve countries or areas, namely, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Jersey, Jordan, Mexico, Swaziland and Zaire, required a fee for the registration of every vital event that was stipulated in their civil registration laws.

143. The number of countries or areas that required a fee for the registration of marriages was 39 and for the registration of divorces, 19 (table 4.6). Those numbers must be interpreted cautiously. Marriages and divorces were social acts and the participants were seeking social recognition for their acts through civil registration. The registration aspect was only a part of the entire recognition process which might also include ceremony, celebration etc. In some countries or areas, paying a fee was considered a necessary component of the recognition process. However, there should be no fee as such for registration when the government official

TABLE 4.6. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS IN WHICH THE REGISTRATION OF VITAL EVENTS WAS SUBJECT TO A FEE, BY VITAL EVENT AND BY CONTINENT

Continent	Vital events				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
All areas	15	13	5	39	19
Africa	6	6	3	9	6
America, North ..	3	2	1	4	5
America, South ..	3	3	1	4	1
Asia	1	1	0	9	2
Europe-USSR ...	2	1	0	9	3
Oceania	0	0	0	4	2

was the informant. Therefore, fees required in countries where the marriage and divorce informants were government officials (see table A.5) could not be fees charged for the registration but rather were for the issuance of certificates or for other processing purposes.

2. Other registration requirements for births, deaths and foetal deaths

144. Other than a fee, the general requirements for live birth, death and foetal death registrations in most countries or areas included medical certificates and a witness of the event (table 4.7).

145. In the case of live birth registration, 39 of the 95 responding countries or areas required only a physician's or midwife's certificate, five required only a witness of birth and 27 required either a medical certificate, a witness or both. Another 22 countries or areas did not need any documents other than a declaration of birth by an informant. Two countries or areas, namely, the Dominican Republic and Jersey, stated that payment of a fee was the only requirement.

146. In the case of death registration, 54 countries or areas required medical certificates and six required a witness. In 28 countries or areas, either a medical certificate or a witness was a satisfactory requirement. In addition, eight countries imposed no requirement other than that a declaration of death be made to the civil registry.

147. Of the 66 countries or areas that responded to the Survey with respect to the requirements for foetal death registration, 49 required a medical certificate, five required a witness and eight required either a medical certificate or a witness or both. Four countries stated that they did not impose any requirement for registration, except a fee.

148. In some countries, for example, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador and Fiji, a witness was required for birth, death and foetal death registrations only if the medical certificate was not available. In Colombia, either a medical certificate, a witness, the presentation of the new-born before the registrar, or a baptismal certificate was required in the case of live birth registration. The presentation of the new-born before the registrar was also required for birth registration in Peru if the birth was not attended by a person of the medical profession. The requirement for registering births and deaths in the Upper Volta varied according to where the event occurred. For events occurring within the clinic service area, registration was undertaken by the medical services. For those occurring outside the service area, registration could proceed, in urban areas, if a verbal

TABLE 4.7. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (OTHER THAN A FEE) FOR LIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND FOETAL DEATH REGISTRATIONS, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Requirements				
	All types	Medical certificate	Witness	Medical certificate and/or witness	None ^a
LIVE BIRTHS					
<i>All areas</i>	71 ^b	39	5	27	24
Africa	15	6	1	8	1
America, North	9	4	2	3	4
America, South	10	2	1	7	0
Asia	12	8	0	4	6
Europe-USSR	19	16	0	3	11
Oceania	6	3	1	2	2
DEATHS					
<i>All areas</i>	88 ^b	54	6	28	8
Africa	15	3	1	11	1
America, North	12	9	1	2	2
America, South	10	2	0	8	0
Asia	16	9	3	4	4
Europe-USSR	28	27	0	1	1
Oceania	7	4	1	2	0
FOETAL DEATHS					
<i>All areas</i>	62 ^b	49	5	8	4
Africa	6	1	1	4	0
America, North	7	6	1	0	1
America, South	6	3	0	3	0
Asia	10	9	0	1	2
Europe-USSR	26	25	1	0	1
Oceania	7	5	2	0	0

^a A fee might be required.

^b Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 24 had no legal provisions for foetal death registration, one had legal provision but no foetal death registration was done, and, respectively, 10, 9 and 14 did not provide any information on the requirements for the registration of live births, deaths and foetal deaths.

statement from the informant supported by two witnesses was given, and in rural areas, if a verbal statement from the chief of the village was given. In Mauritius, a medical certificate and witnesses were required only for deaths in urban areas and for foetal deaths in certain areas. In Senegal, witnessing the event was required in rural areas.

3. Other registration requirements for marriages and divorces

149. The general requirements for marriage registration for most of the countries or areas included a

notice of intended marriage, a marriage certificate or marriage licence and the witnessing of the ceremony. Thirty-nine countries or areas stated that only one of the above three requirements was needed: 14 required a notice of intended marriage, 10 required the marriage certificate and 15 required witnesses of the marriage ceremony (table 4.8). The majority of the countries or areas, 49 out of the 88, stated, however, that two or more of the three requirements were needed.

150. Among the requirements for divorce registration, as table 4.9 shows, a transcript or a certified copy

TABLE 4.8. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (OTHER THAN A FEE) FOR MARRIAGE REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Requirements							
	All types	Notice of intended marriage	Marriage certificate	Witnesses	Notice of intended marriage, marriage certificate and witnesses	Notice of intended marriage and witnesses	Marriage certificate and witnesses	Notice of intended marriage and marriage certificate
<i>All areas</i>	88 ^a	14	10	15	18	21	5	5
Africa	15	1	1	4	3	5	1	0
America, North	13	2	1	3	3	2	1	1
America, South	10	1	2	1	0	5	0	1
Asia	15	1	3	3	5	1	2	0
Europe-USSR	28	7	3	4	5	5	1	3
Oceania	7	2	0	0	2	3	0	0

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, seven had no legal provision for registration and eight did not provide any information on this subject, one required only a fee and another required only notification to the registrar.

of the divorce record and the marriage certificate were needed in most countries. Some 32 countries or areas required only a transcript or a certified copy of the divorce record and eight required only the marriage certificate; 15 required both documents. In Japan, a copy of the court decision was required for divorces granted by the court; however, witnesses were required for divorces agreed by mutual consent. On the other hand, a witness was the only requirement in the Republic of Korea. In two countries, namely, the Dominican Republic and Panama, the payment of a fee was the only requirement for divorce registration.

151. Some countries have imposed other requirements in addition to the above. For example, a transcript or a certified copy of the divorce record, if either the bride or the groom was previously married, was required in Botswana and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and a medical certificate was required in the Central African Republic and the United States of America. In Bangladesh, the payment of a fee was the only requirement for marriage registration.

TABLE 4.9. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TYPE OF GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (OTHER THAN A FEE) FOR DIVORCE REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Requirements				
	All types	Transcript or certified copy of the divorce record	Marriage certificate	Transcript or certified copy of the divorce record and marriage certificate	Transcript or certified copy of the divorce record and/or witnesses
All areas	57 ^a	32	8	15	2
Africa	9	6	1	2	0
America, North	8	2	3	3	0
America, South	3	1	1	1	0
Asia	9	2	1	4	2
Europe-USSR	25	20	2	3	0
Oceania	3	1	0	2	0

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 34 did not have legal provisions for registration, two required only a fee and 12 did not provide any information on this subject.

V. TIME AND PLACE OF REGISTRATION

152. A vital event was defined in terms of time and space. A time reference placed the vital event within a defined calendar period and a space or geographic reference placed the event within the boundaries of an administrative unit. In relating vital events to a time period, the records might be registered and tabulated according to the date when the event occurred or the date when the event was registered. In relating those events to a geographic reference, the records might be registered and tabulated according to the place of occurrence, the place of residence or other places, each of those places having physical boundaries which were defined either politically, administratively or geographically. The present chapter discusses the length of time allowed for registration and national practices concerning the geographic basis for registration.

A. TIME ALLOWED FOR THE REGISTRATION

153. Every vital event must be registered within a certain period of time after its occurrence. Because the nature of each event was different and the persons involved and the information required for registration were not the same, the time allowed for registration varied according to the type of event. The time might also vary according to the place of residence, owing to the different geographical accessibility of the registration office. Every country or area had prescribed in its civil registration laws or regulations those time allowances. If the allowed time was exceeded, a fine was generally imposed on the informants for late registration. The purpose of the fine was to reinforce proper and timely registration and to avoid any possible problems which might arise with respect to the processing of data and thus to the coverage of vital statistics.

154. With respect to the time allowance for registration,

“the maximum period to be allowed between the occurrence and the obligatory registration of a vital event should be determined with respect to all the contributory factors operating in the country and should be as short as is consistent with facilitating the current and accurate registration of all necessary facts.

“... it is axiomatic that the shorter the period of time allowed to elapse between the occurrence of an event and its registration (and the stricter the enforcement of the requirement), the more accurate will be the information obtained.

“Every civil registration system should recognize the inevitability of delayed or late registration... Provision should be made for registering these events in a way which will discourage repetition, but not discourage registration.”²⁷

155. In the Survey, countries were asked to “give the maximum time period prescribed by law within which to register live births, foetal deaths, deaths, marriages, divorces” and “how are delayed (i.e., after

the expiration of the statutory period) registrations effected?” A total of 103 countries or areas reported the time allowed for the registrations for live births and deaths, 74 for foetal deaths, 93 for marriages and 59 for divorces. Table A.7 gives detailed information on this subject for each vital event, and summaries are given in tables 5.1 to 5.7.

1. Live births

156. Most countries or areas, 72 out of 103, required that a live birth should be registered within the first month after the child was born. Seventeen countries or areas permitted registration within two months of the birth of the child, and six within three months. Three countries or areas allowed registration to be done after three months of the birth. In another five countries or areas, the time-limit was not specified in their laws or regulations (table 5.1).

157. Over half of the countries or areas required registration to be completed within the first month of a live birth. Eighty per cent of the countries or areas in South America and Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were in this category. The shortest allowed time was one day in Czechoslovakia, Finland, Hungary and Malaysia (Sabah). In Hungary, the birth should be registered on the next working day if it occurred in an institution and within eight days if it occurred elsewhere. Belgium, France, French Polynesia, Monaco, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States of America allowed a period of three days for registration. Denmark allowed two days for births occurring in urban areas and eight days for those occurring in rural areas. Argentina permitted three days to register a birth occurring in the capital city and 14 days for a birth occurring in the interior. The corresponding periods for Uruguay were 10 and 20 days respectively. In India, registration must be done within seven days in urban areas and within 14 days in rural areas. In Iraq, all births occurring in an institution had to be registered on the next working day. For births occurring in other places, the allowed time was 15 days

TABLE 5.1. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TIME ALLOWED FOR LIVE BIRTH REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	All lengths	Time allowed since birth				
		Within one month	Within two months	Within three months	More than three months	Not fixed
All areas	103 ^a	72	17	6	3	5
Africa	19	10	3	2	2	2
America, North	14	11	2	1	0	0
America, South	10	8	1	1	0	0
Asia	20	12	6	0	1	1
Europe-USSR	32	25	3	2	0	2
Oceania	8	6	2	0	0	0

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, two did not provide any information on this subject.

for urban areas and 30 days for rural areas. The time-limit in the United States of America varied according to the state, ranging from 3 to 10 days. In general, most countries or areas allowed from 1 to 15 days to register a birth.

158. In the 17 countries or areas that allowed two months for registration, Mexico had a 40-day period if the informant was the mother and 15 days if the informant was the father. Ten countries or areas, namely, Belize, Brunei, Hong Kong, the Isle of Man, Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak), Singapore, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom (England and Wales and Northern Ireland), had a time-limit of 42 days or six weeks. Apparently, that was the time-limit followed by most British Commonwealth countries. Australia, on the other hand, allowed 28 to 60 days for registration, depending on the province.

159. The longest time allowed (12 months) was found in Malaysia (Sabah) and Swaziland. No time-limit was fixed in Iceland, Macau, Malawi, Rwanda and Sweden. It should be mentioned that the time allowed for registration given by countries or areas was the legally designated period, that is, the statutory time-limit given in the registration laws or civil codes. In practice, late registration without being fined was not uncommon in many countries or areas, owing to various difficulties in reinforcing the registration regulations.

2. Deaths

160. Most countries or areas allowed only a few days to complete the death registration. Table 5.2 groups the countries or areas into five categories: one to three days, four to seven days, 8 to 30 days, more than 30 days and time not fixed. Of the 103 countries or areas that responded to the inquiry 57 allowed one to three days, 13 permitted four to seven days and 22 required from 8 to 30 days. In other words, 92 countries or areas required that registration be done within the first month of death. Only six countries had a time-limit of more than 30 days and five had no fixed time-limit.

161. The 57 countries or areas that had a time-limit of one to three days included seven in Africa, seven in South America, nine in North America, 11 in Asia, 22 in Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and one in Oceania. Most of their registration laws or regulations stated that a death must be registered before burial. In other words, death registration was a necessary requirement for obtaining a burial permit.

162. The shortest time allowed for death registration was 24 hours or one day. Twenty-nine countries or areas have adopted this practice (see table A.7). A large number of European countries required that registration be done within two or three days. The 13 countries indicating four to seven days for registration included four in Asia, four in Oceania, three in North America and two in Europe. For the 22 countries in the 8 to 30 days category, 11 allowed two weeks, one allowed three weeks and nine allowed four weeks. The longest time-limit was one year, in Ireland and Swaziland, followed by a six-month limit in Kenya and a three-month limit in Guyana.

3. Foetal deaths

163. Seventy-four countries or areas responded to this part of the Survey. Using the same time classification as for death registration, 32 countries could be grouped in the one to three days category, seven allowed four to seven days, 21 allowed 8 to 30 days, 11

TABLE 5.2. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TIME ALLOWED FOR DEATH REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Time allowed (days) after death					
	All lengths	1-3	4-7	8-30	31 and over	Not fixed
All areas	103 ^a	57	13	22	6	5
Africa	19	7	0	5	4	3
America, North	14	9	3	2	0	0
America, South	10	7	0	2	1	0
Asia	20	11	4	5	0	0
Europe-USSR	32	22	2	5	1	2
Oceania	8	1	4	3	0	0

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, two did not provide any information on this subject.

permitted 31 days and over and three had no fixed time-limit (table 5.3). Most responding countries or areas in Africa, North America, South America, Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics required that registration be completed within the first week of the event. Over half of the countries in Asia and Oceania allowed a registration period of 4 to 30 days. In many countries or areas registration of foetal deaths followed the same practice as that of either birth or death registration and the time allowed for foetal death registration followed that for either birth or death registration.

4. Marriages

164. There were considerable variations among the countries or areas with respect to the time allowed for

TABLE 5.3. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TIME ALLOWED FOR FOETAL DEATH REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Time allowed (days) after birth					
	All lengths	1-3	4-7	8-30	31 and over	Not fixed
All areas	74 ^a	32	7	21	11	3
Africa	9	4	0	3	2	0
America, North	10	5	2	2	1	0
America, South	7	4	0	2	1	0
Asia	12	2	3	5	2	0
Europe-USSR	29	17	0	6	3	3
Oceania	7	0	2	3	2	0

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 24 did not have legal provisions for foetal death registration and seven did not provide any information on this subject.

TABLE 5.4. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TIME ALLOWED FOR MARRIAGE REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Time allowed (days)				
	All lengths	One day or at the time of the marriage ceremony	2-30	Over 30	Not fixed
All areas	93 ^a	41	32	10	10
Africa	16	2	7	6	1
America, North	13	6	7	0	0
America, South	10	4	5	0	1
Asia	16	6	3	2	5
Europe-USSR	32	23	5	2	2
Oceania	6	0	5	0	1

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, seven did not have legal provisions for marriage registration and five did not provide any information on this subject.

marriage registration. The 93 responding countries or areas could be classified into four categories: one day, 2 to 30 days, more than 30 days and time not fixed. The one-day category was the same as at the time of the marriage ceremony and many countries actually responded in that manner (table 5.4).

165. Forty-one countries or areas required the registration be completed on the day of the marriage ceremony; 23 of the 32 European countries were in this category. Another 32 countries allowed a period of up to one month; about 90 per cent of the countries in North and South America have adopted this practice. Ten countries or areas permitted registration to be completed within 30 days to one year and another 10 had no time restrictions for registration.

166. Of the 10 countries or areas that had a registration period of more than 30 days, the longest period was one year for Swaziland, which had a voluntary marriage registration system. Greece had a 40-day limit. Six countries or areas, namely, the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, the Isle of Man, Malawi, Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia) and Sri Lanka, allowed a three-month period to complete the registration and two countries, namely, Chad and the Upper Volta, allowed a two-month period. The time allowed for registration in different states of the United States of America varied from 15 to 45 days and in the provinces of Canada from two days to one year.

5. Divorces

167. Since many countries or areas did not have legal provisions for recording divorces, only 59 replied to the question on the time allowed for divorce registration. Among them, 19 countries or areas, or about one third, required that registration be completed the same day, that is, on the day the divorce was granted, 10 permitted from 2 to 15 days, seven allowed 30 days and more, and 23 had no fixed time-limit (table 5.5). However, it was believed that many countries that had no time-limit might actually register all divorces immediately, either by the court that granted the divorce, as part of its routine procedure, or by the civil registry as soon as it was informed by the court of a divorce. Therefore, only those seven countries that had more than a 30-day registration period were considered to have a relatively long registration period.

168. Most countries or areas in Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Oceania and South America that responded to the Survey required that registration be completed within the first two weeks

after a divorce was granted. Among the eight countries allowing a registration period of more than 30 days, the longest period was 12 months for some provinces of Canada. Countries having regional systems of civil registration might have different time allowances for divorce registration among regions. For example, Canada's provinces had different registration periods, varying from two days to one year. The registration periods also varied from 15 to 45 days among those states of the United States of America that had divorce registration requirements.

B. GEOGRAPHIC BASIS FOR REGISTRATION

169. There were certain definite advantages in registering a vital event at the place at which it occurred. It might reasonably be assumed that an event would be more likely to be registered within the legal time-limit if it was done at the place at which it occurred. However, registration according to place of usual residence was also very important not only from a legal point of view but also to understand the social and economic backgrounds of the persons involved. Therefore, the choice of geographic basis for registration varied among countries.

170. It was recommended that

"Each vital event should be registered in the primary registration unit in which it occurred.

"The place of residence should always be reported . . . and if the registered event concerns a resident of a locality other than that where the event occurred, it is desirable also to make such arrangements as are required to inform the registrar of the place of residence concerning the event.

"The choice of the place where registration is to be made depends on national practice, on local custom, and on environmental factors peculiar to each country, but generally registration in the place of occurrence will facilitate compliance, minimize the chance of error and delay, and increase the usefulness of the resulting records. This obligation does not preclude arrangements for reallocation of records or notifications to place of residence, or the necessity of tabulating data by place of residence."²⁸

171. The Survey asked the countries or areas whether vital events were registered according to place of occurrence, place of residence or other places. In the case of place of residence, the residence of the person directly involved in each vital event should be specified. If it was a place other than the place of occurrence or of residence, the place should be specified. For the time reference of the final annual tabulations, countries were asked to indicate whether the date of registration for each of the vital events was used.

172. The number of countries or areas that responded to the inquiry on place of registration was 104. As may be seen from tables 5.6 to 5.10 and table A.8, the place of occurrence of a vital event was predominantly the place indicated for registration. Countries indicating residence as the place of registration amounted to 10 per cent or less of all the countries or areas that have sent any information. Although the Survey did not ask the countries to give reasons for selecting a particular basis, the large proportion of those using place of occurrence as the place for registration seemed to support the observation that "registration by place of residence, if different from the place of occurrence, would not only

TABLE 5.5. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TIME ALLOWED FOR DIVORCE REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Time allowed (days)				
	All lengths	One	2-15	30 and over	Not fixed
All areas	59 ^a	19	10	7	23
Africa	10	0	2	2	6
America, North . .	10	1	3	1	5
America, South . .	3	3	0	0	0
Asia	9	3	1	0	5
Europe-USSR . . .	23	9	4	4	6
Oceania	4	3	0	0	1

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 34 did not have legal provisions for divorce registration and 12 did not provide any information on this subject.

introduce a time lag which could be dangerous in its results, but would also complicate the delineation of the geographic area for control activities".²⁹ However, some countries or areas indicated that the informant was permitted to register a vital event either in the place of occurrence or in the place of residence in order to facilitate the registration. Those cases will be discussed below for different vital events.

1. Live births

173. For registration of live births, 96 of the 104 responding countries or areas indicated that the place of occurrence was the place indicated for birth registration (table 5.6). Eight countries or areas gave the mother's residence as another place of registration. Only eight countries, namely, Denmark, Finland, Israel, Japan, Morocco, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Sweden, stated that the mother's residence was the only place of registration.

174. The above-mentioned countries, excluding Morocco, had a population registration system and every person was registered at the place of permanent residence. In those countries, it was easier to maintain a population register if a vital event was registered at the place of permanent residence of the people involved. The place of registration of a live birth was therefore the parent's, or mainly the mother's, permanent residence. It might also be noted that in order to ensure prompt registration, the main informant of a live birth in the four Nordic countries mentioned above was the midwife or the parent. A similar case was found in Israel, where midwives notified the registration office of all children not born in hospitals, although the main informant was the parent of the child. In Japan, a birth was declared at the place of occurrence but registered at the place at which the family household registration (permanent registration) was located. In the Republic of Korea, the current residence of the mother, if it was different from her permanent residence, could also be the place of registration.

175. Twelve countries indicated that a live birth had to be registered at the place of occurrence and at the place of residence of the mother (table A.8). Presumably, registration at either one of the two places was fulfilment of the registration requirement.

2. Deaths

176. The 96 countries or areas requiring that deaths be registered at the place of occurrence also required that births be registered at the place of occurrence. Only eight countries or areas required that registration be done at the place of residence of the decedent and one country required that it be done at the place of burial (table 5.7). Twelve countries or areas permitted death registration to be done at either the place of occurrence or the place of residence of the decedent (table A.8).

3. Foetal deaths

177. Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to this part of the inquiry, 24 did not have legal provisions for foetal death registration. In addition eight did not provide any answer to the inquiry. Of the 73 countries or areas that responded, 68 indicated that registration should be done at the place of occurrence, including one at the place of burial, and five indicated the place of

residence of the mother (table 5.8). Six countries that had a permanent population register required that foetal death registration be done at the place of residence of the mother. Another nine countries permitted the registration to be done at either the place of occurrence or the place of residence of the mother (table A.8).

4. Marriages

178. Ninety-six countries or areas answered the question on the place of marriage registration. Eighty-six gave the place of occurrence as the registration place and 10 stated the residence of either the bride or the groom as the registration place (table 5.9). Eleven of the

TABLE 5.6. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY PLACE OF LIVE BIRTH REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Place of registration		
	All places	Occurrence ^a	Residence of mother
All areas	104 ^b	96	8
Africa	19	18	1
America, North	15	15	0
America, South	10	10	0
Asia	20	17	3
Europe-USSR	32	28	4
Oceania	8	8	0

^a Four countries in Africa, one in North America, three in Asia and four in Europe indicated that registration could be done at the place of the mother's residence.

^b Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, one did not provide any information on this subject.

TABLE 5.7. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY PLACE OF DEATH REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Place of registration		
	All places	Occurrence	Residence of decedent
All areas	104 ^a	96	8
Africa	19	18	1
America, North	15	15	0
America, South	10	10	0
Asia	20	17	3
Europe-USSR	32	28	4
Oceania	8	8 ^b	0

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, one did not provide any information on this subject.

^b Including one country in which the place of registration was the place of burial.

TABLE 5.8. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY PLACE OF FOETAL DEATH REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Place of registration		
	All places	Occurrence	Residence of mother
All areas	73 ^a	68	5
Africa	7	7	0
America, North	12	12 ^b	0
America, South	6	6	0
Asia	12	11	1
Europe-USSR	29	25	4
Oceania	7	7	0

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 24 did not have legal provisions for foetal death registration and eight did not provide any information on this subject.

^b Including one at the place of burial.

TABLE 5.9. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY PLACE OF MARRIAGE REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Place of registration		
	All places	Occurrence	Residence of bride or groom
All areas	96 ^a	86	10
Africa	15	15	0
America, North	15	15	0
America, South	10	8	2
Asia	17	13	4
Europe-USSR	32	28	4
Oceania	7	7	0

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, seven did not have legal provisions for marriage registration and two did not provide any information on this subject.

86 countries or areas registering marriages where they occurred also required that the registration be done at the place of residence of either the bride or the groom (table A.8). The 10 countries that used the place of residence of the bride or the groom as the only place for registration included the seven countries mentioned above as having a population registration system, plus Bangladesh, Ecuador and Uruguay. Bangladesh indicated that the registration place was the residence of the bride, and the Republic of Korea indicated that it was the residence of the groom.

179. Owing to various ethnic origins and religious practices within a country or area and to different provincial or state laws concerning the marriage registration process, there might be different marriage registration practices within the country. For example, marriage registration was voluntary in Macau, Swaziland and the Upper Volta and therefore many marriages were simply not registered. In Kenya, only monogamous marriages contracted under the Marriages Act were registered with the Registrar General, while marriages contracted under the Mohamedan Marriages and Divorces Registration Act were registered with the Chief of Kaddi. Other marriages were not registered. The place of registration given by Kenya was nevertheless the place of occurrence. In Brunei, the Civil Marriage Registration Law did not cover marriages contracted among the Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Dayak communities which had their own laws and customs for marriage. Therefore marriages might not be registered at any place, at the place of occurrence or at the place of residence of the bride or of the groom.

5. Divorces

180. Sixty countries or areas responded that a divorce was to be registered at either the place of occurrence, the place of residence of the husband or wife or other places; 11 did not answer this part of the question (table 5.10). Thirty-four countries or areas did not have legal provisions for divorce registration.

TABLE 5.10. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY PLACE OF DIVORCE REGISTRATION, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Place of registration			
	All places	Occurrence	Residence of husband or wife	Others
All areas	60 ^a	33	10	17
Africa	9	5	1	3
America, North	12	10	0	2
America, South	2	0	1	1
Asia	10	7	3	0
Europe-USSR	24	8	5	11
Oceania	3	3	0	0

^a Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 34 did not have legal provisions for divorce registration and 11 did not provide any information on this subject.

181. Thirty-three countries or areas gave the place of occurrence as the place of registration. For most of them, that was the location of the court or office where the divorce was granted. Among those countries or areas, the Congo, Poland, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Zaire indicated that the residence of either the husband or the wife was also the place of registration. The 10 countries or areas that used the residence as the place of registration included Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Guinea-Bissau (wife's residence only), the Isle of Man, Israel, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea (husband's residence only) and Sweden. In addition, Denmark, Finland, Israel, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Sweden required that registration of all other vital events be carried out at the place of residence.

182. Divorce registration was different from marriage, birth and death registration in many respects. The place of occurrence for divorce was not always as clearly identifiable as it was for other vital events. Most divorce decrees were granted by the court and the event was routinely registered there. The court should therefore be the place of occurrence if the court registration was considered as part of the civil registration system. However, in some countries, besides the court record, a registration of divorce was made at the civil registrar's office upon receipt of the notification of divorce from either the court or the parties themselves (see table A.8). In that case, either the location of the civil registry or the location of the court was the place of occurrence. The 17 countries or areas that reported other places as the place of occurrence mostly involved cases where the local civil registrar recorded information about divorces in the original marriage registration record which was kept on file at his office. In that case, the local civil registry, which kept the original marriage registration record of the divorced couple, recorded the divorce in the margin or in a special place on the original marriage registration record.

VI. AVAILABILITY OF VITAL STATISTICS AND TIME REFERENCE FOR DATA TABULATIONS

183. The civil registration system provided the basic source of information for vital statistics on a continuous basis. In some countries or areas, the health and judicial systems also provided vital statistical information not covered by the civil registration system. Even without legal provisions for civil registration, statistical information was available for some vital events because the civic and health codes of a country might require routine record keeping by, for example, the health clinics or the undertakers, in cases of foetal deaths, and the courts, in cases of divorce records. The information was sent directly to the statistical agency for processing, and the civil registration authority might not be involved in those cases.

184. The present chapter looks into some aspects of vital statistics compilation. It examines how each country defined a vital event statistically, what types of vital statistics were compiled and what were the time references for data tabulations. For statistical purposes countries have given a definition for each vital event. Those statistical definitions were usually the same as the definitions used for civil registration purposes. The Survey asked the countries or areas to supply their statistical definitions for each vital event and to state what kind of vital statistics were compiled and published regardless of whether there were legal provisions for registering the event. It further asked the countries to state whether the tabulation for each vital event was made on the basis of the date of occurrence or the date of registration. Moreover, information regularly collected through the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* Questionnaire on Vital Statistics concerning the availability of vital statistics at the international level was also used in the analysis. Those aspects are discussed in the sections below.

A. DEFINITIONS OF VITAL EVENTS FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES

185. The *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* has given a definition for each vital event for statistical purposes (see table A.9). Recognizing that countries have defined each vital event differently from one another and hoping that a better international comparability of vital statistics might be achieved, it was recommended that

"the definition of each event on which data are to be collected for vital statistics purposes should conform, in so far as possible, with the definitions for statistical purposes given in paragraph 46 below. If the legal concept or definition in any country cannot be harmonized with these, provision should be made to report the events for statistical purposes, as defined below, or in accordance with definitions which do not differ in principle from those below. If this is impossible, full description of divergencies should be given wherever statistics of these events appear".³⁰

186. The Survey asked the countries or areas to

state their statistical definitions for live births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriages and divorces. Of the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 80 replied to this part of the questionnaire. However, some did not supply definitions for all five vital events as they did not record all five types of vital event. For most countries, the statistical definitions were the same as the legal definitions and were also the same as those recommended by the United Nations. There were no differences with respect to what was considered to be deaths, marriages and divorces, except for the choice of words in defining them. The national definitions might be simpler or more complicated than the definitions recommended by the United Nations. However, there were differences in what was considered to be live births and foetal deaths, both events describing the outcome of conception. The following sections therefore discuss only live birth and foetal death definitions. The definitions recommended by the United Nations for the five vital events and national definitions are given in table A.9.

1. Live births

187. A live birth was defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as

"the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered live-born".³¹

An examination of the 80 national definitions showed that more than 70 were basically the WHO definition. A few had not defined a live birth but stated that a birth that was not a foetal death was a live birth. Only five had somewhat different definitions from that of WHO. Those definitions are reproduced in table A.9 in their original form. It should be noted that many countries or areas did not supply the full text but only an abridged version of their live-birth definitions.

188. Of the five countries that had somewhat different definitions from those of WHO, three described live births as live births born after a period of 28 weeks of gestation (Kenya, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), two required the foetus to survive at least 24 hours after separation from the mother (Poland and Zaire), and one required that the foetus measure at least 35 centimetres or weigh at least one kilogram (the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). The purpose of having those live-birth conditions seemed to be to provide clearer distinctions between live births and foetal deaths. A birth at less than 28 weeks of pregnancy, or below certain criteria but alive at the time of registration, would certainly be considered and registered as a live birth for medical,

registration, statistical or whatever purposes. Without the additional conditions, a foetus born with any sign of life must be registered as a live birth even if it died within a few hours after its birth. In eight countries or areas, namely, Algeria, France, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, the Netherlands Antilles, St. Pierre and Miquelon and the Syrian Arab Republic, live-born infants who died before registration were excluded from the live-birth counts. Only France and the Netherlands Antilles indicated that those deaths were included as foetal deaths.³² Presumably, the same practice was followed in the other areas mentioned above.

2. Foetal deaths

189. According to WHO, "foetal death is death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy; the death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the foetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles".³³

Clearly, a product of conception, after it was separated from the mother, was a foetal death if it was not a live birth.

190. According to the length of gestation, foetal death was further classified into three major categories: early foetal deaths at less than 20 completed weeks of gestation, intermediate foetal deaths at 20 but less than 28 weeks and late foetal deaths at 28 weeks or more. The term "still births" should be used only if it was essential for national purposes, and, in that case, it should be regarded as synonymous with late foetal deaths.³⁴

191. Most countries or areas that responded to the Survey had adopted the above definition. A few which did not have legal provisions for compulsory foetal death registration had also supplied their foetal death definitions. Thirty countries or areas indicated that their foetal death registrations covered only late foetal deaths or "still births", and five covered only early foetal deaths.

192. Another five countries required the dead foetus to be at least 35 centimetres in length, two countries required it to be at least one kilogram and one that it be at least 400 grams in weight. The countries or areas using late and early foetal death definitions or having specific requirements in length or weight of the foetus are given in table 6.1.

193. In the compilation of statistics, however, countries have made different adjustments for inclusion or exclusion of some foetal deaths in their calculations, mostly for practical purposes. The United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* reported, for example, that some countries have excluded deaths of those fetuses less than three months of gestation (Mexico) or 11 weeks (Japan) even though the WHO definition was used in those countries.³⁵ Norway collected foetal death data for deaths of 16 weeks or more of gestation although the late foetal death definition was used.³⁶ Five countries, namely, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Seychelles and the Syrian Arab Republic, had no legal provisions for foetal death registration but had supplied statistics to the United Nations before 1975.³⁷ It was reported also that a foetal death was registered as both

TABLE 6.1. COUNTRIES OR AREAS DEFINING FOETAL DEATHS AS LATE FOETAL DEATHS, STILL BIRTHS OR EARLY FOETAL DEATHS OR HAVING SPECIFIC CONDITIONS IN THEIR FOETAL DEATH DEFINITIONS

Conditions	Countries or areas
Late foetal deaths (still births, 28 weeks, 6 months or 180 days or more of gestation)	Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Hong Kong, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia), the Netherlands, Norway, Rwanda, Samoa, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom (England and Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland), Yugoslavia
Early foetal deaths (20 weeks or more of gestation)	Australia, Canada, Malaysia (Sabah), Puerto Rico, the United States of America
35 centimetres or more in length	Austria, Bulgaria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
One kilogram or more in weight	Australia, ^a Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Lived less than 24 hours after delivery	Zaire
Live-born but died before registration ^b	Algeria, France, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, the Netherlands Antilles, St. Pierre and Miquelon, the Syrian Arab Republic

^a Four hundred or more grams.

^b Conditions not stated in the definition of foetal death but applied in the compilation of statistics.

a live birth and a death in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Venezuela.³⁸ As mentioned in the previous section on live births, a number of countries included deaths of live-born foetuses as foetal deaths if the foetuses died before a live-birth registration was made. Such provisions were not stated in the foetal death definitions of those countries.

B. THE AVAILABILITY OF VITAL STATISTICS AND THE COMPLETENESS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

194. Information on births, deaths, foetal deaths, infant deaths, marriages and divorces has been collected through the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* Questionnaire on Vital Statistics from every country or area of the world. The numbers and rates of births, deaths and infant deaths have been published quarterly each year in the United Nations *Population and Vital Statistics Report* and more detailed data are published in the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook*. The Survey of Vital Statistics Methods also asked countries or areas to state the type of vital statistics compiled and published. As there was much more information available from the *Demographic Yearbook* Questionnaire, the following discussion is based on material from both the Survey results and the *Demographic Yearbook* Questionnaire.

195. The number of countries or areas responding to the *Demographic Yearbook* Questionnaire in recent years was 152. Eleven countries or areas were known to have regulations governing the registration of births and deaths but have not compiled any statistics (table 6.2). Another 40 countries or areas, mostly in Africa and Asia, did not respond to the Questionnaire and no reports on their vital events could be found. For those 40 countries or areas, there was virtually no information available on either the existence of a civil registration system or the availability of vital statistics.

196. Generally, more information was available for live births, deaths and marriages than for foetal deaths and divorces. Not only were the processes and problems of registration of foetal deaths and divorces more

complicated than those of other vital events, but also many countries or areas either had no legal provisions for recording them or, if they had such provisions, did not enforce the registration. As has been discussed in earlier chapters, registration of divorce in many countries was a function of the court, not of the civil registry, and no divorce statistics had been compiled. Additional problems resulted from the fact that some countries or areas registered foetal deaths as part of live births or of deaths, or did not register the events at all. In such instances, no foetal death statistics were available. Therefore, while live birth, death and marriage data were available at the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for about 150 countries or areas, divorce and foetal death data were available for only about respectively 120 and 100 countries or areas.

TABLE 6.2. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY THE AVAILABILITY OF VITAL STATISTICS AND COMPLETENESS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION, BY VITAL EVENT AND BY CONTINENT

Continent ^a	Availability and quality of data ^b	Vital events				
		Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
Total (165)	C	91	85	37	87	63
	U	61	65	61	59	56
	N	11	11	18	9	9
	*	0	0	18	5	22
	...	2	4	31	5	15
Africa (37)	C	7	6	1	4	2
	U	26	27	13	26	19
	N	3	3	7	2	4
	*	0	0	8	3	6
	...	1	1	8	2	6
America, North (35)	C	27	26	11	32	19
	U	7	7	16	2	14
	N	1	1	1	1	1
	*	0	0	2	0	0
	...	0	1	5	0	1
America, South (13)	C	4	4	0	2	1
	U	9	9	6	11	5
	N	0	0	3	0	0
	*	0	0	2	0	6
	...	0	0	2	0	1
Asia (23)	C	7	6	3	7	5
	U	10	10	6	10	9
	N	6	6	5	5	4
	*	0	0	5	1	5
	...	0	1	6	0	0
Europe-USSR (37)	C	36	34	20	36	30
	U	0	2	14	1	3
	N	0	0	1	0	0
	*	0	0	1	0	3
	...	1	1	1	0	1
Oceania (20)	C	10	9	2	6	6
	U	9	10	6	9	6
	N	1	1	1	1	1
	*	0	0	0	1	2
	...	0	0	11	3	5

^a Figures in parentheses are numbers of countries or areas in each continent that have sent vital statistics to the United Nations.

^b C—Data available for the 1970s. Registration estimated by each country or area to be virtually complete, that is, representing at least 90 per cent of the events occurring each year.

U—Data available for the 1970s. Registration estimated by each country or area to be incomplete, that is, representing less than 90 per cent of the events occurring each year.

N—Data not available. There is legal provision for the registration of the vital event.

*—No legal provisions for the registration of the vital event.

...—No information available regarding the data and registration system.

197. More than half of the countries or areas that published vital statistics had virtually complete registration of live births, deaths, marriages and divorces, that is, as estimated by each Government, at least 90 per cent of the events that occurred each year had been registered (table 6.2). It was believed that most vital statistics compiled by those countries or areas were also reliable. However, less than 40 per cent of the countries or areas that recorded foetal deaths or only late foetal deaths were reported to have complete foetal death registration. Detailed information on the availability of vital statistics and the quality of registration is given in table A.10.

198. As can be seen from table 6.2, most of the countries or areas in Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had compiled and published the five types of vital statistics and had complete registration for most events. About 80 per cent of the countries or areas in North America also had complete live birth registration and all but two of the 34 countries or areas reporting on coverage of marriage registration had complete marriage registration. However, foetal death registration in Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and North America, and divorce registration in North America, remained unsatisfactory. Only 11 of the 27 North American countries or areas and 20 of the 34 European countries or areas reporting on coverage of foetal deaths indicated complete foetal death registration and 19 of the 33 North American countries or areas reporting on coverage of divorce registration indicated complete divorce registration. On the other hand, the majority of Asian and South American countries or areas (60 per cent or more) had incomplete registration of all vital events. Only about 20 per cent of the African countries or areas were considered to have complete birth and death registration; however, they had much lower levels of registration completeness for other vital events. In Oceania, one half of the countries or areas had complete registration for live births, deaths and divorces; two of the eight areas compiling foetal death statistics reported complete registration and six of the 15 areas compiling marriage statistics had complete marriage registration. Where registration was less than 90 per cent complete, the statistics in question were considered unreliable.

C. TIME REFERENCE FOR TABULATION OF ANNUAL VITAL STATISTICS

199. Vital statistics could be tabulated according to either the date that an event occurred or the date the event was registered. It was recognized that tabulation by date of registration was easier but

“final tabulations for any calendar period should be based on events which actually occurred, and not on those merely registered during that period. Should it be administratively necessary to tabulate final figures by *date of registration* rather than *date of occurrence*, evaluation studies should be made to determine the degree to which the one type of tabulation approximates the other. It is, of course, desirable that the analyses of this relationship be published”.³⁹

200. The Survey requested countries or areas to indicate the time reference for the final annual tabulation of each vital event, that is, whether the data were tabulated according to the date of occurrence or the date of registration. For countries that did not respond to the Survey, information from the *Demographic Yearbook* Questionnaire on Vital Statistics was used.

201. A total of 148 countries or areas were covered in this analysis. About two thirds used the date of occurrence as the tabulation basis for all vital statistics. From 23 to 31 per cent of the countries or areas used the date of registration as the basis. A significant number of countries used both the date of occurrence and the date of registration in their tabulation. A few countries or areas tabulated live births and deaths by the date of occurrence but marriages and divorces by the date of registration and vice versa. Tables 6.3 to 6.6 present the summary results of the basis for tabulation; detailed information is given in table A.11.

1. Births and deaths

202. Time bases for the tabulation of live births and deaths were very similar in most countries or areas for which data were available. Respectively 95 and 96 countries or areas tabulated births and deaths by date of occurrence and 41 and 43 by date of registration (table 6.3). Another 12 countries tabulated birth data and 10 tabulated death data by both the date of registration and the date of occurrence. Generally, when birth and death registrations were relatively complete and when the time allowed for registration was short, the basis for the annual tabulation was less critical than that for the monthly or weekly tabulations because seasonal variations of births and deaths were not reflected in annual tabulations. However, when the registration was not complete, that is, less than 90 per cent of the events were registered, statistics tabulated by any time reference were not valid statistics. Thirty-five of the 95 countries or areas using date of occurrence and 14 of the 41 countries or areas using date of registration for the annual tabulation of live births were reported to have incomplete registrations of live births. Similarly, 39 of the 92 countries or areas using date of occurrence

TABLE 6.3. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TIME BASIS FOR DATA TABULATION FOR LIVE BIRTHS AND DEATHS, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Time basis for tabulation							
	All bases		Date of occurrence		Date of registration		Both dates	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
All areas	148	139	95	96	41	43	12	10
Africa	27	28	17	16	6	8	4	4
America, North	33	22	17	18	14	13	2	1
America, South	13	13	8	9	3	3	2	1
Asia	22	22	13	12	8	8	1	2
Europe-USSR	36	36	29	28	5	7	2	1
Oceania	17	18	11	13	5	4	1	1

and 15 of the 44 countries or areas using date of registration for the annual tabulation were also reported to have incomplete death registrations (tables A.10 and A.11).

2. Foetal deaths

203. For foetal deaths, 81 countries or areas tabulated the data by date of occurrence, 25 by date of registration and four by both dates (table 6.4). However, 45 countries or areas using date of occurrence and 10 using date of registration for annual tabulations reported incomplete registration. The basis for tabulation of foetal deaths generally followed that of live births or that of deaths. A few countries or areas, namely, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Ireland, Hong Kong, Rwanda and Uruguay, did not have legal provisions for the registration of foetal deaths. They had compiled statistics and sent them irregularly to the United Nations, although none of those countries or areas could determine the degree of completeness of registration. The former three tabulated the data by date of occurrence and the latter three by date of registration.

TABLE 6.4. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TIME BASIS FOR DATA TABULATION FOR FOETAL DEATHS, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Time basis for tabulation			
	All bases	Date of occurrence	Date of registration	Both dates
All areas	110	81	25	4
Africa	17	9	6	2
America, North	26	18	8	0
America, South	9	8	1	0
Asia	14	9	4	1
Europe-USSR	33	29	4	0
Oceania	11	8	2	1

3. Marriages

204. For marriage statistics, 76 countries or areas used the date of occurrence, 37 used the date of registration and six used both dates in their annual tabulations (table 6.5). Among the 93 countries or areas for which data by time allowed for marriage registration were available, 43 required that registration be completed at the date of marriage and another 32 required that it be done within 30 days of the marriage (tables 5.4 and A.7). The difference between the date of occurrence and the date of registration was apparently very small for those countries as far as annual tabulations were concerned. Nevertheless, distortions in statistics might occur if many marriages took place during the last days of the year, were registered during the last few days of the allowed registration period, which happened to fall into the next calendar year, and the data were tabulated by date of registration.

205. For those countries or areas using date of registration as the basis for tabulation, one allowed a period of three months (the Isle of Man) and six had no fixed time-limit (see table A.7). These were the few

cases in which annual marriage statistics by date of occurrence might differ greatly from those by date of registration.

4. Divorces

206. A number of countries or areas did not respond to the Survey with respect to the basis of tabulation for divorce statistics. Tables 6.6 and A.11 cover data for 83 countries or areas showing that 53 used the date of occurrence, 26 used the date of registration and four used both dates as bases for tabulation.

207. A divorce was "a final legal dissolution of a marriage".⁴⁰ However, the date of occurrence of a divorce was not always defined in the same way among countries. The day the divorce was granted was used by many as the date of occurrence. However, in some countries, a divorce became effective not after it was granted but after the event was recorded in the civil registry. In the latter case, the date of registration was also the date of occurrence.

208. Like other types of vital events, annual divorce statistics showed patterns and trends of annual divorce fluctuations. However, unlike other types of vital events, monthly and weekly divorce statistics did not necessarily reflect any patterns of seasonality as not all divorces were granted shortly after the petitions for divorce were filed. Because of that time lag, the interpretation of the difference in divorce statistics by date of occurrence and by date of registration was not the same as in other vital events, and it was difficult to discuss the statistical implications caused by the different bases for tabulations.

TABLE 6.5. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TIME BASIS FOR DATA TABULATION FOR MARRIAGES, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Time basis for tabulation			
	All bases	Date of occurrence	Date of registration	Both dates
All areas	119	76	37	6
Africa	13	7	4	2
America, North	28	16	10	2
America, South	12	7	4	1
Asia	17	8	8	1
Europe-USSR	36	30	6	0
Oceania	13	8	5	0

TABLE 6.6. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY TIME BASIS FOR DATA TABULATION FOR DIVORCES, BY CONTINENT

Continent	Time basis for tabulation			
	All bases	Date of occurrence	Date of registration	Both dates
All areas	83	53	26	4
Africa	10	4	4	2
America, North	21	13	8	0
America, South	5	3	2	0
Asia	11	4	6	1
Europe-USSR	26	21	4	1
Oceania	10	8	2	0

VII. CHARACTERISTICS OF VITAL EVENTS INVESTIGATED IN THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

209. The civil registration system recorded information that affected the individual's personal interest, for which the individual was required to provide the necessary information. It also collected information that was not the direct or immediate concern of the individual but was important to the community as a whole. Some of the information collected through the registration process was for legal and evidentiary purposes, other was to serve the needs of public health programmes and of the planning and implementation of social, economic and demographic programmes. However, the scope of the civil registration system of a country was always conditioned by financial, infrastructural and other constraints. Each system had very specific purposes and needs and neither intended to collect information on all the demographic and vital events of the individual nor stored a comprehensive record of the entire population.

210. A vital statistics system, on the other hand, had a somewhat wider scope than the civil registration system, from a demographic point of view, although both were part of the same process. In addition to the information concerning vital events that was collected from the civil registration system, supplementary vital statistics might be collected through sample registration, demographic sample surveys and population censuses, as well as the analytical and statistical interpretation of the vital information obtained. The vital statistics system also did not intend to collect and store a comprehensive record of the entire population.

211. The United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* recommended a list of topics to be investigated in a vital statistics system. The basic considerations for drawing such a list were to satisfy both the national and international needs for vital statistics, emphasizing that the primary criterion for selection was to meet the national data requirements. As national and international objectives were seldom incompatible, owing to the fact that international recommendations were based on a broad study of country experience and practice, the desirability of achieving regional and world-wide comparability was also a consideration in the selection and formulation of topics for investigation in connection with vital events.

212. The lists of recommended topics for which the necessary information was most appropriately collected by the civil registration system can be seen in tables 7.1 to 7.5. Readers are urged to consult the details of the list of topics, their definitions and specifications, as given in chapter III of *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*.

213. In order to learn the topics and characteristics of vital events that were collected in the civil registration systems of various countries or areas the Survey asked each country or area to supply copies of the registration forms as well as the statistical reports currently in use for live births, deaths, foetal deaths,

marriages and divorces. Among the 105 countries or areas that responded to the Survey, 88 have supplied such information. Details of the characteristics of each vital event investigated by countries are given in tables A.12 to A.16 and summaries are given in tables 7.1 to 7.5. It must be noted that topics given in those tables covered only those recommended by the United Nations. Many countries have collected more information than that recommended by the United Nations. The international recommendation placed no limitation on topics that were of significance to an individual country.

A. LIVE BIRTHS

214. The characteristics of live births investigated by various countries or areas included those related to the event of birth, the child and the mother and father of the child. It was recommended that information concerning various characteristics should be collected on 37 topics, 12 of those topics being considered as first priority (table 7.1), which meant that they should be taken as the immediate goal of countries or areas trying to introduce or strengthen their civil registration and vital statistics systems. Most of the topics concerning the birth and the child and four topics concerning the mother were first-priority topics; however, all of the topics concerning the father were considered to be of lower priority and should be investigated only when countries needed such data.

215. The Survey received information on live birth characteristics from 88 countries or areas (table 7.1). All of the countries or areas collected information on the date of birth and the sex of the child. A great majority of them collected such information as the place of birth, the date of birth registration, the place of usual residence of the mother, the age or date of birth of the mother and father, the legitimacy status of the child and the occupation of the father. From one half to two thirds of the countries or areas investigated such characteristics as attendant at birth, hospitalization (the type of place where the birth occurred), the type of birth (whether the birth was a single or a multiple issue), the number of children born alive during the entire life of the mother, the date or duration of the marriage of the mother, the occupation of the mother and the place of usual residence of the father. Not all of the above characteristics, such as hospitalization, the mother's occupation and all of the topics concerning the father, were first-priority topics. On the other hand, a first-priority topic, namely, the weight of the child at birth, was investigated by only 25 countries or areas.

216. The fact that only a few countries or areas investigated such characteristics as the type of birth, the gestational age, the weight at birth, previous foetal deaths to the mother etc., suggested that either those characteristics were too difficult to collect or many countries or areas still did not have an urgent need for them. It was clear that many local registrars and

TABLE 7.1. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY CHARACTERISTICS OF LIVE BIRTH
INVESTIGATED IN THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, BY CONTINENT

Characteristics	All areas	Africa	America, North	America, South	Asia	Europe-USSR	Oceania
<i>All characteristics</i>	88	16	13	10	16	27	6
I. THE EVENT							
1. Attendant at birth ^a	45	4	11	8	10	11	1
2. Date of occurrence ^a	88	16	13	10	16	27	6
3. Date of registration ^a	77	14	13	10	14	20	6
4. Hospitalization	46	4	9	8	7	16	2
5. Place of occurrence ^a	83	14	13	10	15	25	6
6. Type of birth ^a	54	3	12	8	7	20	4
II. THE CHILD							
1. Gestational age	19	0	5	3	4	5	2
2. Legitimacy status ^a	64	8	12	8	8	23	5
3. Sex ^a	88	16	13	10	16	27	6
4. Weight at birth ^a	25	1	5	2	6	9	2
III. THE MOTHER							
1. Age or date of birth ^a	74	10	13	10	12	23	6
2. Children born alive ^a	49	4	12	7	7	17	2
3. Children still living	26	1	8	5	3	7	2
4. Citizenship (nationality) ..	38	6	7	6	10	9	0
5. Duration or date of marriage ^a	42	4	2	4	6	22	4
6. Duration of residence	3	0	0	0	1	2	0
7. Educational attainment	18	1	4	3	3	7	0
8. Ethnic (national) group	18	2	3	1	8	2	2
9. Foetal deaths had	38	4	10	6	4	12	2
10. Interval since last live birth	7	2	1	0	0	3	1
11. Literacy status	7	0	1	4	1	1	0
12. Occupation	52	8	8	7	9	18	2
13. Place of birth	35	5	7	3	5	10	5
14. Place of residence at a specific past date	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
15. Place of usual residence ^a ..	71	14	12	8	11	21	5
16. Type of activity	13	0	1	3	1	8	0
IV. THE FATHER							
1. Age or date of birth	66	7	13	8	9	23	6
2. Citizenship (nationality) ..	40	5	7	6	11	11	0
3. Duration of residence	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
4. Educational attainment	17	1	4	3	3	6	0
5. Ethnic (national) group	18	3	3	1	7	2	2
6. Literacy status	6	0	1	3	1	1	0
7. Occupation	72	11	11	7	14	24	5
8. Place of birth	36	5	8	2	6	10	5
9. Place of residence at a specific past date	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Place of usual residence	50	12	6	5	9	15	3
11. Type of activity	14	1	1	3	1	8	0

^a First-priority topics.

informants might not have that information unless the child was born in a hospital. It was also true that perhaps some civil registration systems could not see the relevance between the event of birth and such characteristics as the duration of residence of the parents and the place of residence at a specific time in the past, and therefore made no attempt to collect them.

217. From the registration forms received, only 40 countries or areas attempted to record the legitimacy status of the child. However, that information might be indirectly gathered from such topics as the marital status of the mother, the date of marriage etc. Therefore, the total number of countries or areas having such information increased from 40 to 64.

218. A number of the recommended topics that were related to live-birth registration were considered unimportant by many countries or areas. They included

the place of residence of the mother at a specific past date, the duration of residence and the literacy status of both the mother and the father, the interval since the last live birth of the mother, the educational attainment, ethnicity and type of economic activity of the mother and father.

219. There was a clear regional pattern in the characteristics investigated by different countries and areas. For instance, hospitalization and the type of birth were investigated respectively by 9 and 12 out of the 13 North American countries and by 8 out of the 10 South American countries. The date or duration of the marriage of the mother was investigated mainly by countries or areas in Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Oceania. On the other hand, relatively more countries in Asia collected such characteristics as citizenship and ethnicity of the parents, and more

countries in North America and Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics collected information on the number of foetal deaths that the mother had before the birth.

220. A characteristic of live births that was particularly important for many countries or areas, although not a recommended first-priority topic, was occupation. Apparently, the occupation of the parent was investigated primarily for identification and evidentiary purposes, not for the study of fertility differentials among the population. Some other socio-economic characteristics that were also important from the user's point of view have generally been ignored by many countries or areas. For instance, educational attainment and ethnicity of the parents were investigated by only 17 and 18 countries, respectively. As may be seen below in the sections on the characteristics of the other vital events, occupation was the only topic among the many socio-economic variables that has been investigated by the majority of the countries or areas. From an analytical perspective, occupation, educational attainment, ethnicity etc. were all important characteristics for the understanding of fertility differentials, while of little use for legal or identification purposes. On the other hand, it was questionable whether the occupation of a person was a good identification criterion. The selection of topics for investigation for both civil registration and vital statistics should be carefully done and periodically updated so that the needs of different users could be adequately satisfied.

221. In addition to the topics recommended by the

United Nations, some countries or areas have included a few other topics which they considered to be important as records for births. The most common topics included the length of the child at birth, the industry and status (employer, employee etc.), the language spoken, and the religion, race or colour of the parent. However, the number of countries or areas collecting that information was generally very small.

B. DEATHS

222. The characteristics of deaths could be grouped into those concerning the event of death and those associated with the decedents. Among the 24 recommended topics, nine were considered first-priority topics (see table 7.2). Information on the national practice in the collection of death characteristics was available for 87 countries or areas. Among the nine first-priority topics, the date of death, the age and the sex of the decedent were collected by all countries or areas and the other six priority topics were investigated by over two thirds of the countries. With respect to the 15 lower-priority topics, the occupation of the decedent was investigated by 78 countries or areas and the place of birth and citizenship were investigated by about half of the countries or areas. However, some characteristics were collected by only a few countries. For instance, 11 countries or areas collected information on the duration of the marriage (for a married decedent), two on the place of residence at a specific date in the past and on literacy status, three on the attendant at birth (for infant death) and on children still living (for women),

TABLE 7.2. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY CHARACTERISTICS OF DEATH INVESTIGATED IN THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, BY CONTINENT

Characteristics	All areas	Africa	America, North	America, South	Asia	Europe-USSR	Oceania
<i>All characteristics</i>	87	17	13	9	14	28	6
I. THE EVENT							
1. Attendant at birth ^a	3	—	1	—	1	1	—
2. Cause of death ^b	74	12	13	8	14	22	5
3. Certifier ^b	61	8	10	7	9	21	6
4. Date of occurrence ^b	87	17	13	9	14	28	6
5. Date of registration ^b	69	16	12	8	10	17	6
6. Hospitalization	36	4	10	7	4	10	1
7. Place of occurrence ^b	78	16	13	8	10	25	6
II. THE DECEDENT							
1. Age or date of birth ^b	87	17	13	9	14	28	6
2. Age of surviving spouse ^c ..	17	—	—	2	1	12	2
3. Children born alive	9	1	—	3	—	4	1
4. Children still living	3	—	—	1	—	1	1
5. Citizenship (nationality) ..	40	6	9	4	10	10	1
6. Duration or date of marriage	11	—	—	—	1	8	2
7. Educational attainment ..	7	—	1	—	1	5	—
8. Ethnic or national group ..	16	3	3	1	6	2	1
9. Legitimacy status ^a	11	—	1	3	—	7	—
10. Literacy status	2	—	—	1	—	1	—
11. Marital status ^b	65	8	10	9	10	24	4
12. Occupation	78	16	13	7	12	24	6
13. Place of birth	42	10	6	3	4	14	5
14. Place of residence at a specific past date	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
15. Place of usual residence ^b ..	72	15	10	8	11	24	4
16. Sex ^b	87	17	13	9	14	28	6
17. Type of activity	18	1	5	2	1	7	1

^a For deaths under one year of age.

^b First-priority topics.

^c For married persons.

seven on educational attainment and nine on the number of children ever born alive.

223. A number of topics were investigated mainly by countries or areas in Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and to a lesser extent by countries in South America. Those topics included the age of the surviving spouse, the number of children ever born alive and educational attainment. Of the 24 topics, eight were not investigated at all by countries or areas in Africa and six were not investigated by countries in North America. In addition, seven topics were investigated by only one country in Oceania and another five topics by only one country in Asia. It is quite clear from table 7.2 that the topics investigated by most countries or areas were either those related to the event of death or those which were customarily used for identifying the decedent, such as age, sex, place of residence, occupation and marital status. On the other hand, a few countries investigated characteristics which mainly described the socio-economic status of the decedent. That was also the situation in the case of live births, as shown in table 7.1, in which information on the socio-economic character-

istics of the parents was investigated less frequently than information needed mainly for identification or evidentiary purposes.

224. Despite the fact that the reliability of death statistics obtained from the civil registration system was unsatisfactory, owing to the fact that only slightly more than half of the countries or areas had complete registration (as shown in table 6.2), the civil registration system remained the principal source of death statistics for the understanding of detailed mortality differentials, for the construction of complete life tables and for other mortality analyses. Although not every characteristic of death was suitable for investigation through the registration method, the first-priority topics recommended by the United Nations should be investigated by all countries. Topics concerning the social and economic characteristics of the population should be investigated selectively according to the needs of the country.

C. FOETAL DEATHS

225. The characteristics of foetal deaths recommended for investigation by the United Nations could

TABLE 7.3. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY CHARACTERISTICS OF FOETAL DEATH INVESTIGATED IN THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, BY CONTINENT

Characteristics	All areas	Africa	America, North	America, South	Asia	Europe-USSR	Oceania
<i>All characteristics</i>	51	3	9	6	8	22	3
I. THE EVENT							
1. Attendant at birth	33	3	7	4	8	10	1
2. Cause of foetal death	29	1	6	4	4	12	2
3. Certifier	26	1	8	2	3	10	2
4. Date of occurrence ^a	49	3	9	4	8	22	3
5. Date of registration ^a	42	3	9	4	7	16	3
6. Hospitalization	31	2	7	5	4	12	1
7. Place of occurrence ^a	48	3	9	5	7	21	3
8. Type of birth (single or multiple issue) ^a	40	2	7	6	3	19	3
II. THE FOETUS							
1. Gestational age ^a	30	1	7	5	4	10	3
2. Legitimacy status ^a	37	1	8	4	3	20	1
3. Sex ^a	50	3	9	6	7	22	3
4. Weight at delivery	21	0	3	2	3	11	2
III. THE MOTHER							
1. Age or date of birth ^a	46	2	8	6	7	20	3
2. Children born alive ^a	28	2	6	5	3	12	0
3. Children still living	17	1	5	2	3	5	1
4. Citizenship (nationality) ..	16	1	1	2	6	6	0
5. Duration or date of marriage ^a	26	2	1	4	1	18	0
6. Educational attainment ..	12	0	3	2	1	6	0
7. Ethnic (national) group ..	11	2	3	1	4	1	0
8. Foetal deaths had ^a	26	2	6	4	3	10	1
9. Literacy status	3	0	0	2	1	0	0
10. Occupation	31	1	5	4	5	16	0
11. Place of birth	20	1	1	3	3	10	2
12. Place of usual residence ^a ..	47	2	7	6	8	21	3
13. Type of activity	11	0	1	2	0	8	0
IV. THE FATHER							
1. Age or date of birth	36	2	7	4	4	18	1
2. Citizenship (nationality) ..	18	1	1	2	6	8	0
3. Educational attainment ..	12	0	3	2	1	6	0
4. Ethnic (national) group ..	10	1	3	1	4	1	0
5. Literacy status	3	0	0	2	1	0	0
6. Occupation	37	1	5	4	7	20	0
7. Place of birth	15	0	1	2	3	8	1
8. Place of usual residence ..	17	1	2	1	4	9	0
9. Type of activity	11	0	0	2	0	9	0

^a First-priority topics.

be grouped into those concerning the event of foetal death, the foetus, the mother and the father. These characteristics were basically the same as those recommended for investigation for live births, except for a few which dealt only with death, such as the cause of death and the certifier of the foetal death, and those characteristics of the mother and father such as duration of residence, place of residence at a specific time in the past and the interval since the last live birth of the mother. The total number of recommended topics was 34, of which 12 were first-priority topics. All of the characteristics concerning the father of the foetus were lower-priority topics (table 7.3).

226. Information on the characteristics of foetal death was available for 51 of the 88 countries or areas that supplied information on live births. Among the first-priority topics, the date and place of occurrence, the sex of the foetus and the age and place of residence of the mother have been investigated by almost all countries or areas. Another five topics, namely, the occupation and age of the father, the date of registration of the event, the type of birth and the legitimacy status, have been investigated by more than 35 countries or areas. The last three topics were first-priority topics.

227. Other topics, such as gestational age, children born alive, foetal deaths the mother had before and the duration or date of marriage of the mother, although also first-priority topics, were investigated by fewer than 30 countries or areas. The low frequency for the investigation of gestational age might be explained by the fact that many countries collect information only on still births or late foetal deaths, which have already defined the gestational age (28 weeks or more of gestation).

228. As in the case of live births and deaths, a number of topics concerning the social and economic background of the parents, such as literacy status, educational attainment, ethnic group and type of eco-

nomie activity, were considered unimportant by the majority of the civil registration systems.

D. MARRIAGES

229. The characteristics of marriage that were recommended for investigation included four topics concerning the event of marriage and 14 topics concerning the bride and the groom. Seven of the topics, namely, the date of occurrence, the date of registration, the place of occurrence, the type of marriage (civil, religious etc.), age, previous marital status and the place of usual residence, were considered first-priority topics (table 7.4).

230. Information on marriage characteristics collected in the Survey was available for 71 countries or areas. Among the first-priority topics, the ages of the bride and the groom were recorded by every country, the date of occurrence and the date of registration, previous marital status and the place of usual residence were investigated by over 85 per cent of the countries or areas. The occupations of the bride and the groom, although not recommended as a first-priority topic, were also asked by 61 countries or areas. However, few countries attempted to investigate such characteristics of the newly-weds as their duration of residence, ethnicity, literacy status, place of previous residence or place of residence at a specific time in the past. Only 12 and 13 countries, respectively, collected information on the educational attainment and type of economic activity of the married couple.

231. The low frequencies for the above topics again showed that the majority of countries did not see the importance of the socio-economic characteristics of the bride and the groom in the process of marriage registration. It was quite understandable that some countries might question the usefulness of investigating whether the bride or the groom could read or write, as that and some other topics might not be directly related to

TABLE 7.4. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY CHARACTERISTICS OF MARRIAGE INVESTIGATED IN THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, BY CONTINENT

Characteristics	All areas	Africa	America, North	America, South	Asia	Europe-USSR	Oceania
<i>All characteristics</i>	71	12	12	8	7	27	5
I. THE EVENT							
1. Date of occurrence ^a	64	10	11	8	6	25	4
2. Date of registration ^a	60	11	12	6	7	19	5
3. Place of occurrence ^a	55	6	11	6	6	21	5
4. Type of marriage ^a	31	4	6	1	6	11	3
II. BRIDE AND GROOM							
1. Age or date of birth ^a	71	12	12	8	7	27	5
2. Citizenship (nationality) ..	31	3	6	4	4	14	0
3. Duration of residence	4	1	0	1	0	2	0
4. Educational attainment ..	13	1	2	3	1	6	0
5. Ethnic (national) group ..	5	2	1	0	1	1	0
6. Literacy status	6	0	2	3	0	1	0
7. Marital status ^a	65	8	11	8	7	26	5
8. Number of previous marriages	21	1	5	3	1	10	1
9. Occupation	61	11	10	7	5	23	5
10. Place of birth	39	9	8	5	2	10	5
11. Place of previous residence	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
12. Place of residence at a specific past date	3	0	0	1	1	1	0
13. Place of usual residence ^a ..	62	10	12	6	6	23	5
14. Type of activity	12	1	1	2	0	8	0

^a First-priority topics.

marriage or other vital events. However, the occupations of the bride and the groom were collected by the majority of the countries, perhaps, as was the case for other vital events, as an identification topic. Residency status, except for the place of usual residence, was not only too refined to be used in the analysis of migration differentials but was also too difficult to be tabulated, as detailed geographic coding systems must be developed and those responsible for data compilation must know how to use them.

E. DIVORCES

232. There were 21 divorce topics recommended for investigation. Three of the topics, namely, the date of occurrence, the date of registration and the place of occurrence, were related to the event of divorce; the remaining 18 topics concerned the characteristics of the divorcees. Seven of the 21 topics were first-priority topics (table 7.5).

233. As divorce registration was not compulsory in many countries, the characteristics of divorce that have been obtained covered only 34 countries or areas, 25 of them being in either North America or Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. However, 119 countries or areas have compiled and published various kinds of divorce statistics (table 6.2). Therefore, the information reported to the Survey, which is presented in table 7.5, must be considered as incomplete and not representative of the world or of any continent.

234. All of the countries or areas asked the age or date of birth of the divorcees and all but one collected information on the date or duration of the marriage that was being dissolved. Thirty countries asked the date of occurrence of the divorce, which was usually the date on which the divorce was granted by the court or other authority. Some 20 or more countries also collected information on the date of divorce registration, the place of usual residence and the occupations of the divorcees. All of the above characteristics, except occupation, were first-priority topics and apparently were important to divorce registration.

235. As was the situation for other vital events, information on topics concerning residence and the socio-economic status of the divorcees was collected by only a few countries or not collected at all. Four topics that were related to both marriage and divorce, namely, the mode of dissolution of a previous marriage, the number of children born to the marriage being dissolved, the number of previous marriages and the type of marriage being dissolved, have also been ignored by the majority of countries or areas. Nevertheless, those topics were very useful for the study of the causes and consequences of divorce from the sociological, economic and other perspectives. Admittedly, they were difficult and refined topics of vital statistics and therefore were ignored by many civil registration systems.

236. Other characteristics of divorce, not recom-

TABLE 7.5. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY CHARACTERISTICS OF DIVORCE INVESTIGATED IN THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, BY CONTINENT

Characteristics	All areas	Africa	America, North	America, South	Asia	Europe-USSR	Oceania
<i>All characteristics</i>	34	3	8	1	2	17	3
I. THE EVENT							
1. Date of occurrence ^a	30	3	7	1	2	14	3
2. Date of registration ^a	26	1	6	1	2	13	3
3. Place of occurrence ^a	21	2	5	0	2	9	3
II. DIVORCEES							
1. Age or date of birth ^a	34	3	8	1	2	17	3
2. Citizenship (nationality) ..	12	1	2	0	2	7	0
3. Duration or date of marriage ^a	33	2	8	1	2	17	3
4. Duration of residence in usual place	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
5. Educational attainment ..	9	1	2	0	0	6	0
6. Ethnic (national) group ..	3	1	1	0	0	1	0
7. Literacy status	3	0	1	1	0	1	0
8. Mode of dissolution of previous marriage	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
9. Number of children born alive to the marriage being dissolved	10	0	3	0	1	6	0
10. Number of dependent children of divorcee ^a	25	2	6	1	1	13	2
11. Number of previous marriages	8	2	2	1	0	3	0
12. Occupation	21	3	6	0	1	9	2
13. Place of birth	9	2	1	0	1	3	2
14. Place of previous residence	3	0	0	0	1	2	0
15. Place of residence at a specific past time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Place of usual residence ^a ..	24	2	6	1	2	11	2
17. Type of activity	5	0	0	0	1	4	0
18. Type of marriage being dissolved	2	1	0	0	0	1	0

^a First-priority topics.

mended by the United Nations but investigated by some European and American countries, included grounds for divorce, the party who requested the divorce, the religion of the divorcees and the number of previous

divorces. Those items were included in the divorce registration primarily for legal purposes but were also very useful for the study of the pattern and causes of divorce.

NOTES

¹ *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.XVII.9), para. 41.

² See chapter VI of the present report.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1955.XVII.1), p. 4.

⁵ *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*, *op. cit.*, para. 292.

⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 294.

⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 299.

⁸ *Ibid.*, paras. 295-297.

⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 286.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, paras. 304-305.

¹¹ United States of America, National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Registration Systems in Five Developing Countries: Honduras, Mexico, Philippines, Thailand and Jamaica*, DHHS publication No. (PHS) 81-1353 (Hyattsville, Maryland, October 1980), p. 8.

¹² *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*, *op. cit.*, para. 37.

¹³ *Ibid.*, para. 47.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 49.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 359-360.

¹⁶ See chapter IV of the present report for a discussion on informants.

¹⁷ *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*, *op. cit.*, paras. 314, 316, 319, 321.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 309.

¹⁹ France, *Journaux officiels*, Instruction générale relative à l'état civil, *Journal officiel de la République française* No. 1043, Paris, 1975, p. 22.

²⁰ The Government of Hong Kong, *Births and Deaths Registration*

Ordinance (chap. 174 of the revised edition, 1974), The Government Printer, and *Marriage Ordinance* (chap. 181 of the revised edition, 1975), The Government Printer.

²¹ Philippines, Office of the Civil Registrar-General, *Manual of Civil Registration*, Manila, 1975, chap. II.

²² United Kingdom (Scotland), General Registrar Office, *Handbook of Instructions to Registrars*, Edinburgh, 1966 revision, sects. B,C,D,E.

²³ *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*, *op. cit.*, para. 324.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 325.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 334.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 336.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, paras. 338-339, 341.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, paras. 330-332.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 333.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 45.

³¹ *Ibid.*, para. 46.

³² *Demographic Yearbook, 1980* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.81.XIII.1), table 9.

³³ *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*, *op. cit.*, para. 46.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ *Demographic Yearbook, 1980*, *op. cit.*, table 18.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ United Nations Fund for Population Activities and Inter-American Children's Institute, *Diagnostico del Registro Civil Latinoamericano, enero de 1980*, April 1982, pp. 90-94.

³⁹ *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*, *op. cit.*, para. 238.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 46.

ANNEX I

Tables A-1 to A-16

LIST OF ANNEX TABLES

1. Date of establishment of the civil registry by vital events, by country or area
2. Names of national and local government agencies responsible for civil registration and vital statistics administration, by country or area
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TABLE A.1. DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT^a OF THE CIVIL REGISTRY BY VITAL EVENTS, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Country or area	Vital event			
	Live births and deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AFRICA				
Botswana	1969	1969	1952	*
Central African Republic	1900 (1969)	1969	1900 (1969)	1969
Chad	1961	*	1961	*
Congo	1940 (1957)	1958	1940 (1957)	1940 (1957)
Guinea-Bissau	1976 ^b	1976 ^b	1976 ^b	1976 ^b
Kenya	1904	1904	1902	...
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1968	1968	1968	1968
Malawi	1886 (1904)	*	1903	1905 ^b
Mauritius	1539	1807	1579	1793
Morocco	1950	*	*	*
Rwanda	1963	*	1963	1963
Senegal	1916 (1961)	1916 (1961)	1961 ^b	1961 ^b
Seychelles	1893	*	1893	^c
Sierra Leone	1857	1857	*	*
South Africa	1924	1924	1924	1924
Swaziland	1927	*	1927	*
Tunisia	1918	1958	1958	1957
Uganda	1973 (1970)	*	*	*
Upper Volta	1951	*	1951	1950 ^b
Zaire	1958	1958	1958	1958
AMERICA, NORTH				
Bahamas	1931	...	1908	*
Belize	1885	1885	1885	*
Canada	1678-1916 ^d	1678-1916 ^d	1678-1916 ^d	^c
Costa Rica	1888	*	1888	^c
Cuba	1885 ^b	1885 ^b	1885 ^b	1885 ^b

TABLE A.1 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event			
	Live births and deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AMERICA, NORTH (continued)				
Dominican Republic	1881	1881	1881	1888
El Salvador	1879	1879	1879	1879
Guatemala	1877	1877	1877	1877
Haiti	1880	*	1880	1880
Honduras	1906	*	1906	1906
Mexico	1859	1859	1859	1859
Panama	1914	1914 ^b	1914	1914
Puerto Rico	1884	1931	1884	1971 ^b
Trinidad and Tobago	1847	1847	1847	^c
United States of America	1811-1913 ^f	1811-1913 ^f	1607-1913 ^f	1777-1923 ^f
AMERICA, SOUTH				
Argentina	1886-1902	1886	1886	*
Bolivia	1898 ^b	1940 ^b	1898 ^b	*
Brazil	1889	1889	1889	*
Chile	1885	1885	1885	*
Colombia	1838	*	1938	*
Ecuador	1901	1901	1901	1901
Guyana	1869	1869	1903	*
Peru	1852	*	1852	*
Uruguay	1879	*	1879	1907 ^b
Venezuela	1863	1863	1863	...
ASIA				
Afghanistan	1956	*	1956	*
Bangladesh	1873 ^b	*	1960 ^b	*
Brunei	1923	1923 ^b	1948 ^a	*

TABLE A.1 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event			
	Live births and deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
ASIA (continued)				
Hong Kong ...	1872	*	1875 (1971)	1971
India	1886 (1969) ^h	1969 ^b	*	*
Iraq	1947	1971 ^b	*	*
Israel	1918	*	1919	1919
Japan	1872	1886	1872	1872
Jordan	1926	*	1919	1919
Korea, Republic of ..	1912 (1909)	1912	1912 (1909)	1912 (1909)
Kuwait	1972 (1964)	1972	1964 ^b	1964 ^b
Macau	1887	...	1887	1910
Malaysia				
Peninsular				
Malaysia .	1957 ^b	1957 ^b	1952 ^b	*
Sabah	1951 (1948)	1951 (1948)	*	*
Sarawak ...	1910	1910	1931	1932
Philippines ...	1931	1931	1931	*
Singapore	1938	1938	1909	*
Sri Lanka	1868	...	1868	...
Syrian Arab Republic ...	1923	*	1923	1923
Thailand	1909	1936	1935	1935
EUROPE-USSR				
Austria	1784	1784	1784	1885
Belgium	1796	1796	1796	1796
Bulgaria	1881	1881	1881	1881
Channel Islands				
Guernsey ...	1840	1935	1840	1946 (1939)
Jersey	1842	*	1842	*
Czechoslovakia	1785	1785	1785	1919 ^b
Denmark	1646	1646	1646	1924
Finland	1686	1686	1686	1686
France	1792	1806	1792	1792
German Democratic Republic ..	1876	1876	1876	1876
Germany, Federal				
Republic of	1876	1876	1876	1876
Gibraltar	1848	1951	1862	*
Greece	1924 (1920)	1924	1924	1924 (1920)
Hungary	1895	1895	1895	1895
Iceland	1785	1785	1785	1904
Ireland	1864	*	1845	*
Isle of Man ...	1849	1933	1849	1938
Italy	1865	1865	1865	1970 ^b
Luxembourg ...	1795	1806	1795	1795
Malta	1863	1863	1863	*
Monaco	1793	*	1793	1793
Netherlands ...	1811	1838	1811	1811
Norway	1685 (1915)	1916	1918	1918
Poland	1946	1946	1946	1946
Spain	1870	1870	1870	*

TABLE A.1 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event			
	Live births and deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
EUROPE-USSR (continued)				
Sweden	1686	1686	1686	1802 ⁱ
Switzerland ...	1876	1876	1876	1876
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics .	1917	1917	1917	1917
United Kingdom				
England and Wales	1837	1926	1837	*
Northern Ireland ..	1864	1961	1845	*
Scotland ...	1855	1938	1855	1860
Yugoslavia ...	1946	1946	1946	1946
OCEANIA				
Australia	1839-1856 ^j	1930-1966 ^j	1839-1856 ^j	*
Fiji	1874	1874	1874	1874
French Polynesia	1874	*	1874	*
New Zealand ..	1848	1925	1854	1920
Pacific Islands .	1950	1950	*	*
Samoa	1961	1961	1961	1961
Tonga	1926	1926	1926	1926
Vanuatu	1975 (1970)	1975	1971	1970

* No legal provisions for registration of a vital event.

... No information on date is available.

^a For the majority of countries, the year of establishment of the civil registry is the same as the year of the enactment of the civil registration law. If the latter differs from the former by two years or more, the latter is given in parentheses.

^b The year when a registration law was enacted. No date for the establishment of civil registry is available.

^c Divorce records are kept by the court system. The civil registry records the event of divorce when it is informed by the court.

^d The years vary among different provinces and territories. The earliest law was enacted in Quebec in 1678 and the latest law was enacted in Saskatchewan in 1916.

^e Muslim divorces are registered by the Registrar-General of Muslim marriages and divorces and non-Muslim divorces are recorded by the Registrar-General of the Supreme Court.

^f The years vary among different states. For births and deaths the earliest law was enacted in Louisiana in 1811 and the latest was enacted in Alaska in 1913. For marriage law, the earliest was enacted in Rhode Island in 1607 and the latest were established in Alaska and Delaware in 1913. For divorce law, the earliest was enacted in Maryland in 1777 and the latest was enacted in Arkansas in 1923.

^g The marriage registration law of 1948 does not cover marriages contracted among the Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Dayak communities, which have their own laws and customs of marriage.

^h Before 1969 there was no uniform law for the whole country.

ⁱ Divorce did not exist in 1686, and it is not known when compulsory registration was introduced. However, divorce statistics are available from 1802.

^j The years vary among states. The earliest laws for births, deaths and marriages were enacted in Tasmania in 1839 and the latest in New South Wales in 1856. For foetal deaths the earliest law was enacted in the Australian Capital Territory in 1930 and the latest was enacted in Tasmania in 1966.

TABLE A.2. NAMES OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Country or area	Civil registration administration		National vital statistics administration
	Subnational	National	
AFRICA			
Botswana	District Registry of Births and Deaths	Registry of Births and Deaths, Ministry of Home Affairs	None
Central African Republic	Mairie (commune)	Directions des collectivités territoriales (commune), Ministère de l'intérieur	Service des études démographiques, Direction de la statistique générale, Ministère du plan
Chad	Centres d'état civil (principaux et secondaires)	Ministère de l'intérieur	Sous-direction de la statistique, Direction du plan, Ministère de l'économie du plan et des transports
Congo	Bureau d'état civil (de chaque zone)	Département de l'administration du territoire	Section état civil du Service de démographie, Centre nationale de la statistique, Département du plan
Guinea-Bissau	Delegações do Registro Civil (Setor Regional)	Registro Civil, Commissariado de Estado de Justiça	Direção General de Estadística, Commissariado de Estado de Desenvolvimento Económico e Planificação
Kenya	Local Registry Offices and District Registers	Registrar General of Births and Deaths, Department of the Registrar General	Statistics Section, Registrar General of Births and Deaths, Department of Registrar General
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Municipal Civil Records Offices	Ministry of Municipalities	Vital Statistics Section, Department of Census and Statistics, Ministry of Planning
Malawi	District Commissioners	Registrar General, Ministry of Justice	None
Mauritius	Civil Status Offices	Registrar General's Department	Civil Status Branch, Registrar General's Department
Morocco	Bureaux locaux d'état civil	Division de l'état civil, Ministère d'état, Chargé de l'intérieur	Direction de la statistique, Secrétariat d'état, Chargé du plan et de développement régional
Rwanda	Centres d'état civil (commune)	Ministère de l'intérieur	Bureau de la démographie et des statistiques sociales, Direction générale de la statistique, Ministère du plan
Senegal	Centres d'état civil (communes et centres principaux arrondissements)	Ministère de l'intérieur	Direction de la statistique, Ministère des finances et des affaires économiques
Seychelles	There are three local centres outside the capital city	Division of Immigration and Civil Status, Department of Internal Affairs	Economics and Statistics Division, Office of the President
Sierra Leone	Civil Registration Office (in western area and provinces)	Office of Births and Deaths, Ministry of Health	Central Statistics Office
South Africa	(Information not available)	(Information not available)	Population Branch, Department of Statistics
Swaziland	District Commissioner, Ministry of Local Administration	Registrar General's Office, Ministry of Justice	None
Tunisia	Centres d'état civil (commune)	Ministère de l'intérieur	Direction des statistiques, démographiques et sociales, Institut nationale de la statistique, Ministère du plan
Uganda	District Civil Registry	Registrar General of Births and Deaths, Ministry of Justice	Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning ^a
Upper Volta	Centres d'état civil (principaux et secondaires)	Ministère de l'intérieur	None
Zaire	Bureau d'état civil (de chaque zone)	Département de l'administration du territoire	Mouvement de la population, Division de la démographie générale, Institut national de la statistique, Département du plan
AMERICA, NORTH			
Bahamas	District Register Offices	Registrar General's Department, Ministry of Home Affairs	Population and Vital Statistics, Department of Statistics

TABLE A.2 (continued)

Country or area	Civil registration administration		
	Subnational	National	National vital statistics administration
AMERICA, NORTH (continued)			
Belize	District Offices for Civil Registry	General Registry, Attorney General's Ministry	Central Planning Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
Canada	Office of Vital Statistics or Office of Registrar General of each province	None	Vital Statistics Section, Health Division, Statistics Canada
Costa Rica	Oficina del Registrador, Auxiliar del Registro Civil	Dirección de Registro Civil, Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones	Sección de Estadísticas Vitales, Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, Ministerio de Economía Industria y Comercio
Cuba	Oficina de Registro Civil	Ministerio de Justicia	Departamento de Metodología y Análisis, Dirección de Demografía, Comité Estatal de Estadísticas
Dominican Republic	Oficina de Estado Civil	Oficina Central del Estado Civil, Junta Central Electoral	División de Demografía, Oficina Nacional de Estadística y Censos, Secretariado Técnico de la Presidencia y División de Estadística de la Secretaría de Estado de Salud Pública
El Salvador	Alcaldías Municipales	Departamento de Relaciones Municipales, Ministerio del Interior	Sección de Estadísticas Vitales, Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, Ministerio de Economía
Guatemala	Registro Civil (en cada municipalidad)	None	Sección de Estadísticas Vitales, Dirección General de Estadística, Ministerio de Economía
Haiti	Office de l'état civil	Bureau de l'état civil, Département de la justice	Section de démographie, Institut haitien de statistique
Honduras	Oficina de Registro Civil (en las Alcaldías Municipales)	None	Sección Demográfica, Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, Ministerio de Economía y Comercio
Mexico	Oficialías de Registro Civil (autónomas en cada estado)	None	Oficina de Estadísticas Vitales, Departamento de Estadísticas Demográficas y Sociales, Dirección General de Estadística, Secretaría de Industria y Comercio
Panama	Oficina del Registro Auxiliar de Estado Civil	Dirección General de Registro Civil, Tribunal Electoral	Sección de Estadísticas Vitales, Dirección de Estadística y Censos, Contraloría General de República
Puerto Rico	Registry Offices	Division of Demographic Registry and Vital Statistics, Department of Health	Vital Statistics Section, Division of Demographic Registry and Vital Statistics, Department of Health
Trinidad and Tobago	Registry Office (Districts)	Registrar General's Department, Attorney General, Ministry of Legal Affairs	Social Statistics Section, Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance
United States of America	State Office of Vital Statistics or State Health Department	None	Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare
AMERICA, SOUTH			
Argentina	Oficinas Seccionales de Registro del Estado Civil y Capacidad de las Personas (en municipalidades o subsecretarías de gobierno)	None	Oficina de Estadísticas Vitales y de Salud, Departamento de Estadísticas Vitales y de Salud, Ministerio de Bienestar Social, Secretaría de Estado de Salud Pública
Bolivia	Direcciones Departamentales y Oficinas Locales de Registro Civil	Dirección Nacional de Registro Civil, Ministerio del Interior	Estadísticas de Hechos Vitales, Departamento de Análisis Demográfico, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Ministerio de Planeamiento y Coordinación
Brazil	Cartórios de Registro Civil (Tribunal da Justiça of each state)	None	Centro Brasileiro de Estudos Demográficos, Fundação Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estadística, Secretaria de Planejamento da República

TABLE A.2 (continued)

Country or area	Civil registration administration		National vital statistics administration
	Subnational	National	
AMERICA, SOUTH (continued)			
Chile	Oficina de Registro Civil e Identificación (Comunales)	Servicios de Registro Civil e Identificación, Ministerio de Justicia	Sección de Estadísticas Vitales, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas
Colombia	Oficina del Notario Público o Alcaldías Municipales	Superintendencia de Notariado y Registro, Ministerio de Justicia y Registraduría Nacional de Estado Civil	División de Demografía, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística
Ecuador	Oficina de Registro Civil (en cada cantón)	Dirección General de Registro Civil, Ministerio de Gobierno	Sección de Estadísticas Vitales, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, Junta Nacional de Coordinación y Planificación
Guyana	Divisional Registration Offices	General Registrar Office, Ministry of Home Affairs	Vital Statistics Section, Statistical Bureau, Ministry of Economic Development
Peru	Oficina de Registro Civil (Distrital)	(1) Ministerio del Interior, (2) Ministerio de Justicia, (3) Instituto Nacional de Estadística	(1) Dirección de Demografía, Instituto Nacional de Estadística (compiling birth and marriage statistics only) (2) Oficina del Primer Ministro y Dirección General de Informática del Ministerio de Salud (compiling death statistics only)
Uruguay	Oficina de Registro de Estado Civil (Seccional)	Dirección General de Registro de Estado Civil, Ministerio de Educación y Cultura	(1) Departamento de Estadísticas Continuas, Dirección General de Estadística y Censos Coordinación y Difusión (compiling birth, marriage and divorce statistics only) (2) Departamento de Estadística Vital, División de Higiene, Ministerio de Salud Pública (compiling death statistics only)
Venezuela	Prefecturas Municipales, Gobernaciones de Estado	None	Dirección de Población, Dirección General de Estadística, Ministerio de Fomento
ASIA			
Afghanistan	Statistical Offices (Provincial)	Population Registration and Vital Statistics Department, Ministry of Interior	None
Bangladesh	Health Offices (District)	Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research; Directorate of Health Services. Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare	Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research; Directorate of Health Services. Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare ^a
Brunei	None	Registrar of Births and Deaths, Medical and Health Department and the Judicial Department	Statistical Section, Economic Planning Unit
Hong Kong	Births, Deaths and Marriages Registries	Registrar General's Department, Government Secretariat	Demographic Statistics Section, Census and Statistics Department, Government Secretariat
India	Local Registration Units and Office of Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths (State)	Registrar General's Office, Ministry of Home Affairs	Vital Statistics Division, Office of the Registrar General, Ministry of Home Affairs
Iraq	Chief Medical Officer (Governorate)	Director of Vital and Health Statistics, Ministry of Health	Vital Statistics Section, Directorate of Vital and Health Statistics, Ministry of Health
Israel	Registration Bureau (District and Sub-District level)	Immigration Services and Population Registration, Ministry of Interior	Demographic Section, Central Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Health and Welfare
Japan	Local Administrative Offices (Koseki)	Civil Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice	Vital Statistics Division, Statistics and Information Department, Ministry of Health and Welfare

TABLE A.2 (continued)

Country or area	Civil registration administration		
	Subnational	National	National vital statistics administration
ASIA (continued)			
Jordan	Office of District Health and Sub-Districts and Registration Centers	Ministry of Health	Vital Statistics Section, Department of Statistics
Korea, Republic of	Civil Registration (Section of each local level government)	Office of Court Administration, Supreme Court—Ministry of Home Affairs	Vital Statistics Section, Population Division, Bureau of Statistics, Economic Planning Board
Kuwait	Civil Registration Units and Legal Authentication Department of the Court	Department of Central Civil Registration, Ministry of Health	Division of Population and Vital Statistics, Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Planning
Macau	Branch of the Procoradoria da Republica do Macau (in territories and municipalities)	Conservatoria do Registo Civil, Direcção General des Registos e dos Notariados, Ministerio da Justiça	Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Serviços de Estatística
Malaysia			
Peninsular Malaysia	Civil Registry Offices (districts), Registration offices for marriages and medical offices	Registrar-General, Registration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs	Demography Section, Department of Statistics, Prime Minister's Department
Sabah	Civil Registry Offices (districts), dispensaries and hospitals	Registrar General, Registration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs	Demography Section, Department of Statistics, Prime Minister's Department
Sarawak	District and Sub-District Registry Offices and Villages and Maternity Homes	Registrar General, Registration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs	Demography Section, Department of Statistics, Prime Minister's Department
Philippines	Office of the Local Civil Registrar	Office of the Civil Registrar General, National Census and Statistics Office, National Economic and Development Authority	Civil Registry and Vital Statistics, National Census and Statistics, National Economic and Development Authority
Singapore	Civil Register (Districts), Government Hospital, Police Stations, the Registry of Marriages	Registry of Births and Deaths, Registry of Marriages, Registry of Muslim Marriages, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Social Affairs	Demography and Social Statistics Section, Department of Statistics, Ministry of Finance
Sri Lanka	District Register	Registrar General's Department, Home Ministry	Vital Statistics Branch, Registrar General's Department, Home Ministry
Syrian Arab Republic	Department of Civil Registration (Districts)	General Directorate of Civil Registration, Ministry of Interior Affairs	Directorate of Social Statistics, Central Bureau of Statistics, Office of Prime Minister and Statistics Section of the Directorate of Civil Registration, Ministry of Interior Affairs
Thailand	Registry Offices (Provinces and Districts)	Civil Registration Division, Ministry of Interior	Division of Vital Statistics, Ministry of Health
EUROPE-USSR			
Austria	District Register Offices at the County Administrative Offices	Federal Ministry of Interior	Austrian Central Statistical Office, Federal Chancellor's Office
Belgium	Administrations communales	Ministère de la justice	Section de démographie, Institut national de statistique, Ministère des affaires économiques
Bulgaria	Comités executifs des conseils populaires communaux (urbains et ruraux), Comités executifs des conseils populaires départementaux	Commission des comités executifs aupres des conseils populaires, Conseil des ministres	Division de la population, Comité sur les problèmes du système intégré d'information sociale
Channel Islands			
Guernsey	None	Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages	Public Health Department, Board of Health
Jersey	None	Superintendent Registrar	Economic Adviser's Office

TABLE A.2 (continued)

Country or area	Civil registration administration		
	Subnational	National	National vital statistics administration
EUROPE-USSR (continued)			
Czechoslovakia	Local National Committee (Births, Deaths and Marriages) and District Courts (Divorces)	None	Department of Demographic Statistics, Federal Statistics Office
Denmark	Municipal Population Registers, Secretariat for Person Registering	Secretariat for Person Registering, Ministry of Home Affairs	Division of Vital Statistics, Danmarks Statistik
Finland	Local Civil Registry (District)	The Population Centre, Ministry of Interior	Division of Population Statistics, Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance
France	L'état civil (commune)	Tribunal de la grande instance, Procureur de la République	Division de mouvement de la population et études démographiques, Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques, Ministère de l'économie et des finances
German Democratic Republic	Registry Officer	None	State Central Statistical Office, Council of Ministers
Germany, Federal Republic of	Registration Offices of the Ministry of the Land	Federal Ministry of Interior ^b	Subdivision VIII B—Current Population Statistical Office, Federal Ministry of Interior
Gibraltar	None	Registrar of Births and Deaths, Registrar of Marriages	Statistics Office
Greece	Registration Offices	Ministry of Interior	Population Division, Section of Vital Statistics, National Statistical Service of Greece, Ministry of Coordination
Hungary	Registration District Offices	Office of the Council of Ministers	Section of Population Statistics, Central Statistical Office
Iceland	Parish Registry and Judges' Offices	National Registry, Statistical Bureau	Statistical Bureau
Ireland	Health Boards	Registrar General, Department of Health	Vital Statistical Section, Central Statistics Office
Isle of Man	None	General Registry	General Registry and Treasury Statistician
Italy	Ufficio Comunale Dello Stato Civile	Ministero Di Grazia e Giustizia	Servizio Della Statistica Demografica, Istituta Centrale Di Statistica, Direzione Generale Del Servizio Tecnico
Luxembourg	Registres de l'état civil (communal)	None	Section de mouvement de la population, Service central de la statistique et des études économiques Ministère de l'économie nationale
Malta	None	Public Registry Department, Ministry of Justice	Demographic Section, Central Office of Statistics, Office of the Prime Minister
Monaco	Bureau de l'état civil	Mairie (état civil)	Ministère de l'intérieur et mairie
Netherlands	Local Registrar's Office, (Municipality)	Government Inspectorate of Population Registers, Ministry of Home Affairs	Department for Population Statistics, Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Norway	Registration Offices (Municipalities)	Central Registration Office, Central Bureau of Statistics	Central Bureau of Statistics
Poland	Civil Registry Offices	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Section for Demographic and Social Studies, Central Statistical Office, President's Office
Spain	Registro Civil (Municipal)	Dirección General de los Registros y Notariados, Ministerio de Justicia	Sección de Censos Demográficos—Movimiento de la Población, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Presidencia del Gobierno
Sweden	Diocesan chapters, county administration	The National Tax Board, Budget Department	National Central Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Switzerland	Arrondissement de l'état civil, Autorité de surveillance cantonale	None	Section du mouvement de la population, Bureau fédéral de statistique, Département de l'intérieur

TABLE A.2 (continued)

Country or area	Civil registration administration		
	Subnational	National	National vital statistics administration
EUROPE-USSR (continued)			
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Executive Committees of the Councils of Deputies of Workers	Deputies of Workers and Agricultural Committees	Computer Centre of the Central Statistical Board of the Soviet Union
United Kingdom			
England and Wales	District Register Office	General Register Office, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys	Vital Statistics Branch, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
Northern Ireland	Local Government District, District Council	General Register Office, Department of Finance	Statistics Section, General Register Office, Department of Finance
Scotland	Registration District	General Register Office for Scotland	Statistics General and Computer Services Branches, General Register Office for Scotland
Yugoslavia	Local Registrar Office of Secretariats for Internal Affairs (Republics and autonomous provinces)	Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs	Demographic Statistics Division, Federal Statistics Office
OCEANIA			
Australia	Registry of Deaths, Births and Marriages (at state level)	None	Vital and Migration Subsection, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Department of Treasury
Fiji	Civil Registry District Administration	Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Office of the Attorney General	Population and Social Statistics Section, Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Finance
French Polynesia	Mairies	No information available	No information available
New Zealand	District Registrar's Office	Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Justice Department	Vital Statistics Section, Department of Statistics
Pacific Islands	District Health Services	Department of Health Services and Judiciary	Office of Health Statistics and Records, Department of Health Services, Trust Territory Headquarters
Samoa	Village Registrar	Registrar General, Justice Department	The Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, Department of Statistics
Tonga	Civil Register Offices	Registrar of the Supreme Court, Department of Justice	Registrar of the Supreme Court, Department of Justice
Vanuatu	District Civil Registry	Office for Registration of New Hebrideans' Civil Status, Joint British and French Administration for Vanuatu	Condominium, Bureau of Statistics

^a Vital statistics are not compiled at present.^b Responsible only for registration legislation.

TABLE A.3. NUMBER, AVERAGE AREA SIZE AND AVERAGE POPULATION^a OF THE CIVIL
REGISTRATION UNITS, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Country or area	Number of registration units			Average area size per km ²	Average population per unit (in thousands)
	Total	Primary	Others		
AFRICA					
Botswana	31	12	19	19 367	23
Central African Republic	183	172	11	3 404	12
Chad	350	77	273	3 669	12
Congo	354	84	270	966	4
Guinea-Bissau	41	41	—	881	13
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	46	46	—	38 251	57
Malawi	24	24	—	4 937	230
Mauritius	50	50	—	41	18
Morocco	888	831	57	503	21
Rwanda	143	143	—	184	31
Senegal	823	123	700	238	6
Seychelles	4	1	3	70	16
Sierra Leone	44	44	—	1 630	73
Swaziland	7	7	—	2 480	72
Tunisia	1 271	291	980	129	5
Uganda	845	665	180	279	15
Upper Volta	746	106	640	367	9
AMERICA, NORTH					
Bahamas	132	27	105	106	2
Belize	6	6	—	3 828	25
Costa Rica	1 351	1	1 350	38	2
Dominican Republic ..	130	130	—	375	38
Haiti	118	118	—	235	40
Honduras	282	282	—	397	12
Mexico	4 532	4 532	—	435	14
Panama	565	482	83	134	3
Puerto Rico	87	79	8	102	38
Trinidad and Tobago ..	109	109	—	47	10
United States of America	7 058	58	7 000	1 327	31
AMERICA, SOUTH					
Argentina	2 374	2 328	46	1 165	11
Bolivia	1 591	1 591	—	690	4
Brazil	7 544	7 544	—	1 128	15
Chile	487	460	27	1 554	22
Colombia	929	929	—	1 226	27
Ecuador	871	103	768	326	9
Guyana	16	16	—	13 436	50
Paraguay	229	228	1	769	12
Peru	1 952	1 677	275	658	8
ASIA					
Afghanistan	16 425	325	16 100	39	1
Bangladesh	486	486	—	296	170
Brunei	16	4	12	360	12
Hong Kong	57	47	10	18	79
India	152 200	152 200	—	22	4
Israel	20	6	14	1 039	181
Japan	5 769	5 769	—	65	20
Jordan	24	24	—	4 073	120
Korea, Republic of ...	1 701	1 701	—	58	21
Kuwait	4	4	—	4 455	282
Macau	2	1	1	8	132
Malaysia					
Peninsular Malaysia	1 350	24	1 326	97	8
Sabah	66	33	33	1 117	14
Sarawak	600	53	547	207	2
Philippines	1 505	1 505	—	199	30
Singapore	67	3	64	9	34
Sri Lanka	1 395	22	1 373	47	10
Syrian Arab Republic ..	187	187	—	990	42
Thailand	6 231	6 231	—	82	7
EUROPE					
Austria	1 280	1 280	—	66	6
Belgium	605	596	9	50	16

TABLE A.3 (continued)

Country or area	Number of registration units			Average area size per km ²	Average population per unit (in thousands)
	Total	Primary	Others		
EUROPE (continued)					
Bulgaria	2 603	1 389	1 214	43	3
Channel Islands					
Guernsey	3	1	2	26	18
Jersey	1	1	—	116	75
Czechoslovakia	12 500	2 500	10 000	10	1
Denmark	276	276	—	156	18
Finland	746	686	60	452	6
France	37 000	37 000	—	15	1
German Democratic Republic	1 650	1 650	—	66	10
Germany, Federal Republic of	17 100	10 500	6 600	15	4
Gibraltar	2	2	—	3	15
Greece	6 019	6 019	—	22	2
Hungary	3 228	1 862	1 366	29	3
Iceland	195	157	38	528	1
Ireland	765	126	639	92	4
Isle of Man	4	4	—	147	15
Italy	8 066	8 066	—	37	7
Luxembourg	126	126	—	21	3
Monaco	1	1	—	1	25
Netherlands	842	842	—	49	16
Norway	454	454	—	714	9
Poland	2 200	2 200	—	142	16
Spain	8 194	8 194	—	62	4
Sweden	2 624	2 600	24	171	3
Switzerland	2 036	2 036	—	20	3
United Kingdom					
England and Wales ..	1 112	440	672	136	44
Northern Ireland ...	26	26	—	544	59
Scotland	389	389	—	202	13
Yugoslavia	14 900	14 400	500	17	1
OCEANIA					
Australia	141	141	—	54 517	100
Fiji	128	18	110	143	5
New Zealand	232	232	—	1 158	13
Pacific Islands	186	7	179	10	1
Samoa	222	222	—	13	1
Tonga	1	1	—	699	91
Vanuatu	95	95	—	155	1

— Indicates none.

^a Mid-1977 population total and area sizes given in the *Demographic Yearbook, 1977* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.78.XIII.1), table 3, was used to calculate the averages.

TABLE A.4. TYPE OF LOCAL REGISTRARS AND TYPE OF REMUNERATION, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Country or area	Type of local registrars	Type of remuneration
AFRICA		
Botswana	Registrar of deaths and births, town clerk, district commissioners	NPR ^a
Central African Republic	Mayor	NPR
Chad	Mayor, under-prefect, chief of administrative section	NPR
Congo	Mayor, his deputy, chief of district, administrative officer	NPR
Guinea-Bissau	Administrative secretaries, president of the state or the sector	NPR
Kenya	District registrar	...
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Civil registrars	Regular salary
Malawi	District commissioners	Honorary
Mauritius	Civil status officer	Regular salary
Morocco	President of Communal Council or his deputy	Honorary

TABLE A.4 (continued)

Country or area	Type of local registrars	Type of remuneration
AFRICA (continued)		
Rwanda	Mayor or his communal secretary	Honorary
Senegal	Mayor, chief of district or assistant, under-prefects	Honorary
Seychelles	Civil status officer, sub-accountants, police officers	Regular salary for civil status officer and NPR for others
Sierra Leone	Civil registrar	Regular salary
Swaziland	District registrar	Regular salary
Tunisia	Mayor, delegates (in delegations)	Honorary
Uganda	Sub-county chief, town clerk	Honorary
Upper Volta	Prefect, president of special delegation, under-prefect, chief of town	NPR
Zaire	Collective chief	NPR
AMERICA, NORTH		
Bahamas	Civil registrar	Fee per registration
Belize	District registry officers	Fee per registration
Canada	Matron, city, village or town clerk, clergy	Fee per registration
Costa Rica	Civil judge, civil mayor, lawyers, governor	NPR
Dominican Republic ...	Civil registry officer	Fee per registration
El Salvador	Chief of Civil Registry	...
Guatemala	Civil registrar	Regular salary
Haiti	Civil registrar	Regular salary
Honduras	Municipal secretary	Honorary
Mexico	Civil registry officer	Regular salary
Panama	Mayor, magistrate, auxiliary registrar	Allowance
Puerto Rico	Civil registrar	Regular salary
Trinidad and Tobago ...	Any person appointed by Registrar General	Allowance
United States of America	Health officer, city or town clerks	Fee per registration or NPR
AMERICA, SOUTH		
Argentina	Chief of Civil Registry	Regular salary
Bolivia	Civil registry officer	Fee per registration
Brazil	Civil registry officer	Regular salary
Chile	Civil registry officer, lawyers, mayors, police inspectors	Regular salary
Colombia	Notary public, mayors, authorized police officers	Fee per registration
Ecuador	Chief of Civil Registry	Regular salary
Guyana	Civil registrars, regional revenue officers, postmasters, police officers, head teachers	Fee per registration
Peru	Civil registrar	Regular salary
Uruguay	Justice of the peace and civil status officer	NPR
Venezuela	Prefect, secretary	Honorary
ASIA		
Afghanistan	Registrars	Regular salary
Bangladesh	Sanitary inspector, municipal head	NPR
Brunei	Police officer, medical officer, health inspector	Allowance
Hong Kong	District registrars	Regular salary
India	Urban: health officer, executive officer; Rural: panchayat secretary, police officer, medical officer of primary health center, village headman, schoolteacher, land revenue officer	NPR
Israel	Registration officer	Regular salary
Japan	Mayor, headman of ward, headman of town and villages	NPR
Jordan	Civil registrar, village headman, doctors, midwives	Honorary

TABLE A.4 (continued)

Country or area	Type of local registrars	Type of remuneration
ASIA (continued)		
Korea, Republic of	Chief judge of the local court	NPR
Kuwait	Government official	NPR
Macau	Registrar	Regular salary
Malaysia		
Peninsular Malaysia ..	District officers, registration officers, school headmaster, medical officers, police officers, protector of aborigines	NPR
Sabah	District officer, medical officer, dresser (in dispensaries)	NPR
Sarawak	District officers, sub-district government officers	NPR
Philippines	Municipal treasurer, city health officer, local civil registrar	NPR
Singapore	Health workers, police officers etc.	NPR
Sri Lanka	Local registrar and medical registrar	Fee per registration
Syrian Arab Republic ..	Conservator of civil registration	Regular salary
Thailand	Municipal registrar, civil registrar, village headman	Regular salary
EUROPE-USSR		
Austria	Local registrar	Regular salary
Belgium	Mayor or civil registry deputy	Regular salary
Bulgaria	Civil registry officer, President of Commune Peoples Council	Regular salary
Channel Islands		
Guernsey	Deputy registrar (clerk to the court)	NPR
Jersey	Civil registrar	Regular salary
Czechoslovakia	Civil registrar	Regular salary
Denmark	Vicars (civil registrars), prefects and court clerks	NPR
Finland	District registrar, vicar	Regular salary
France	Mayors or their deputies, municipal agents	Honorary
German Democratic Republic	Registrars	Regular salary
Germany, Federal Republic of	Civil registrars	Regular salary
Gibraltar	Civil registrars	NPR but as court clerk
Greece	President of commune, mayor of municipalities	Allowance
Hungary	Registrar	NPR
Iceland	Head of community, judge, clergy, physician, chief midwife	Honorary
Ireland	Superintendent registrar	Allowance
Isle of Man	Local registrar, advocate's clerk, town clerk, custodian of Castle Rushen	Regular salary
Italy	Mayor or his deputy	NPR
Luxembourg	Mayor or his deputy	Honorary
Malta	Director of Public Registry	...
Monaco	Mayor	Honorary
Netherlands	Local registrar	Regular salary
Norway	Registration officer, local tax assessment officer	Regular salary
Poland	Local registrars	Regular salary
Spain	Municipal judge, justice of the peace	NPR
Sweden	Clergy, clerks of County Board	NPR
Switzerland	Civil registrar	Regular salary
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Civil registrars	Regular salary
United Kingdom		
England and Wales ..	Registrars	Regular salary
Northern Ireland	District registrars	Regular salary
Scotland	Civil registrars	Regular salary or allowance
Yugoslavia	Civil registrars	Regular salary

TABLE A.4 (continued)

Country or area	Type of local registrars	Type of remuneration
OCEANIA		
Australia	Officers of the Department of Services, Births, Deaths and Marriage Branch, Clerks of Petty Sessions, Officers of Justice Department and police officers	Regular salary
Fiji	District officer, local registrar	Honorary
French Polynesia	Mayor, his deputy	...
New Zealand	Registrars	Regular salary
Pacific Islands	Clerk of Courts	NPR
Samoa	Civil registrar	Regular salary
Tonga	Registrar of the Supreme Court	Regular salary
Vanuatu	Civil registrars, town clerk, teacher, doctor, nurse, priest, local council officials	Allowance

... Information not available.

^a NPR — receiving regular salary but not explicitly paid as civil registrar.TABLE A.5. TYPE OF MAIN INFORMANT^a BY VITAL EVENTS, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AFRICA					
Botswana	Father or mother	Adult relative	Father or mother	Official	*
Central African Republic	Father or mother	Nearest relative	Father or mother	Participants	Participants
Chad	Father or mother	Surviving partner or relative	*	Participants	*
Congo	Father or mother	Relative	Representative of an institution	Participants	Representative of the court
Guinea-Bissau	Parents	Physician	Physician	Participants	Participants
Kenya	Father/hospital	Father or nearest relative/hospital	Father	Official	...
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Family member	Family member	...	Official	Official
Malawi	Parents	...	*	Participants	...
Mauritius	Father or mother	Two persons present at death	Father or mother	Participants	Representative of the court
Morocco	Father	Parent of deceased or person present at death	*	*	*
Rwanda	Father or mother	Father or mother	*	Participants	Representative of the court or participants
Senegal	Father	Parent of deceased	Mother	Participants	Participants
Seychelles	Father or mother	Owner or occupier of premises	*	Civil status officer	Registrar of the Court
Sierra Leone	Parents	Nearest relative present at death	Parents	*	*
Swaziland	Father	Physician	*	Official	*
Tunisia	Father or physician	Relative	...	Participants	Representative of the court
Uganda	Father or mother	Relative	*	*	*
Upper Volta	Parents	Surviving partner or nearest relative	*	...	...
Zaire	Father or mother	Two persons present	Two persons present	Participants	Participants
AMERICA, NORTH					
Bahamas	Attendant	Nearest relative	Attendant	Official	*
Belize	Parents	Any person present	Parents	Official	*
Canada	Mother ^b	Funeral director ^b	Funeral director ^b	Official ^b	Clerk of Court
Costa Rica	Father or mother	Father or mother	*	Official	Judge of Court
Dominican Republic	Father	Relative	Father	Official	Party to whom divorce granted
El Salvador	Father or mother	Head of household	Father or mother	Official	Representative of the tribunal granting divorce

TABLE A.5 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AMERICA, NORTH (continued)					
Guatemala	Father or mother	Head of household	Father or mother	Official	Mayor or judge
Haiti	Father or mother	Relative	*	Participants	Participants or their legal representative
Honduras	Father	Surviving partner or relative	*	Official	Representative of the court
Mexico	Parents	Relative	Parents	Participants	Participants
Panama	Father	Surviving partner or relative	**	Official	Representative of the court
Puerto Rico	Father or mother	Relative	Physician	Official	Representative of the court
Trinidad and Tobago	Parents	Physician (registered medical offices)	Parents	Marriage officer	Muslim marriage and divorce council
United States of America	Hospital administrator or physician or other attendant	Funeral director	Physician or other attendant	Official	Clerk of Court
AMERICA, SOUTH					
Argentina	Parents	Relatives	...	Participants	*
Bolivia	Head of family	Head of family	...	Participants	*
Brazil	Father	Head of household	Father	Participants	*
Chile	Father	Relative or occupier of house	Relative	Official	*
Colombia	Father	Head of family	*	Participants	*
Ecuador	Father	Physician	Physician	Participants	Participants
Guyana	Mother	Hospital administrator or relative present at death	Someone present	Official	*
Peru	Nearest relative	Relatives	*	Participants	*
Uruguay	Father	Relatives	*	Participants	Representative of the court
Venezuela	Parents	Relative or physician	Father or mother	Participants	Participants
ASIA					
Afghanistan	Parents	Parents or relatives	*	Municipal authorities or village head present	*
Bangladesh	Father or mother	Nearest male relative	*	Bride or bridegroom	*
Brunei	Father or mother	Relatives	...	Official	*
Hong Kong	Father	Nearest relative present at death	*	Participants	...
India	Head of household or head of institution ^c	Head of household or head of institution ^c	Head of household or head of institution ^c	*	*
Iraq	Parent or relative	Parent or relative	Parent or relative	*	*
Israel	Institution or parents ^c	Institution or physician ^c	*	Official	Representative of the religious courts
Japan	Father or mother ^d	Relative	Father	Participants	Participant or court
Jordan	Ministry of Health employee	Ministry of Health employee	*	Official	Court
Korea, Republic of	Father or mother ^d	Head of family	Parent or relative	Participants	Participants
Macau	Parents	Relative	Relative	Participants	Participants
Malaysia					
Peninsular					
Malaysia	Father	Relative present	Relative present	Official	*
Sabah	Father	Relative	Father	*	*
Sarawak	Parents	Occupier of house	Parents	Participants	Participants
Philippines	Attendant	Physician	Physician	Official	*
Singapore	Parents	Nearest relative	Parents	Official	*

TABLE A.5 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
ASIA (continued)					
Sri Lanka	Father	Relative present at death	Father	Bridegroom	Court
Syrian Arab Republic	Physician or midwife	Parents	*	Official	Religious authorities
Thailand	Head of household	Head of household	Head of household	Participants	Participants
EUROPE-USSR					
Austria	Representative of institution or father ^c	Spouse or nearest relative	Representative of institution or father ^c	Participants	Court
Belgium	Father	Two persons present	Father	Participants	Participants
Bulgaria	Father	Relative or representative of institution	Father	Participants	Judge
Channel Islands					
Guernsey	Father	Nearest relative	Father	Official	Clerk of court
Jersey	Parents	Undertaker	*	Participants	*
Czechoslovakia	Attendant	Physician	Attendant	Official	Judge of court
Denmark	Midwife	Relative	Midwife	Official	Court
Finland	Physician or midwife	Physician	Physician or midwife	Official	Court
France	Father	Parent or relative	Father	Participants	Participants
German Democratic Republic	Representative of institution or father ^c	Representative of institution or next of kin	Representative of institution or next of kin	Official	...
Germany, Federal Republic of	Representative of institution or father ^c	Representative of institution or father ^c	Representative of institution or father ^c	Official	Court
Gibraltar	Parents	Nearest relative	Parents	Official	*
Greece	Father	Nearest relative	Father	Participants	Ministry of Justice
Hungary	Institution or parents ^c	Occupier of dwelling	Institution or parents ^c	Participants	Court
Iceland	Midwife	Relative	Midwife	Official	Official
Ireland	Parents	Relative	*	Bridegroom or official	*
Isle of Man	Father or mother ^d	Relative	Father or mother ^d	Bridegroom or bride	...
Italy	Father	Relative	Father	Participants	Official
Luxembourg	Father	Nearest relative	Person present	Official or participants	Party to whom divorce granted
Malta	Parents	Physician	Physician	Office of Registry officer	*
Monaco	Father	Nearest relative	*	Participants	Court
Netherlands	Father	Anyone having personal knowledge	Anyone having personal knowledge	Participants	Participants
Norway	Parents	The Probate Court	Parents	Official	Court
Poland	Family member	Family member	Family member	Participants	Court
Spain	Parents	Anyone having personal knowledge	Parents	Participants	*
Sweden	Midwife	Relative	Midwife	Official	Court
Switzerland	Father	Head of family	Father	Official	Court
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Parents	Medical unit	Relative	Participants	Participants
United Kingdom					
England and Wales	Parents	Relative	Mother	Participants	*
Northern Ireland	Parents	Relative	Mother	Participants	*
Scotland	Parents	Relative	Parents	Participants	Court
Yugoslavia	Institution or parent	Institution or relative	Institution or mother	Participants	Participants
OCEANIA					
Australia	Father or mother	Occupier of the house	Father or mother	Official	*

TABLE A.5 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
OCEANIA (continued)					
Fiji	Parents	Relative	Parents	Bridegroom	Husband
French Polynesia ..	Father or physician	Parent	*	...	*
New Zealand	Parents	Funeral Director	Parents	Participants	Supreme Court
Pacific Islands	District Director of Health Services	District Director of Health Services	District Director of Health Services	*	*
Samoa	Parents	Occupier of premises	Parents	Official	Court
Tonga	Town Officer	Town Officer	Town Officer	Town Officer	Petitioner
Vanuatu	Father or mother	Member of family	Father or mother	Official	...

* There is no legal provision for registration.

** There is legal provision but no registration is done.

... No information is available.

^a A main informant is the individual who appears first on the list of alternative informants that a country provided to the Survey of Vital Statistics Methods.

^b Varies among provinces, but these informants are required in the majority of the provinces.

^c If the event occurred in a house, the head of the household is the main informant, if in an institution, the head of the institution is the main informant.

^d For legitimate births, the father is the main informant; for illegitimate births, it is the mother.

TABLE A.6. REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION BY VITAL EVENTS, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AFRICA					
Botswana	F D W	F M W	...	F N C W	*
Central African Republic	F D	F M	F M	F N W M	F C T
Chad	D	M	*	W	*
Congo	F D	F M W	...	F C	F T
Guinea-Bissau	F D W P	F M W	F M W	F N C W	F C T
Kenya	D	...	...	...	...
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	D W	M W	...	F W	F C
Malawi	...	...	*	F N W	...
Mauritius	W	M W ^a	M W ^a	N W ^b	T
Morocco	D	M	*	*	*
Rwanda	D W	M W	*	F W	F T
Senegal	D W ^c	M W ^c	M W	N W	...
Seychelles	...	W	*	N	T
Sierra Leone	...	...	...	*	*
Swaziland	F D W	F M W	*	F N C W	*
Tunisia	D W or M	M or W	W	C W	T
Uganda	D W	W M	*	*	*
Upper Volta	—	—	*	W	...
Zaire	F D	F M W	F M W	F N W	F T
AMERICA, NORTH					
Bahamas	W	W	W	W	*
Belize	—	M	M	N C	*
Canada	^d	M	M	W	^d
Costa Rica	D W	M	*	F N	F C T
Dominican Republic ..	F	M	M	F N W	F
El Salvador	D	M	M	W	C
Guatemala	D	M	...	...	...
Haiti	F D W P	F M W	*	F N C W	F C T
Honduras	—	—	*	C	T
Mexico	F W P	F M	F M	F N C W	F C
Panama	D W	M W	**	N W	F
Puerto Rico	D	M	M	N C W	C T

TABLE A.6 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AMERICA, NORTH (continued)					
Trinidad and Tobago	...	M	...	N	...
United States of America	—	—	—	CW	T
AMERICA, SOUTH					
Argentina	DW	W or M	M	NC	*
Bolivia	FDW	FMW	...	FNW	*
Brazil	FW	FM or W	FM or W	FNW	*
Chile	D or W	M or W	M or W	NWO	*
Colombia	D or W or P	M or W	*	C	*
Ecuador	D or W	M or W	M or W	FW	FCT
Guyana	D	M	M	C	*
Peru	DP	M	*	NWO	*
Uruguay	FDW	FWM	*	FN	T
Venezuela	DW	WM	M	NW	C
ASIA					
Afghanistan	...	W	*	CW	*
Bangladesh	...	—	*	F	*
Brunei	D	MW	...	FNCW	*
Hong Kong	D	M	*	FNCW	...
India	—	—	—	*	*
Iraq	D	W	M	*	*
Israel	—	M	*	C	T
Japan	D	M	M	W	T or W
Jordan	FDW	FMW	*	FCW	FCT
Korea, Republic of	—	M	M	W	W
Kuwait	D	M	M	FC	FT
Macau	D	M	...	W	CT
Malaysia					
Peninsular Malaysia	DW	MW	MW	FN	*
Sabah	—	—	—	*	*
Sarawak	—	—	M	FNCW	CT
Philippines	D	M	M	C	*
Singapore	D	M	M	FNCW	*
Sri Lanka	DW	MW	M	FNW	C
Syrian Arab Republic	DW	M	*	NCW	CT
Thailand	—	W	M	...	...
EUROPE-USSR					
Austria	D	M	M	W	T
Belgium	DW	MW	W	NW	T
Bulgaria	D	M	M	W	C
Channel Islands					
Guernsey	—	M	M	FNCW	FC
Jersey	F	FM	*	FNCW	*
Czechoslovakia	D or W	M	M	N	CT
Denmark	D	M	M	C	T
Finland	D	M	M	C	T
France	D	M	M	W	T
German Democratic Republic	D	M	M	N	T
Germany, Federal Republic of	—	M	M	NC	T
Gibraltar	—	M	M	FN	*
Greece	D	M	M	C	T
Hungary	D	M	M	NW	T
Iceland	D	...	M	...	T
Ireland	—	M	*	FNC	*
Isle of Man	—	M	M	FNCW	T
Italy	DW	M	M	NC	T
Luxembourg	D	M	M	...	T
Malta	FD	M	M	FNW	*
Monaco	D	M	*	N	T
Netherlands	...	...	...	NW	T
Norway	—	—	—	—	T
Poland	D	M	M	FCW	FCT

TABLE A.6 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
EUROPE-USSR					
<i>(continued)</i>					
Spain	D	M	M	N C W	*
Sweden	...	...	...	...	T
Switzerland	—	M	M	W	T
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ..	D	M	M	F N	F C T
United Kingdom					
England and Wales ..	—	M	M	F N W	*
Northern Ireland ...	—	M	M	N C W	*
Scotland	—	M	M	N	T
Yugoslavia	D ^e	M	M ^c	N	T
OCEANIA					
Australia	—	M	M	N C W	*
Fiji	D or W	M or W	M	F N	...
French Polynesia	D	...	*	N W	*
New Zealand	D	M	M	F N W	F C T
Pacific Islands	D W	M W	W	*	*
Samoa	W	W	W	F N	T
Tonga	D	M	M	F N C W	F C T
Vanuatu	—	M	M	N W	...

* No legal provision for registration.

** There is legal provision for registration but no registration is done.

... No information available.

— No additional requirements other than a notification for registration is needed.

F — Fee

D — Doctor's or midwife's certificate

M — Medical certification

P — Presentation of the child before the registrar

W — Witnesses

O — Other

C — Marriage certificate

N — Notice of intended marriage

T — Transcript or certified copy of the divorce record

^aMedical certificate is required only for deaths in urban areas and for cases when the corpse is to be disposed of by cremation.^bNotice of intended marriage is not required for marriages contracted under the Indian Marriage Ordinance.^cWitness(es) required in rural areas.^dSome provinces require medical certificates for live birth registrations and marriage certificate for divorce registrations.^eOnly for those occurring in hospitals or clinics.

TABLE A.7. TIME ALLOWED FOR CIVIL REGISTRATION BY VITAL EVENTS, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AFRICA					
Botswana	3 months	1 month	3 months	1 month	*
Central African Republic	1 month	1 month	1 month	15 days	not fixed
Chad	2 months	2 months	*	2 months	*
Congo	30 days	not fixed	...	3 months	not fixed
Guinea-Bissau	1 month	2 days	2 days	3 months	not fixed
Kenya	6 months	6 months	6 months	7 days	...
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	7 days	24 hours	...	7 days	7 days
Malawi	not fixed	not fixed	*	3 months	...
Mauritius	45 days	24 hours	24 hours	1 to 8 days	8 days
Morocco	30 days	3 days	*	*	*
Rwanda	not fixed	not fixed	*	not fixed	not fixed
Senegal	1 month	1 month	1 month	1 month	not fixed
Seychelles	30 days	36 hours	*	at time of marriage	not fixed

TABLE A.7 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AFRICA (continued)					
Sierra Leone	14 days	3 days	24 hours	*	*
Swaziland	12 months	12 months	*	12 months	*
Tunisia	10 days	3 days	3 days	1 month	1 month
Uganda	3 months	1 month	*	*	*
Upper Volta	2 months	2 months	*	2 months	...
Zaire	30 days	30 days	30 days	30 days	60 days
AMERICA, NORTH					
Bahamas	21 days	21 days	21 days	at time of marriage	*
Belize	42 days	4 days	42 days	at time of marriage	*
Canada	7 days to 1 year	before burial to 1 year	3 days to 1 year	2 days to 1 year	not fixed to 1 year
Costa Rica	30 days	48 hours	*	8 days	not fixed
Dominican Republic	30 days and 60 days	24 hours	24 hours	3 days	2 months
El Salvador	15 days	15 days	15 days	8 days	not fixed
Guatemala	8 days	24 hours	24 hours	at time of marriage	3 days
Haiti	48 hours	24 hours	*	...	...
Honduras	8 days	24 hours	*	at time of marriage	not fixed
Mexico	40 days	24 hours	24 hours	at time of marriage	on granting of decree
Panama	15 days	3 days	...	5 days	not fixed
Puerto Rico	10 days	7 days	7 days	10 days	10 days
United States of America	3 to 10 days	3 to 5 days	3 to 5 days	15 to 45 days	15 to 45 days
AMERICA, SOUTH					
Argentina	3 to 8 days	24 hours	24 hours	8 days	*
Bolivia	8 days	8 days	8 days	8 days	*
Brazil	15 days	24 hours	15 days	30 days	*
Chile	60 days	3 days	3 days	at time of marriage	*
Colombia	30 days	1 day	*	not fixed	*
Ecuador	30 days	48 hours	24 hours	at time of marriage	on granting of decree
Guyana	3 months	3 months	3 months	7 days	*
Peru	30 days	48 hours	*	at time of marriage	*
Uruguay	10 and 20 days	10 days	*	day of marriage	on granting of decree
Venezuela	20 days	24 hours	24 hours	10 days	on granting of decree
ASIA					
Afghanistan	7 days	7 days	*	1 month	*
Bangladesh	8 days	8 days	*	...	*
Brunei	42 days	3 days	...	at time of marriage	*
Hong Kong	42 days	24 hours	*	at time of marriage	...
India	7 and 14 days	3 and 7 days	3 and 7 days	*	*
Iraq	7 to 30 days	7 days	7 to 30 days	*	*
Israel	10 days	24 hours	*	14 days	14 days
Japan	14 days	3 days	7 days	not fixed	not fixed
Jordan	15 days	24 hours	*	at time of marriage	on granting of decree
Korea, Republic of	1 month	1 month	1 month	not fixed	not fixed
Kuwait	2 weeks	24 hours	2 weeks	at time of marriage	on granting of decree
Macau	not fixed	48 hours	...	not fixed	not fixed
Malaysia					
Peninsular Malaysia	42 days	3 days	42 days	3 months	*

TABLE A.7 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
ASIA (continued)					
Malaysia (continued)					
Sabah	1 year	1 month	1 month	*	*
Sarawak	42 days	7 days	42 days	not fixed	not fixed
Philippines	30 days	30 days	30 days	15 days	*
Singapore	42 days	3 days	14 days	at time of marriage	*
Sri Lanka	42 days	5 days	5 days	3 months	...
Syrian Arab Republic ..	15 and 30 days	15 and 30 days	*	at time of marriage	on granting of decree
Thailand	15 days	24 hours	24 hours	not fixed	not fixed
EUROPE-USSR					
Austria	1 week	1 day	1 day	at time of marriage	not fixed
Belgium	3 days	3 days	3 days	at time of marriage	3 months
Bulgaria	15 days	48 hours	48 hours	at time of marriage	15 days
Channel Islands					
Guernsey	30 days	48 hours	48 hours	48 hours	on granting of decree
Jersey	21 days	5 days	*	at time of marriage	*
Czechoslovakia	24 hours	24 hours	24 hours	24 hours	24 hours
Denmark	2 and 8 days	3 days	2 and 8 days	at time of marriage	on granting of decree
Finland	1 day	2 days	2 days	8 days	...
France	3 days	24 hours	not fixed	at time of marriage	not fixed
German Democratic Republic	1 week	next working day	next working day	at time of marriage	on granting of decree
Germany, Federal Republic of	7 days	next working day	next working day	at time of marriage	without delay
Gibraltar	21 days	8 days	21 days	at time of marriage	*
Greece	10 days	24 hours	10 days	40 days	30 days
Hungary	1 to 8 days	next working day	1 to 8 days	at time of marriage	on granting of decree
Iceland	not fixed	not fixed	not fixed	not fixed	not fixed
Ireland	3 months	12 months	*	not fixed	*
Isle of Man	42 days	14 days	42 days	3 months	...
Italy	10 days	24 hours	10 days	at time of marriage	on granting of decree
Luxembourg	5 days	24 hours	1 day	at time of marriage	3 days
Malta	5 days	2 days	2 days	at time of marriage	*
Monaco	3 days	1 day	*	at time of marriage	not fixed
Netherlands	3 days	before burial	before burial	at time of marriage	6 months
Norway	1 month	8 days	1 month	at time of marriage	on granting of decree
Poland	14 days	3 days	3 days	at time of marriage	30 days
Spain	8 days	before burial	8 days	at time of marriage	*
Sweden	not fixed	not fixed	not fixed	not fixed	not fixed
Switzerland	3 days	2 days	3 days	at time of marriage	8 days
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	3 months	3 days	3 days	1 month	not fixed
United Kingdom					
England and Wales ..	42 days	14 days	42 days	at time of marriage	*
Northern Ireland ...	42 days	5 and 14 days	42 days	3 days	*

TABLE A.7 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
EUROPE-USSR (continued)					
United Kingdom (continued)					
Scotland	21 days	8 days	21 days	3 days	on granting of decree
Yugoslavia	15 days	3 days	24 hours	at time of marriage	15 days
OCEANIA					
Australia	28 to 60 days	8 to 30 days	8 to 30 days	at time of marriage to 30 days	*
Fiji	2 months	1 month	2 months	1 month	...
French Polynesia	3 days	24 hours	*	...	*
New Zealand	2 months	3 days after burial	2 months	10 days	on granting of decree
Pacific Islands	1 week	1 week	1 week	*	*
Samoa	7 days	7 days	7 days	not fixed	not fixed
Tonga	21 days	21 days	21 days	21 days	on granting of decree
Vanuatu	21 days	7 days	21 days	21 days	...

* No legal provision for registration.

... No information available.

TABLE A.8. PLACE OF REGISTRATION^a BY VITAL EVENTS BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AFRICA					
Botswana	PO RM	PO RD	...	...	*
Central African Republic	PO	PO	...	PO	...
Chad	PO	PO	*	PO	*
Congo	PO RM	PO RD	PO RM	PO RB RG	PO RH RW
Guinea-Bissau	PO	PO	PO	PO RB RG	RW
Kenya	PO	PO	PO	PO	...
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	PO	PO	...	PO	PO
Malawi	PO	PO	*	PO	...
Mauritius	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
Morocco	RM	PR	*	*	*
Rwanda	PO RM	PO RD	*	PO RG	PO RH
Senegal	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Seychelles	PO	PO	*	PO	...
Sierra Leone	PO	PO	...	*	*
Swaziland	PO	PO	*	PO	*
Tunisia	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
Uganda	PO	PO	*	*	*
Upper Volta	PO	PO	*	PO	OT
Zaire	PO RM	PO RD	PO RM	PO RB RG	PO RH RW
AMERICA, NORTH					
Bahamas	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Belize	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Canada	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
Costa Rica	PO	PO	*	PO	...
Cuba	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Dominican Republic ..	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
El Salvador	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Guatemala	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Haiti	PO	PO	...	PO	PO
Honduras	PO	PO	*	PO	PO
Mexico	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO

TABLE A.8 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AMERICA, NORTH (continued)					
Panama	PO	PO	OT	PO	PO
Puerto Rico	PO RM	PO RD	PO RM	PO RB RG	PO RM RW
Trinidad and Tobago	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
United States of America	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
AMERICA, SOUTH					
Argentina	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Bolivia	PO	PO	...	PO	*
Brazil	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Chile	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Colombia	PO	PO	*	PO	*
Ecuador	PO	PO	PO	RB RG	RH RW
Guyana	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Peru	PO	PO	*	PO	*
Uruguay	PO	PO	*	RB RG	OT
Venezuela	PO	PO	PO	PO	...
ASIA					
Afghanistan	PO	PO	*	PO	*
Bangladesh	PO	PO	*	RB	*
Brunei	PO RM	PO RD	...	PO RB RG	*
Hong Kong	PO	PO	*	PO RB RG	PO
India	PO	PO	PO	*	*
Iraq	PO	PO	PO	*	*
Israel	RM	RD	*	RB RG	RH RW
Japan	RM	RD	RM	RB RG	RH RW
Jordan	PO	PO	*	PO	PO
Korea, Republic of ...	RM	RD	PO RM	RG	RH
Kuwait	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Macau	PO	PO	...	PO	PO
Malaysia					
Peninsular Malaysia	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Sabah	PO	PO	PO	*	*
Sarawak	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Philippines	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Singapore	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Sri Lanka	PO RM	PO RD	PO RM	PO RG RB	...
Syrian Arab Republic ..	PO RM	PO RD	*	PO RG	PO RH
Thailand	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
EUROPE-USSR					
Austria	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
Belgium	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
Bulgaria	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Channel Islands					
Guernsey	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Jersey	PO	PO	*	PO	*
Czechoslovakia	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Denmark	RM	RD	RM	RB RG	RH RW
Finland	RM	RD	RM	RB RG	RH RW
France	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
German Democratic Republic	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Germany, Federal					
Republic of	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Gibraltar	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Greece	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
Hungary	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
Iceland	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Ireland	PO	PO	*	PO	*
Isle of Man	PO	PO	PO	PO	RH RW
Italy	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
Luxembourg	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
Malta	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Monaco	PO	PO	*	PO	*
Netherlands	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT

TABLE A.8 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
EUROPE-USSR (continued)					
Norway	RM	RD	RM	RB RG	RH RW
Poland	PO RM	PO RD	PO RM	PO RB RG	PO RH RW
Spain	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Sweden	RM	RD	RM	RB RG	RH RW
Switzerland	PO	PO	PO	PO	OT
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ..	PO RM	PO RD	PO RM	PO RB RG OT	PO RH RW
United Kingdom					
England and Wales ..	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Northern Ireland ...	PO RM	PO RD	PO RM	PO	*
Scotland	PO RM	PO RD	PO RM	PO	OT
Yugoslavia	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
OCEANIA					
Australia	PO	PO	PO	PO	*
Fiji	PO	PO	PO	PO RB RG	...
French Polynesia	PO	PO RD	*	PO	*
New Zealand	PO	OT	PO	PO	PO
Pacific Islands	PO	PO	PO	*	*
Samoa	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Tonga	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
Vanuatu	PO	PO RD	PO	PO	...

* No legal provisions for registration.

... No information available.

PO — Place of occurrence

RD — Place of residence of decedent

RB — Place of residence of bride

RG — Place of residence of groom

RH — Place of residence of husband

RW — Place of residence of wife

RM — Place of residence of mother

OT — Other places

*Place of registration refers to the geographic place where the informant must declare the facts concerning the occurrence of an event. Essentially, the registration can be made in the place where the event occurred, that is, "place of occurrence", where one or more of the individuals concerned usually reside, that is, "place of residence" or some combination of those registration procedures.

TABLE A.9. DEFINITIONS OF LIVE BIRTHS, DEATHS, FOETAL DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES USED FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Country or area	Definition
AFRICA	
<i>Congo</i>	
Live birth	Expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after expulsion, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart.
Death	Permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (post-natal cessation of vital functions without capability of resuscitation).
Foetal death	Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy.
Marriage	Ceremony by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted in accordance with our laws.
Divorce	Final legal dissolution of a marriage which confers on the spouses the right to remarriage.

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
AFRICA (continued)	
<i>Guinea-Bissau</i>	
Live birth	WHO
Death	WHO
Foetal death	WHO
Marriage	WHO
Divorce	WHO
<i>Kenya</i>	
Live birth	These are births given forth after the expiration of 28 weeks of pregnancy.
Death	...
Foetal death	These are births given forth after the expiration of 28 weeks of pregnancy but the children are born dead.
Marriage	...
Divorce	...
<i>Libyan Arab Jamahiriya</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
AFRICA (continued)	
<i>Mauritius</i>	
Live birth	Every product of conception which shows any sign of life, irrespective of duration of pregnancy or of length of life after birth.
Death	The permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place.
Foetal death	Foetus born dead at or after 28 weeks of gestation.
Marriage	Legal union of persons of opposite sexes.
Divorce	The final dissolution of a marriage, that is, the separation of husband and wife by a judicial decree which confers on the parties the right to remarry.
<i>Morocco</i>	
Live birth	Complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life.
Death	Permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place.
Foetal death	...
Marriage	...
Divorce	...
<i>Rwanda</i>	
Live birth	Any product of conception which, at birth, shows any evidence of life.
Death	Any death occurring after live birth has taken place.
Foetal death	Deaths which occur after 28 weeks of gestation, not including live-born infants who die after birth.
Marriage	Legal wedlock between persons of opposite sexes, approved by civil, religious, or other means as recognized by the laws of the country.
Divorce	Final legal dissolution of a marriage, with the possibility of remarriage.
<i>Senegal</i>	
Live birth	Infant crying and showing evidence of life at birth.
Death	Individual no longer showing any evidence of life.
Foetal death	Product of conception showing no evidence of life at birth.
Marriage	Wedlock contracted between a man and a woman.
Divorce	...
<i>Seychelles</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN *
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>Tunisia</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
AFRICA (continued)	
<i>Zaire</i>	
Live birth	Infant having lived more than 24 hours.
Death	...
Foetal death	Stillborn infant or infant having lived less than 24 hours.
Marriage	Civil marriage is registered, that is, the spouses and two witnesses declare to the registrar that they consent to the marriage.
Divorce	Only divorces declared or established by the courts are registered.
AMERICA, NORTH	
<i>Bahamas</i>	
Live birth	The complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after separation, shows some signs of life, for example, breathing, heartbeat etc.
Death	Permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (post-natal cessation of vital functions without capability of resuscitation).
Foetal death	Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of duration of pregnancy, and which shows no sign of life after separation from its mother.
Marriage	The legal union of persons of opposite sexes. The legality may be established by civil, religious or other means recognized by the laws of each country.
Divorce	The final legal dissolution of a marriage, that is, the separation of husband and wife by a judicial decree which confers on the parties the right to civil/religious remarriage according to the law of the country. *
<i>Belize</i>	
Live birth	The complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, provided that the product breathes or shows other evidence of life.
Death	A lack of evidence of life, such as no beating of the heart or no definite movement of voluntary muscles.
Foetal death	The death of a product of conception while still in the foetal stages.
Marriage	The legal union of persons of opposite sexes. The legality of the union is established by registration after solemnization by civil or religious rites.
Divorce	The final legal dissolution of a marriage by the Supreme Court of Belize and Divorce Registration Ordinance. *
<i>Canada</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	Irreversible cessation of all of a person's brain function occurs.
Foetal death	Complete expulsion from its mother after 20 weeks of a product of conception which shows no sign of life.
Marriage	Wedlock between a man and a woman.
Divorce	Dissolution and annulment of marriage, includes nullity of marriage.

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
AMERICA, NORTH (continued)	
<i>Costa Rica</i>	
Live birth	Complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life.
Death	The permanent disappearance of all evidence of life of a person at any time after birth (post-natal cessation of vital functions without capability of resuscitation).
Foetal death	Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy.
Marriage	Civil or Catholic ceremony whereby wedlock is established between a man and a woman.
Divorce	Dissolution of a valid marriage.
<i>Cuba</i>	
Live birth	A product of conception which, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, is completely expelled or extracted from its mother and which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite contraction of a voluntary muscle, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached.
Death	Final disappearance of all evidence of life after live birth has taken place.
Foetal death	Death of a product of conception prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother; death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the foetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life.
Marriage	Concerted union of a man and a woman, both legally competent, for the purpose of living together as husband and wife. Marriage has legal effects only when it is formalized or recognized in accordance with the established laws. Marriage is constituted on the basis of the equal rights and duties of both sexes.
Divorce	Dissolution of the pre-established marriage relationship by judicial means. Divorce is governed by the Family Code.
<i>Dominican Republic</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>El Salvador</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	Death of a product of conception prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother at 28 or more weeks of gestation.
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>Guatemala</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
AMERICA, NORTH (continued)	
<i>Guatemala (continued)</i>	
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>Haiti</i>	
Live birth	Complete expulsion of a product of conception and evidence of life at the time of such expulsion.
Death	Permanent disappearance of all evidence of life after live birth has taken place.
Foetal death	...
Marriage	Legal wedlock (civil or religious) between persons of opposite sexes.
Divorce	Dissolution of wedlock, declared by a court after proceedings; it must be recorded with the civil registry office within the time prescribed by law.
<i>Honduras</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	*
Marriage	UN
Divorce	Legal dissolution of a marriage by virtue of a judgement issued in accordance with the law.
<i>Mexico</i>	
Live birth	Complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached.
Death	Permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place.
Foetal death	Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy.
Marriage	The act, ceremony or process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted.
Divorce	Final judicial dissolution of a marriage, that is, the separation of husband and wife which confers on the parties the right to remarriage.
<i>Panama</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>Puerto Rico</i>	
Live birth	All birth that shows any evidence of life after being completely outside the mother's body.
Death	The permanent disappearance of any evidence of life at any time after live birth.
Foetal death	A birth after 20 weeks gestation which is not a live birth.
Marriage	The legal union of persons of opposite sexes.
Divorce	The final legal dissolution of a marriage.

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
AMERICA, NORTH (continued)	
<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	Final cessation of the heartbeat and respiration.
Foetal death	Foetus born dead at or after 28 weeks of gestation.
Marriage	The legal union of persons of opposite sexes, which is solemnized by a marriage officer, superintendent registrar or the Registrar General.
Divorce	Final legal dissolution of marriage by the Supreme Court or under the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Ordinance.
<i>United States of America</i>	
Live birth	WHO
Death	WHO
Foetal death	WHO
Marriage	A legal union between two persons of opposite sexes. The legal union is usually considered a contract.
Divorce	Final legal dissolution of marriage by a judicial decree.
AMERICA, SOUTH	
<i>Argentina</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	*
<i>Bolivia</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN *
<i>Brazil</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	*
<i>Chile</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	*
<i>Colombia</i>	
Live birth	Product of conception which, after separation from its mother, shows any evidence of life.
Death	UN
Foetal death	A product of conception which, after separation from its mother, does not breathe or show any evidence of life and which is of six or more months' gestation.
Marriage	Legal wedlock of two persons of opposite sexes which entails residential and sexual co-operation and cohabitation. The marriage may be either civil or religious.
Divorce	...

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
AMERICA, SOUTH (continued)	
<i>Ecuador</i>	
Live birth	Any product of conception which shows any evidence of life, irrespective of the gestation period or the time it has lived after birth.
Death	All deaths occurring at any time after birth.
Foetal death	Death of a product of conception occurring prior to the complete extraction from its mother, after 12 or more full weeks of gestation.
Marriage	Legal wedlock of two persons of opposite sexes, established in accordance with the law by civil, religious or other means.
Divorce	Final legal dissolution of a marriage which confers on the parties the right to remarriage. A legal separation is a prerequisite.
<i>Guyana</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	...
Divorce	*
<i>Peru</i>	
Live birth	WHO
Death	WHO
Foetal death	WHO *
Marriage	WHO
Divorce	WHO *
<i>Uruguay</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	*
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>Venezuela</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
ASIA	
<i>Bangladesh</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	*
Marriage	UN
Divorce	*
<i>Hong Kong</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	Birth given by mother after 28 weeks of gestation which after complete expulsion or extraction does not breathe or show any evidence of life. *
Marriage	Couples married under the marriage ordinance of Hong Kong.
Divorce	...
<i>India</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
ASIA (continued)	
<i>India (continued)</i>	
Foetal death	Absence of all evidence of life prior to the complete extraction or expulsion from its mother of a product of conception which has attained at least 28 weeks of gestation.
Marriage	*
Divorce	*
<i>Iraq</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	Absence of any evidence of life, whether due to natural or unnatural causes, after live birth has taken place.
Foetal death	A product of conception which has attained 28 weeks of gestation but is dead prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother.
Marriage	*
Divorce	*
<i>Israel</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	A product of conception which has attained 28 weeks of gestation, but is dead prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother.
Marriage	...
Divorce	...
<i>Japan</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	Dissolution of marriage valid after the notification is accepted by the register at local office for the case of divorce by mutual agreement. In the case of divorce by court decision, the notification attached with a copy of the decision shall be submitted to a local office to legally assure the separation.
<i>Jordan</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	*
Marriage	UN
Divorce	The legal dissolution of a marriage.
<i>Korea, Republic of</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>Kuwait</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>Macau</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN *
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
ASIA (continued)	
<i>Malaysia</i>	
<i>Peninsular Malaysia:</i>	
Live birth	Every product of conception which shows any form of life after birth.
Death	The permanent disappearance of any evidence of life at any time after live birth.
Foetal death	A foetus that died before or after delivery which has completed at least 28 weeks of gestation.
Marriage	The legal union of two persons of opposite sexes, established by civil registration, Christian registration and Registration of Marriages.
Divorce	*
<i>Sabah:</i>	
Live birth	...
Death	...
Foetal death	Any child which has issued forth from its mother after the twentieth week of pregnancy and which did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother breathe or show any other sign of life.
Marriage	*
Divorce	*
<i>Sarawak:</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>Philippines</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	*
<i>Singapore</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	A product of conception which has attained 28 weeks of gestation but is dead prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother.
Marriage	UN
Divorce	*
<i>Sri Lanka</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	Marriages registered under three ordinances, namely, General, Kandyan and Muslim.
Divorce	Divorces granted under the General Marriage Ordinance are dissolved and recorded by courts. Divorces under the Kandyan Marriage Ordinance are granted by the District Registrar. Divorces under the Muslim Marriage Ordinance are granted by a Muslim priest (<i>kathies</i>).
<i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>	
Live birth	The act of delivering a live-born child after 28 weeks of pregnancy.
Death	...
Foetal death	*

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
ASIA (continued)	
<i>Syrian Arab Republic (continued)</i>	
Marriage	A union between two persons of opposite sexes, by presence of witnesses and approved by the concerned court.
Divorce	The dissolution of the marriage being granted by a decree of divorce issued by the concerned court.
<i>Thailand</i>	
Live birth	WHO
Death	WHO
Foetal death	WHO
Marriage	...
Divorce	...
EUROPE-USSR	
<i>Austria</i>	
Live birth	Foetus showing natural breathing of the lungs or action of the heart or pulsation of the navel-string.
Death	No definition is employed, except foetal deaths and subsequently certified military deaths are excluded.
Foetal death	Foetus of at least 35 cm. in length and not showing one of the signs indicated for live birth.
Marriage	Union of two persons of opposite sexes, contracted before the local registrar.
Divorce	Dissolution of marriage by court decree (excluding annulments).
<i>Belgium</i>	
Live birth	In theory: Births of infants having breathed after birth. In practice: Infants showing signs of life (e.g. breathing, beating of heart, movement of voluntary muscles) according to medical evaluation.
Death	...
Foetal death	Death of a product of conception prior to complete expulsion or extraction from its mother after 180 days of gestation.
Marriage	Contract by which a union of a man and a woman is approved by civil law. The contract exists from the moment of being declared as valid by a civil registrar.
Divorce	Dissolution of marriage declared by the civil registrar of the <i>commune</i> where the marriage took place after the dissolution was authorized by the competent tribunal.
<i>Bulgaria</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	Death of a product of conception prior to the complete extraction from its mother after 28 completed weeks of gestation. The foetus should have a length of 35 or more centimetres and show no evidence whatsoever of life.
Marriage	UN
Divorce	Marriage dissolution by judicial procedure (by judicial intervention).
<i>Channel Islands</i>	
<i>Guernsey:</i>	
Live birth	Live delivery after 28 weeks of gestation.
Death	...
Foetal death	Delivery of a dead foetus after the twenty-eighth week of gestation.

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
EUROPE-USSR (continued)	
<i>Channel Islands (continued)</i>	
Marriage	...
Divorce	Dissolution of a marriage in accordance with the law.
<i>Czechoslovakia</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>Denmark</i>	
Live birth	...
Death	...
Foetal death	Delivery of a dead foetus after the twenty-eighth week of gestation.
Marriage	...
Divorce	...
<i>Finland</i>	
Live birth	A child which after delivery breathed or showed other signs of life.
Death	...
Foetal death	Delivery of a dead child after at least six months' pregnancy.
Marriage	Civil or religious marriages where at least one of the spouses is permanently resident in Finland.
Divorce	Dissolution of marriages by process of law through one of the spouses being granted a decree of divorce.
<i>France</i>	
Live birth	Births declared being alive to the civil registration, including infants pronounced dead but known to have shown signs of life after birth.
Death	...
Foetal death	Infants born after 180 days of gestation and pronounced dead for whom no signs of life were shown. They include infants born alive but who died before being declared to the civil registration.
Marriage	Legal union of persons of opposite sexes, established before a civil registrar.
Divorce	Legal dissolution of a marriage celebrated in accordance with the law.
<i>Germany, Federal Republic of</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	...
Foetal death	If there is no evidence of life but the product of birth has a length of at least 35 centimetres.
Marriage	Wedlock contracted between two persons of different sexes and registered by the local registrar.
Divorce	Legal dissolution of a marriage by sentence of a court.
<i>Gibraltar</i>	
Live birth	...
Death	...
Foetal death	Child expelled from its mother after 28 weeks.
Marriage	...
Divorce	Legal dissolution of a marriage by absolute decree.

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
EUROPE-USSR (continued)	
<i>Greece</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	The legal union of persons of opposite sexes. The legality of the union may be established through celebration according to the dogma or religion of the parties.
Divorce	Dissolution of marriage after definitive judicial judgement.
<i>Hungary</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	Takes place when a man and a woman to be married, being together present before the officially proceeding registrar, personally declare that they intend to get married.
Divorce	Marriage that was dissolved and annulled by a judicial decree of divorce that has become final.
<i>Iceland</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>Ireland</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	Delivery of a dead foetus after the twenty-eighth week of gestation.
Marriage	Legal union of persons of opposite sexes.
Divorce	*
<i>Italy</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	Delivery of a dead foetus after the twenty-eighth week of gestation.
Marriage	UN
Divorce	Marriage dissolved by the judicial authority.
<i>Netherlands</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	Delivery of a dead foetus after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy.
Marriage	UN
Divorce	Divorce registered by the Municipal Registrar. The registrar registers the sentence of divorce of the judge of the district court after the sentence came into force and the man or woman involved enters the sentence.
<i>Norway</i>	
Live birth	Foetus showing evidence of life after complete separation from the mother (residents in Norway).
Death	UN
Foetal death	Foetus born after 28 weeks of pregnancy showing no evidence of life after the complete extraction from its mother (mothers resident in Norway).

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
EUROPE-USSR (continued)	
<i>Norway (continued)</i>	
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
<i>Poland</i>	
Live birth	Bringing forth a child who immediately shows one of the following signs of life: heart pulsation, breathing, pulsation of the umbilical cord, contraction of striated muscles, weight is at least 1,001 grams or is less than 1,001 grams but at least 601 grams and the child survived 24 hours at least.
Death	The ebbing of energy signs of life, independently from the duration of lifetime after live birth stated by person empowered to this act.
Foetal death	Bringing forth a child who died before complete delivery, or drawing from mother's organism, if weight of the child at the delivery is at least 1,001 grams.
Marriage	A voluntary unanimous statement of the will of a man and a woman to conclude marriage in the presence of a civil status officer.
Divorce	Dissolution of marriage stated by a legal judgement.
<i>Spain</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	Foetus born after 28 weeks of pregnancy showing no evidence of life after the complete extraction from its mother.
Marriage	UN
Divorce	*
<i>Sweden</i>	
Live birth	WHO
Death	Beating and action of the heart shall permanently have ceased working.
Foetal death	Still birth occurring from twenty-eighth week of gestation or, in case of unknown duration, length of foetus of at least 35 cms.
Marriage	...
Divorce	Dissolution of marriage officiated according to Swedis law confirmed or settled in court.
<i>Union of Soviet Socialist Republics</i>	
Live birth	A complete extraction from the mother after 28 weeks of pregnancy, measuring 35 cms. or more, weighing 1 kilogram or more and breathing.
Death	Complete interruption of any sign of life.
Foetal death	A complete extraction from the mother after 28 weeks of pregnancy, measuring 35 cms. or more, weighing 1 kilogram or more but does not breathe at the time of delivery.
Marriage	Union of two persons of opposite sexes registered in the local registration offices.
Divorce	Dissolution of a registered marriage. Such separation has to be registered in the local registration offices.
<i>United Kingdom</i>	
England and Wales:	
Live birth	UN

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
EUROPE-USSR (continued)	
<i>United Kingdom (continued)</i>	
Death	UN
Foetal death	Still birth occurring from 28 weeks of gestation showing no evidence of life after the complete extraction or expulsion from its mother.
Marriage	Any solemnization of matrimony of a man and woman, duly registered as such.
Divorce	Any termination of marriage by judicial decree of dissolution or annulment in the court.*
 <i>Northern Ireland:</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	Still birth occurring from 28 weeks of gestation showing no evidence of life after the complete extraction or expulsion from its mother.
Marriage	UN
Divorce	*
 <i>Scotland:</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	Still birth occurring from 28 weeks of gestation showing no evidence of life after the complete extraction or expulsion from its mother.
Marriage	UN
Divorce	Dissolution of marriage granted in Scotland court and notified to General Registrar Office (Scotland).
 <i>Yugoslavia</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	Disappearance of all evidence of life after 12 hours, established by a physician.
Foetal death	Still birth occurring from 28 weeks of gestation showing no evidence of life after the complete extraction or expulsion from its mother.
Marriage	...
Divorce	A marriage dissolved by a competent registrar.
 OCEANIA	
<i>Australia</i>	
Live birth	A child shall be taken to have been born alive if the child's heart beats after having been completely expelled or extracted from the child's mother.
Death	UN
Foetal death	Any child born after the twenty-eighth week of gestation or any foetus of 400 grams weight or more at delivery which did not, any time after being born, breathe or show any other sign of life.
Marriage	The act, ceremony or process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted.
Divorce	Final legal dissolution of a marriage.*
 <i>Fiji</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
OCEANIA (continued)	
<i>New Zealand</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	...
Divorce	...
 <i>Pacific Islands</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	*
Divorce	*
 <i>Samoa</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	A foetus showing no evidence of life after complete extraction from the mother, which has completed at least 28 weeks of gestation.
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN
 <i>Vanuatu</i>	
Live birth	UN
Death	UN
Foetal death	UN
Marriage	UN
Divorce	UN

UNITED NATIONS RECOMMENDED DEFINITIONS

Live birth: The complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered live-born. All live-born infants should be registered and counted as such irrespective of gestational age or whether alive or dead at time of registration, and if they die at any time following birth they should also be registered and counted as deaths.

Death: The permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (post-natal cessation of vital functions without capability of resuscitation). This definition therefore excludes foetal deaths.

Foetal death: The death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy; the death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the foetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of voluntary muscles.

The three major categories of foetal death recommended by the World Health Organization are as follows: Early foetal deaths at less than 20 completed weeks of gestation; Intermediate foetal deaths at 20 but less than 28 weeks; and Late foetal deaths at 28 weeks or more. The term "still births" should be used only if it is essential for national purposes, and it should in that case be regarded as synonymous with late foetal deaths.

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
Marriage:	The act, ceremony or process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted. The legality of the union may be established by civil, religious, or other means as recognized by the laws of each country.
Divorce:	A final legal dissolution of a marriage, that is, that separation of husband and wife which confers on the parties the right to remarriage under civil, religious

TABLE A.9 (continued)

Country or area	Definition
	and/or other provisions, according to the laws of each country.
	* No legal provisions for registration of this vital event. ... No information is available. UN — Countries reported that the definitions recommended by the United Nations were used. WHO — Countries reported that the definitions recommended by the World Health Organization were used. The definitions are in fact the same as those of the United Nations.

TABLE A.10. AVAILABILITY OF VITAL STATISTICS AND COMPLETENESS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION
BY VITAL EVENTS, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AFRICA					
Algeria	U	U	N	U	U
Angola	U	U	U	U	U
Botswana	N	N	N	N	*
Cape Verde	C	C	U	C	U
Central African Republic	U	U	N	N	N
Chad	U	U	*	U	*
Congo	U	U	N	U	U
Djibouti	U	U	..	..	U
Egypt	C	C	U	U	U
Equatorial Guinea	U	U	..	U	..
Ghana	U	U	..	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	U	U	U	U	U
Kenya	U	U	U	U	..
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	U	U	N	U	U
Madagascar	U	U	U	U	U
Malawi	N	N	*	N	N
Mauritius	C	C	C	C	C
Morocco	U	U	*	*	*
Mozambique	U	U	U	U	U
Réunion	C	C	..	U	U
Rwanda	U	U	*	U	U
St. Helena	U	U	U	U	U
Sao Tome and Principe	C	C	U	U	..
Senegal	U	U	N	U	N
Seychelles	C	C	*	C	C
Sierra Leone	U	U	U	*	*
South Africa	U	U	U	U	U
Swaziland	N	N	*	N	*
Togo	U	U	U	U	U
Tunisia	C	U	U	U	..
Uganda	N	N	*	*	*
United Republic of Tanzania	U	U	..	U	U
Upper Volta	N	N	*	N	N
Western Sahara	U	U	..	C	..
Zaire	U	U	N	U	U
Zambia	..	..	..	U	U
Zimbabwe	U	U	U	U	U
AMERICA, NORTH					
Antigua	C	C	C	C	C
Bahamas	C	C	U	C	U
Barbados	C	C	C	C	C
Belize	U	U	N	C	C
Bermuda	C	C	C	C	C
British Virgin Islands	C	C	U	C	U
Canada	C	C	C	C	C
Cayman Islands	U	U	U	U	U

TABLE A.10 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AMERICA, NORTH (continued)					
Costa Rica	C	C	U	C	C
Cuba	C	C	U	C	C
Dominica	C	...	...	C	U
Dominican Republic ..	U	U	U	C	C
El Salvador	C	C	U	C	C
Greenland	C	C	C	C	U
Grenada	C	C	...	C	U
Guadeloupe	C	C	...	C	U
Guatemala	C	C	U	C	C
Haiti	N	N	*	N	N
Honduras	U	U	*	C	C
Jamaica	C	C	U	C	C
Martinique	C	C	...	C	U
Mexico	U	C	U	C	C
Montserrat	C	C	U	U	U
Netherlands Antilles ..	U	U	U	C	C
Nicaragua	U	U	...	C	U
Panama	C	U	U	C	C
Puerto Rico	C	C	U	C	C
Saint Christopher and Nevis	C	C	C	C	U
Saint Lucia	C	C	C	C	...
St. Pierre and Miquelon	C	C	C	C	C
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	C	C	C	C	U
Trinidad and Tobago ..	C	C	C	C	C
Turks and Caicos Islands	C	C	C	C	U
United States of America	C	C	U	C	U
United States Virgin Islands	C	C	U	C	C
AMERICA, SOUTH					
Argentina	C	C	N	C	*
Bolivia	U	U	N	U	*
Brazil	U	U	U	U	*
Chile	C	C	U	C	*
Colombia	U	U	*	U	*
Ecuador	U	U	U	U	U
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	U	U	U	U	U
French Guiana	U	U	...	U	U
Guyana	C	C	N	U	U
Paraguay	U	U	...	U	...
Peru	U	U	*	U	*
Uruguay	C	C	U	U	C
Venezuela	U	U	U	U	U
ASIA					
Afghanistan	N	N	*	N	*
Bangladesh	N	N	*	N	*
Brunei	C	C	N	U	*
China	N	N	...	N	N
Cyprus	U	U	...	C	C
Hong Kong	C	C	U	C	N
India	N	N	N	*	*
Iran	U	U	...	U	U
Iraq	U	U	N	*	*
Israel	C	C	C	C	C
Japan	C	C	C	C	C
Jordan	C	U	*	C	C
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of ...	N	N	N	N	N
Korea, Republic of ...	N	N	N	U	U
Kuwait	U	U	U	U	U
Lebanon	U	...	...	U	C
Macau	U	U	*	N	N

TABLE A.10 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
ASIA (continued)					
Malaysia	U	U	U	U	*
Philippines	U	U	U	U	*
Singapore	C	C	C	C	*
Sri Lanka	C	C	C	U	*
Syrian Arab Republic ..	U	U	*	U	U
Thailand	U	U	U	C	U
EUROPE-USSR					
Albania	...	...	...	C	C
Austria	C	C	C	C	C
Belgium	C	C	U	C	C
Bulgaria	C	C	C	C	C
Channel Islands	C	C	C	C	C
Czechoslovakia	C	C	C	C	C
Denmark	C	C	C	C	C
Faeroe Islands	C	C	U	C	C
Finland	C	C	U	C	C
France	C	C	C	C	C
German Democratic Republic	C	C	C	C	C
Germany, Federal Republic of	C	C	C	C	C
Gibraltar	C	C	C	C	*
Greece	C	C	U	C	C
Hungary	C	C	C	C	C
Iceland	C	C	C	C	C
Ireland	C	C	*	C	*
Isle of Man	C	C	C	C	C
Italy	C	C	C	C	U
Liechtenstein	C	U	U	C	U
Luxembourg	C	C	C	C	C
Malta	C	C	C	C	*
Monaco	C	U	*	U	U
Netherlands	C	C	C	C	C
Norway	C	C	C	C	C
Poland	C	C	U	C	C
Portugal	C	C	U	C	C
Romania	C	C	U	C	C
San Marino	C	C	U	C	...
Spain	C	C	U	C	*
Sweden	C	C	U	C	C
Switzerland	C	C	C	C	C
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	C	C	N	C	C
United Kingdom					
England and Wales ..	C	C	C	C	*
Northern Ireland ...	C	C	U	C	*
Scotland	C	C	C	C	C
Yugoslavia	C	C	U	C	C
OCEANIA					
American Samoa	C	C	U	C	C
Australia	C	C	U	C	C
Christmas Island	C	C	...	U	...
Cocos (Keeling) Islands ..	C	C	...	C	...
Cook Islands	C	C	...	C	C
Fiji	C	U	U	U	U
French Polynesia	U	U	U	U	*
Guam	C	C	C	C	C
Kiribati	U	U	...	...	...
Nauru	C	C	...	...	C
New Caledonia	U	U	...	U	U
New Zealand	C	C	C	C	C
Niue	U	U	...	U	U
Norfolk Island	C	C	...	...	U
Pacific Islands	U	U	U	*	*
Pitcairn	U	U	...	...	...
Samoa	U	U	...	U	U

TABLE A.10 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
OCEANIA (continued)					
Tokelau	U	U	...	U	...
Tonga	U	U	U	U	U
Vanuatu	N	N	N	N	N

C — Data available for the 1970s. Registration estimated by each country or area to be virtually complete, that is, representing at least 90 per cent of the events occurring each year.

U — Data available for the 1970s. Registration estimated by each country or area to be incomplete, that is, representing less than 90 per cent of the events occurring each year.

N — Data not available. There is legal provision for the registration of the vital event.

* — No legal provisions for the registration of the vital event.

... — No information available regarding the data and registration system.

TABLE A.11. BASIS OF ANNUAL TABULATION BY VITAL EVENTS, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AFRICA					
Algeria	O	O	—	O	...
Angola	O	O	O	...	...
Cape Verde	O	O	O	...	...
Central African Republic	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Djibouti	O	O	...	...	...
Egypt	O	O	R	R	R
Equatorial Guinea	R	R	...	...	...
Ghana	...	R	...	...	...
Guinea-Bissau	O	O	...	...	...
Kenya	O	R	...	...	...
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	O	OR	—	O	O
Madagascar	O	O	O	...	...
Mauritius	R	R	R	R	R
Morocco	O	O	*	*	*
Mozambique	O	O	O	...	...
Réunion	O	O	R	O	R
Rwanda	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
St. Helena	O	O	O	O	O
Sao Tome and Principe	O	O	O	...	...
Senegal	R	R	R	R	—
Seychelles	R	R	*	—	—
Sierra Leone	OR	OR	...	*	*
South Africa	O	O	O	O	O
Togo	O	O	...	...	...
Tunisia	OR	O	O	O	O
Western Sahara	O	O	O	O	...
Zaire	R	R	R	R	R
Zimbabwe	R	R	R	...	...
AMERICA, NORTH					
Antigua and Barbuda	R	R	R	R	O
Bahamas	O	O	O	O	*
Barbados	R	R	R	O	O
Belize	O	O	O	O	*
Bermuda	O	O	O	R	...
British Virgin Islands	R	R	R	...	...
Canada	O	...	O	O	O
Cayman Islands	R	O	O	R	...
Costa Rica	OR	OR	R	OR	R
Cuba	OR	O	O	O	O
Dominica	R	R	...	...	...
Dominican Republic	R	O	O	R	R
El Salvador	O	O	O	O	O
Grenada	R	R	...	R	O

TABLE A.11 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
AMERICA, NORTH (continued)					
Guadelupe	O	O	...	O	R
Guatemala	O	...	...	O	R
Haiti	R	R	*	O	R
Honduras	R	R	*	R	R
Jamaica	R	R	R	R	O
Martinique	O	O	...	O	R
Mexico	O	O	O	O	O
Montserrat	R	R	R	R	...
Netherlands Antilles ..	O	O	O	...	...
Nicaragua	R	R	...	R	...
Panama	O	O	O	O	O
Puerto Rico	O	O	O	O	O
Saint Christopher and Nevis	R	R	R	O	R
Saint Lucia	O	O	...	O	...
St. Pierre and Miquelon ..	O	O	O	R	...
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	R	R	R	...	...
Trinidad and Tobago	O	O	O	OR	R
Turks and Caicos Islands	...	R	O	...	...
United States of America	O	O	O	O	O
United States Virgin Islands	O	O	O	O	O
AMERICA, SOUTH					
Argentina	O	O	O	O	*
Bolivia	R	R	...	R	*
Brazil	O	O	O	OR	*
Chile	O	O	O	O	*
Colombia	OR	O	O	R	*
Ecuador	O	O	O	O	O
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	R	R	R	R	R
French Guiana	O	O	...	O	O
Guyana	OR	OR	...	...	*
Paraguay	O	R	...	R	...
Peru	O	O	O*	O	*
Uruguay	R	O	O	O	R
Venezuela	O	O	O	O	O
ASIA					
Bangladesh	R	R	*	R	*
Brunei	R	R	—	O	*
Cyprus	O	O	—	O	O
Hong Kong	O	OR	R	O	O
India	R	R	R	*	*
Iran	O	O	...	R	R
Iraq	O	O	O	*	*
Israel	O	O	O*	O	O
Japan	O	O	O	R	R
Jordan	R	R	*	R	R
Korea, Republic of	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Kuwait	O	O	O	O	O
Lebanon	R	R	...	...	...
Macau	R	O	...	R	R
Malaysia					
Peninsular Malaysia	O	O	O	O	*
Sabah	O	O	O	*	*
Sarawak	O	O	O	R	R
Philippines	O	O	O	O	*
Singapore	O	R	R	R	*
Sri Lanka	R	R	R	R	R
Syrian Arab Republic ..	R	R	*	O	O
Thailand	O	O	O	...	...

TABLE A.11 (continued)

Country or area	Vital event				
	Live births	Deaths	Foetal deaths	Marriages	Divorces
EUROPE-USSR					
Austria	O	O	O	O	O
Belgium	O	O	O	O	O R
Bulgaria	O	O	O	O	O
Channel Islands					
Guernsey	O	O	O	O	O
Jersey	R	R	*	O	*
Czechoslovakia	O	O	O	O	O
Denmark	O	O	O	O	O
Finland	O	O	O	O	O
France	O	O	O	O	...
German Democratic Republic	O	O	O	O	O
Germany, Federal Republic of	O	O	O	O	O
Gibraltar	O R	R	R	R	*
Greece	O	O	O	O	O
Hungary	O	O	O	O	O
Iceland	O	O	O	O	O
Ireland	O	O	O*	R	*
Isle of Man	R	R	R	R	...
Italy	O	O	O	O	R
Liechtenstein	O	O	O	O	O
Luxembourg	O	O	O	O	O
Malta	O	O	O	O	*
Monaco	O	O	*	O	R
Netherlands	O	O	O	O	R
Norway	O	O	O	O	O
Poland	O R	O R	...	R	R
Portugal	O	O	O	O	*
Romania	O	O	O	O	O
San Marino	R	R	O	O	...
Spain	O	O	O	O	*
Sweden	O	O	O	O	O
Switzerland	O	O	O	O	O
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	O	O	O	O	O
United Kingdom					
England and Wales	O	R	O	O	O*
Northern Ireland	R	R	R	R	*
Scotland	R	R	R	R	O
Yugoslavia	O	O	O	O	O
OCEANIA					
American Samoa	O	O	O	O	O
Australia	R	R	R	R	O*
Christmas Island	O	R	...	O	...
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	O	O	...	O	...
Cook Islands	R	R	...	R	O
Fiji	O R	O R	O R	O	...
French Polynesia	O	O	O*	...	*
Guam	O	O	O	O	O
Nauru	O	O	...	...	O
New Caledonia	O	O	O	O	O
New Zealand	R	R	R	R	R
Niue	R	O	O	O	O
Norfolk Island	R	O	...	R	...
Pacific Islands	O	O	O	*	*
Pitcairn	O	O	...	...	...
Samoa	...	O	O	R	R
Tokelau	O	O	...	...	...
Tonga	O	O	O	O	O

* No legal provision for civil registration.

... No information is available.

— Data are not compiled.

O Date of occurrence.

R Date of registration.

TABLE A.12: CHARACTERISTICS OF LIVE BIRTH INVESTIGATED IN THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Characteristics of live birth	Country or area										
	Africa										
	Botswana	Central African Republic	Congo	Ethiopia	Kenya	Malawi	Mauritius	Morocco	Senegal	Seychelles	Sierra Leone
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Attendant at birth	X	X					X				
* 2. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
* 4. Hospitalization	X										
5. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
* 6. Type of birth					X		X				
II. THE CHILD											
1. Gestational age											
* 2. Legitimacy status	X		X		X		X			X	
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Weight at birth											
III. THE MOTHER											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		
* 2. Children born alive	X				X		X				
3. Children still living											
4. Citizenship (nationality)		X	X			X					
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage							X				
6. Duration of residence											
7. Educational attainment				X							
8. Ethnic (national) group							X				
9. Foetal deaths had	X				X		X				
10. Interval since last live birth							X				
11. Literacy status											
12. Occupation		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	
13. Place of birth				X					X		
14. Place of residence at a specific past date											
*15. Place of usual residence	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
16. Type of activity											
IV. THE FATHER											
1. Age or date of birth		X		X			X		X		
2. Citizenship (nationality)			X			X					
3. Duration of residence											
4. Educational attainment				X							
5. Ethnic (national) group					X		X				
6. Literacy status											
7. Occupation		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	
8. Place of birth				X					X		
9. Place of residence at a specific past date											
10. Place of usual residence		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
11. Type of activity											

TABLE A.12 (continued)

Characteristics of live birth	Country or area									
	Africa (continued)					America, North				
	South Africa	Swaziland	Tunisia	Uganda	Upper Volta	Bahamas	Belize	Costa Rica	Canada	Dominican Republic El Salvador
I. THE EVENT										
* 1. Attendant at birth			X				X	X	X	X
* 2. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Hospitalization	X		X	X				X	X	X
5. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 6. Type of birth			X			X	X	X	X	X
II. THE CHILD										
1. Gestational age								X	X	X
* 2. Legitimacy status	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Weight at birth			X						X	
III. THE MOTHER										
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Children born alive			X			X	X	X	X	X
3. Children still living			X			X		X		X
4. Citizenship (nationality)	X		X	X				X		X
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage	X	X	X							
6. Duration of residence										
7. Educational attainment										
8. Ethnic (national) group	X									
9. Foetal deaths had			X				X	X	X	X
10. Interval since last live birth			X							
11. Literacy status										X
12. Occupation				X		X	X	X		X
13. Place of birth	X	X	X			X			X	X
14. Place of residence at a specific past date										
* 15. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
16. Type of activity										
IV. THE FATHER										
1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X		X	X				X		X
3. Duration of residence										
4. Educational attainment										
5. Ethnic (national) group	X									
6. Literacy status										X
7. Occupation		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Place of birth	X	X	X			X		X	X	X
9. Place of residence at a specific past date										
10. Place of usual residence	X	X		X	X			X		X
11. Type of activity			X							

TABLE A.12 (continued)

Characteristics of live birth	Country or area										
	America, North (continued)							America, South			
	Guatemala	Honduras	Mexico	Panama	Puerto Rico	Trinidad and Tobago	United States of America	Argentina	Bolivia	Brazil	Chile
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Attendant at birth	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
* 2. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Hospitalization	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
5. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 6. Type of birth	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
II. THE CHILD											
1. Gestational age				X	X				X		
* 2. Legitimacy status	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Weight at birth	X			X	X		X		X		
III. THE MOTHER											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Children born alive	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
3. Children still living	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		
4. Citizenship (nationality)	X	X	X	X						X	X
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage ..				X	X			X			X
6. Duration of residence											
7. Educational attainment		X		X	X		X		X		
8. Ethnic (national) group	X					X	X				
9. Foetal deaths had	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		
10. Interval since last live birth ...							X				
11. Literacy status								X	X		
12. Occupation	X		X	X	X			X	X		
13. Place of birth	X				X		X	X	X		
14. Place of residence at a specific past date											
* 15. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
16. Type of activity					X			X	X		
IV. THE FATHER											
1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X	X	X	X						X	X
3. Duration of residence											
4. Educational attainment		X		X	X		X	X	X		
5. Ethnic (national) group	X					X	X				
6. Literacy status									X		
7. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
8. Place of birth	X				X		X	X			
9. Place of residence at a specific past date											
10. Place of usual residence	X		X	X	X						X
11. Type of activity					X			X	X		

TABLE A.12 (continued)

Characteristics of live birth	Country or area										
	America, South (continued)						Asia				
	Colombia	Ecuador	Guyana	Peru	Uruguay	Venezuela	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Brunei	Hong Kong	India
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Attendant at birth	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X
* 2. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
* 4. Hospitalization	X	X	X	X		X				X	X
5. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
* 6. Type of birth	X	X	X	X		X				X	X
II. THE CHILD											
1. Gestational age				X		X					
* 2. Legitimacy status	X	X	X	X		X				X	X
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Weight at birth				X					X		
III. THE MOTHER											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
* 2. Children born alive	X	X	X	X		X				X	X
3. Children still living	X		X			X					
4. Citizenship (nationality)	X	X			X	X			X		X
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage ...			X	X						X	
6. Duration of residence											
7. Educational attainment		X		X						X	
8. Ethnic (national) group			X						X		
9. Foetal deaths had		X	X	X		X				X	
10. Interval since last live birth											
11. Literacy status				X		X					X
12. Occupation	X		X	X	X	X				X	X
13. Place of birth				X							
14. Place of residence at a specific past date											
* 15. Place of usual residence		X	X	X	X					X	X
16. Type of activity				X							
IV. THE FATHER											
1. Age or date of birth	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X	X			X	X			X		X
3. Duration of residence											
4. Educational attainment				X						X	
5. Ethnic (national) group			X						X		
6. Literacy status				X		X					X
7. Occupation	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
8. Place of birth			X							X	
9. Place of residence at a specific past date											
10. Place of usual residence			X	X	X	X	X	X			X
11. Type of activity				X							

TABLE A.12 (continued)

Characteristics of live birth	Country or area										
	Asia (continued)										
	Malaysia										
	Israel	Japan	Jordan	Kuwait	Macau	Sabah	Sarawak	West Malaysia	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Attendant at birth	X	X	X	X					X	X	X
* 2. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Hospitalization		X		X					X	X	X
5. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 6. Type of birth		X		X					X	X	X
II. THE CHILD											
1. Gestational age		X							X	X	X
* 2. Legitimacy status	X	X		X	X				X		X
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Weight at birth	X	X							X	X	X
III. THE MOTHER											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Children born alive	X	X					X		X		X
3. Children still living							X		X		X
4. Citizenship (nationality)	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage	X	X		X					X		X
6. Duration of residence											X
7. Educational attainment	X			X							
8. Ethnic (national) group	X					X	X	X	X	X	X
9. Foetal deaths had		X					X		X		
10. Interval since last live birth											
11. Literacy status											
12. Occupation	X	X		X		X	X			X	X
13. Place of birth	X						X		X	X	
14. Place of residence at a specific past date											X
*15. Place of usual residence	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
16. Type of activity		X									
IV. THE FATHER											
1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X			X		X		X
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X
3. Duration of residence											X
4. Educational attainment	X			X							
5. Ethnic (national) group						X	X	X	X	X	X
6. Literacy status											
7. Occupation	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Place of birth	X						X		X	X	X
9. Place of residence at a specific past date											
10. Place of usual residence	X		X	X	X		X				X
11. Type of activity		X									

TABLE A.12 (continued)

	Country or area										
	Europe - USSR										
Characteristics of live birth	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Channel Islands: Guernsey	Denmark	France	Germany, Federal Republic of	Gibraltar	Greece	Hungary	Iceland
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Attendant at birth		X	X		X	X			X	X	X
* 2. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Date of registration		X					X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Hospitalization	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
5. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
* 6. Type of birth	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X
II. THE CHILD											
1. Gestational age					X				X	X	X
* 2. Legitimacy status	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
* 4. Weight at birth	X				X		X		X	X	X
III. THE MOTHER											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
* 2. Children born alive		X	X		X				X	X	X
3. Children still living		X	X						X	X	
4. Citizenship (nationality)		X				X	X		X		X
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage ...	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
6. Duration of residence											
7. Educational attainment			X						X	X	
8. Ethnic (national) group			X								
9. Foetal deaths had		X			X				X	X	X
10. Interval since last live birth ...										X	
11. Literacy status									X		
12. Occupation	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X
13. Place of birth						X					
14. Place of residence at a specific past date					X						
* 15. Place of usual residence	X	X	X			X	X		X		
16. Type of activity	X		X		X	X				X	
IV. THE FATHER											
1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X	X				X	X		X		X
3. Duration of residence											
4. Educational attainment									X	X	
5. Ethnic (national) group			X								
6. Literacy status									X		
7. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
8. Place of birth						X					
9. Place of residence at a specific past date											
10. Place of usual residence			X		X				X	X	X
11. Type of activity	X		X			X	X			X	

TABLE A.12 (continued)

Characteristics of live birth	Country or area										
	Europe - USSR (continued)										
	Ireland	Isle of Man	Italy	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Attendant at birth						X		X	X		
* 2. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Date of registration	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
* 4. Hospitalization			X			X	X	X			X
* 5. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
* 6. Type of birth				X		X	X	X	X	X	X
II. THE CHILD											
1. Gestational age			X								
* 2. Legitimacy status	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Weight at birth			X					X			
III. THE MOTHER											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
* 2. Children born alive						X	X	X	X	X	X
3. Children still living	X										X
4. Citizenship (nationality)											
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
6. Duration of residence			X								
7. Educational attainment			X					X			
8. Ethnic (national) group											
9. Foetal deaths had						X	X			X	
10. Interval since last live birth						X			X		
11. Literacy status											
12. Occupation			X	X	X	X		X	X		X
13. Place of birth		X			X	X		X	X		X
14. Place of residence at a specific past date											
* 15. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
16. Type of activity			X					X			
IV. THE FATHER											
1. Age or date of birth			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)				X			X		X	X	
3. Duration of residence											
4. Educational attainment			X					X			
5. Ethnic (national) group											
6. Literacy status											
7. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
8. Place of birth		X			X	X		X	X		X
9. Place of residence at a specific past date											
10. Place of usual residence	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X
11. Type of activity			X					X			

TABLE A.12 (continued)

Characteristics of live birth	Country or area											
	Europe - USSR (continued)					Oceania						
	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	United Kingdom				Yugoslavia	Australia	Fiji	New Zealand	Pacific Islands	Samoa	Vanuatu
		England and Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland								
I. THE EVENT												
* 1. Attendant at birth					X				X			
* 2. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
* 3. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
* 4. Hospitalization				X	X	X			X			
* 5. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
* 6. Type of birth	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
II. THE CHILD												
1. Gestational age								X	X			
* 2. Legitimacy status	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
* 4. Weight at birth		X						X	X			
III. THE MOTHER												
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
* 2. Children born alive		X	X	X	X		X				X	
3. Children still living					X		X		X			
4. Citizenship (nationality)	X											
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
6. Duration of residence	X											
7. Educational attainment	X				X							
8. Ethnic (national) group					X		X	X				
9. Foetal deaths had		X	X	X	X			X	X			
10. Interval since last live birth									X			
11. Literacy status												
12. Occupation	X			X	X		X				X	
13. Place of birth		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	
14. Place of residence at a specific past date												
*15. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
16. Type of activity					X							
IV. THE FATHER												
1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X											
3. Duration of residence	X											
4. Educational attainment	X				X							
5. Ethnic (national) group					X		X	X				
6. Literacy status												
7. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
8. Place of birth		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	
9. Place of residence at a specific past date												
10. Place of usual residence	X			X			X	X			X	
11. Type of activity					X							

* First-priority topics.

TABLE A.13. CHARACTERISTICS OF DEATH INVESTIGATED IN THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Characteristics of death	Country or area										
	Africa										
	Botswana	Central African Republic	Congo	Ethiopia	Kenya	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Malawi	Mauritius	Morocco	Senegal	Seychelles
I. THE EVENT											
1. Attendant at birth ^a											
* 2. Cause of death	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	
* 3. Certifier	X					X		X		X	
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
6. Hospitalization	X									X	
* 7. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
II. THE DECEDENT											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Age of surviving spouse											
3. Children born alive								X			
4. Children still living											
5. Citizenship		X				X	X			X	
6. Duration (date) of marriage ^b											
7. Educational attainment											
8. Ethnic (national) group					X			X			
9. Legitimacy status ^a											
10. Literacy status											
*11. Marital status				X		X		X			X
12. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
13. Place of birth		X	X	X				X		X	X
14. Place of residence at a specific past date											
*15. Place of usual residence	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
*16. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17. Type of activity											

Characteristics of death	Country or area										
	Africa (continued)						America, North				
	Sierra Leone	South Africa	Swaziland	Tunisia	Uganda	Upper Volta	Bahamas	Belize	Canada	Costa Rica	Dominican Republic
I. THE EVENT											
1. Attendant at birth ^a											
* 2. Cause of death	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Certifier	X	X	X	X				X	X		X
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
6. Hospitalization		X		X					X	X	X
* 7. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
II. THE DECEDENT											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Age of surviving spouse											
3. Children born alive											
4. Children still living											
5. Citizenship				X	X					X	X
6. Duration (date) of marriage ^b											
7. Educational attainment											
8. Ethnic (national) group		X									
9. Legitimacy status ^a											
10. Literacy status											
*11. Marital status		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
12. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13. Place of birth		X	X	X		X			X		
14. Place of residence at a specific past date											
*15. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
*16. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17. Type of activity				X					X		X

TABLE A.13 (continued)

Characteristics of death	Country or area										
	America, North (continued)								America, South		
	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Mexico	Panama	Puerto Rico	Trinidad and Tobago	United States of America	Argentina	Bolivia	Brazil
I. THE EVENT											
1. Attendant at birth ^a					X						
* 2. Cause of death	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Certifier	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
6. Hospitalization	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 7. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
II. THE DECEDENT											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Age of surviving spouse											
3. Children born alive									X		
4. Children still living											
5. Citizenship	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
6. Duration (date) of marriage ^b											
7. Educational attainment			X								
8. Ethnic (national) group		X				X		X			
9. Legitimacy status ^a							X		X		
10. Literacy status											
* 11. Marital status	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
12. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
13. Place of birth	X	X		X		X		X			
14. Place of residence at a specific past date											
* 15. Place of usual residence	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
* 16. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17. Type of activity	X					X		X	X		

Characteristics of death	Country or area										
	America, South (continued)						Asia				
	Chile	Ecuador	Guyana	Peru	Uruguay	Venezuela	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Brunei	Hong Kong	India
I. THE EVENT											
1. Attendant at birth ^a											
* 2. Cause of death	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Certifier	X	X	X	X	X					X	X
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
6. Hospitalization		X	X	X		X					
* 7. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X
II. THE DECEDENT											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Age of surviving spouse			X			X					
3. Children born alive			X			X					
4. Children still living			X								
5. Citizenship	X				X	X	X		X	X	X
6. Duration (date) of marriage ^b											
7. Educational attainment											
8. Ethnic (national) group			X						X		
9. Legitimacy status ^a			X			X					
10. Literacy status						X					
* 11. Marital status	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
12. Occupation	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
13. Place of birth	X			X	X						
14. Place of residence at a specific past date											
* 15. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X
* 16. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17. Type of activity				X							

TABLE A.13 (continued)

Characteristics of death	Country or area										
	Asia (continued)										
	Malaysia								Europe - USSR		
	Japan	Kuwait	Macau	Sabah	Sarawak	West Malaysia	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Austria	Belgium
I. THE EVENT											
1. Attendant at birth ^a	X										
* 2. Cause of death	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Certifier	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X
6. Hospitalization	X	X					X		X		X
* 7. Place of occurrence	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
II. THE DECEDENT											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Age of surviving spouse	X										X
3. Children born alive											
4. Children still living											
5. Citizenship	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X
6. Duration (date) of marriage ^b									X		
7. Educational attainment		X									
8. Ethnic (national) group				X		X	X	X	X		
9. Legitimacy status ^a											X
10. Literacy status											
* 11. Marital status	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
12. Occupation	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13. Place of birth					X		X	X	X	X	X
14. Place of residence at a specific past date					X						
* 15. Place of usual residence	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 16. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17. Type of activity	X								X		

Characteristics of death	Country or area										
	Europe - USSR (continued)										
	Bulgaria	Channel Islands: Guernsey	Denmark	France	German Democratic Republic	Germany, Federal Republic of	Gibraltar	Greece	Hungary	Iceland	Ireland
I. THE EVENT											
1. Attendant at birth ^a											
* 2. Cause of death		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
* 3. Certifier	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
* 4. Date of occurrence		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration			X			X	X	X			X
6. Hospitalization				X		X		X	X		
* 7. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
II. THE DECEDENT											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
2. Age of surviving spouse					X	X		X	X		
3. Children born alive					X				X		
4. Children still living									X		
5. Citizenship				X		X		X			
6. Duration (date) of marriage ^b					X	X			X		
7. Educational attainment	X							X	X		
8. Ethnic (national) group	X										
9. Legitimacy status ^a								X		X	
10. Literacy status											
* 11. Marital status	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
12. Occupation	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
13. Place of birth		X	X	X			X	X			
14. Place of residence at a specific past date											
* 15. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
* 16. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17. Type of activity	X			X					X		

TABLE A.13 (continued)

Characteristics of death	Country or area										
	Europe - USSR (continued)										
	Isle of Man	Italy	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
I. THE EVENT											
1. Attendant at birth ^a					X						
* 2. Cause of death	X			X	X		X	X		X	X
* 3. Certifier	X				X	X	X	X		X	
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration	X			X		X	X	X		X	X
6. Hospitalization						X	X			X	
* 7. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
II. THE DECEDENT											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Age of surviving spouse		X	X			X			X	X	
3. Children born alive					X					X	
4. Children still living											
5. Citizenship			X			X		X	X		X
6. Duration (date) of marriage ^b ..			X			X	X		X	X	
7. Educational attainment							X				
8. Ethnic (national) group											
9. Legitimacy status ^a			X			X				X	
10. Literacy status			X								
*11. Marital status		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
12. Occupation	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
13. Place of birth	X			X		X					X
14. Place of residence at a specific past date											
*15. Place of usual residence	X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X
*16. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17. Type of activity		X	X				X				

Characteristics of death	Country or area									
	Europe - USSR (continued)									
	United Kingdom				Oceania					
	England and Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Yugoslavia	Australia	Fiji	New Zealand	Pacific Islands	Samoa	Vanuatu
I. THE EVENT										
1. Attendant at birth ^a										
* 2. Cause of death	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Certifier	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6. Hospitalization			X	X				X		
* 7. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
II. THE DECEDENT										
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Age of surviving spouse	X		X				X		X	
3. Children born alive						X				
4. Children still living										
5. Citizenship								X		
6. Duration (date) of marriage ^b					X					X
7. Educational attainment				X						
8. Ethnic (national) group				X		X				
9. Legitimacy status ^a				X						
10. Literacy status										
*11. Marital status	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
12. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13. Place of birth	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
14. Place of residence at a specific past date							X			
*15. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
*16. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17. Type of activity				X				X		

*First-priority topics.

^bFor married persons.

*For deaths under one year of age.

TABLE A.14. CHARACTERISTICS OF FOETAL DEATH INVESTIGATED IN THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Characteristics of foetal death	Country or area									
	Africa			America, North						
	Mauritius	South Africa	Tunisia	Belize	Canada	Dominican Republic	Honduras	El Salvador	Guatemala	Panama
I. THE EVENT										
1. Attendant at birth	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
2. Cause of foetal death		X			X	X		X	X	X
3. Certifier		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6. Hospitalization		X	X		X	X		X	X	X
7. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 8. Type of birth (single or multiple issue)	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
II. THE FOETUS										
* 1. Gestational age			X		X	X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Legitimacy status	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Weight at delivery					X					X
III. THE MOTHER										
* 1. Age or date of birth	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Children born alive	X		X		X			X	X	X
3. Children still living			X					X	X	X
4. Citizenship (nationality)			X						X	
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage	X		X							X
6. Educational attainment							X			X
7. Ethnic (national) group	X	X							X	
8. Foetal deaths had	X		X		X			X	X	X
9. Literacy status										
10. Occupation	X					X	X	X	X	X
11. Place of birth			X		X					
* 12. Place of usual residence	X		X		X	X		X	X	X
13. Type of activity						X				
IV. THE FATHER										
1. Age or date of birth	X		X		X		X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)			X						X	
3. Educational attainment							X			X
4. Ethnic (national) group	X								X	
5. Literacy status										
6. Occupation	X			X			X	X	X	X
7. Place of birth					X					
8. Place of usual residence	X					X			X	
9. Type of activity										

TABLE A.14 (continued)

Characteristics of foetal death	Country or area									
	America, North (continued)		America, South						Asia	
	Trinidad and Tobago	United States of America	Argentina	Brazil	Ecuador	Guyana	Peru	Venezuela	India	Japan
I. THE EVENT										
1. Attendant at birth	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Cause of foetal death		X	X		X		X	X		X
3. Certifier		X	X				X			X
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
6. Hospitalization	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
7. Place of occurrence	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
* 8. Type of birth (single or multiple issue)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
II. THE FOETUS										
* 1. Gestational age		X	X	X	X		X	X		X
* 2. Legitimacy status	X	X	X			X	X	X		X
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Weight at delivery		X	X				X			X
III. THE MOTHER										
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Children born alive	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
3. Children still living	X	X				X		X		X
4. Citizenship (nationality)				X				X	X	X
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage			X			X	X	X		
6. Educational attainment		X	X				X			
7. Ethnic (national) group	X	X				X				
8. Foetal deaths had	X	X	X			X	X	X		X
9. Literacy status							X	X	X	
10. Occupation			X			X	X	X	X	X
11. Place of birth			X	X			X			
* 12. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13. Type of activity			X				X			
IV. THE FATHER										
1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X			X	X	X		X
2. Citizenship (nationality)				X				X	X	X
3. Educational attainment		X	X				X			
4. Ethnic (national) group	X	X				X				
5. Literacy status							X	X	X	
6. Occupation			X			X	X	X	X	X
7. Place of birth			X				X			
8. Place of usual residence						X			X	X
9. Type of activity			X				X			

TABLE A.14 (continued)

Characteristics of foetal death	Country or area									
	Asia (continued)						Europe - USSR			
	Malaysia					Singapore				
	Kuwait	Sabah	Sarawak	West Malaysia	Philippines		Austria	Belgium	Denmark	Finland
I. THE EVENT										
1. Attendant at birth	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
2. Cause of foetal death	X				X	X			X	X
3. Certifier			X		X				X	X
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6. Hospitalization	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Place of occurrence	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 8. Type of birth (single or multiple issue)	X				X		X	X	X	X
II. THE FOETUS										
* 1. Gestational age	X				X	X			X	X
* 2. Legitimacy status	X				X		X	X	X	X
* 3. Sex	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Weight at delivery					X	X	X		X	X
III. THE MOTHER										
* 1. Age or date of birth	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Children born alive			X		X			X		X
3. Children still living			X		X			X		X
4. Citizenship (nationality)	X		X		X	X		X		X
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage	X						X	X	X	X
6. Educational attainment	X									
7. Ethnic (national) group			X	X	X	X				
8. Foetal deaths had			X		X			X	X	X
9. Literacy status										
10. Occupation	X		X			X	X	X	X	X
11. Place of birth			X		X	X			X	X
* 12. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13. Type of activity							X	X	X	
IV. THE FATHER										
1. Age or date of birth	X		X		X		X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X		X		X	X	X	X		X
3. Educational attainment	X									
4. Ethnic (national) group			X	X	X	X				
5. Literacy status										
6. Occupation	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Place of birth			X		X	X				
8. Place of usual residence	X		X							
9. Type of activity							X		X	X

TABLE A.14 (continued)

	Country or area										
	Europe - USSR (continued)										
Characteristics of foetal death	France	German Democratic Republic	Germany, Federal Republic of	Gibraltar	Hungary	Iceland	Ireland	Isle of Man	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands
I. THE EVENT											
1. Attendant at birth	X				X	X		X			X
2. Cause of foetal death		X			X	X	X		X		X
3. Certifier				X	X	X		X	X		X
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration			X	X	X	X		X			X
6. Hospitalization			X		X	X	X				X
7. Place of occurrence	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 8. Type of birth (single or multiple issue)	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X
II. THE FOETUS											
* 1. Gestational age	X				X	X	X		X		X
* 2. Legitimacy status	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Weight at delivery		X	X		X	X					X
III. THE MOTHER											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
* 2. Children born alive					X	X	X		X		X
3. Children still living					X		X				
4. Citizenship (nationality)	X		X							X	
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
6. Educational attainment		X			X				X		
7. Ethnic (national) group											
8. Foetal deaths had					X	X	X				
9. Literacy status											
10. Occupation	X	X			X	X			X	X	X
11. Place of birth	X							X			X
* 12. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
13. Type of activity	X				X				X		
IV. THE FATHER											
1. Age or date of birth	X	X			X	X			X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X					X				X	
3. Educational attainment		X			X				X		
4. Ethnic (national) group											
5. Literacy status											
6. Occupation	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
7. Place of birth	X							X			X
8. Place of usual residence			X	X	X	X					X
9. Type of activity	X				X				X		

TABLE A.14 (continued)

Characteristics of foetal death	Country or area									
	Europe - USSR (continued)								Oceania	
	Poland	Switzerland	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	United Kingdom			Yugoslavia			
				England and Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland				
								Australia	Pacific Islands	Vanuatu
I. THE EVENT										
1. Attendant at birth	X						X		X	
2. Cause of foetal death		X		X	X	X		X		X
3. Certifier		X				X			X	X
* 4. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 5. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
6. Hospitalization	X	X				X	X		X	
7. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 8. Type of birth (single or multiple issue)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
II. THE FOETUS										
* 1. Gestational age				X		X		X	X	X
* 2. Legitimacy status	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
* 3. Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Weight at delivery	X			X		X		X	X	
III. THE MOTHER										
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Children born alive	X			X	X	X	X			
3. Children still living							X		X	
4. Citizenship (nationality)			X							
* 5. Duration (date) of marriage ...	X			X	X	X	X			
6. Educational attainment	X		X				X			
7. Ethnic (national) group							X			
8. Foetal deaths had				X	X	X	X		X	
9. Literacy status										
10. Occupation	X	X	X			X	X			
11. Place of birth	X	X		X	X	X			X	X
* 12. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13. Type of activity	X						X			
IV. THE FATHER										
1. Age or date of birth	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	
2. Citizenship (nationality)			X							
3. Educational attainment	X		X				X			
4. Ethnic (national) group							X			
5. Literacy status										
6. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
7. Place of birth	X	X		X	X				X	
8. Place of usual residence	X	X	X			X				
9. Type of activity	X	X					X			

* First-priority topics.

TABLE A.15. CHARACTERISTICS OF MARRIAGE INVESTIGATED IN THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Characteristics of marriage	Country or area										
	Africa										
	Botswana	Central African Republic	Congo	Ethiopia	Malawi	Mauritius	Senegal	Seychelles	South Africa	Swaziland	Tunisia
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Date of occurrence	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
* 2. Date of registration	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Place of occurrence	X	X			X				X	X	
4. Type of marriage	X			X		X			X		
II. BRIDE AND GROOM											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)		X	X								X
3. Duration of residence	X										
4. Educational attainment				X							
5. Ethnic (national) group						X			X		
6. Literacy status											
* 7. Marital status	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
8. Number of previous marriages ..	X										
9. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
10. Place of birth		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
11. Place of previous residence											
12. Place of residence at a specific past date											
* 13. Place of usual residence	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
14. Type of activity											X

Characteristics of marriage	Country or area									
	America, North									
	Africa (continued) Upper Volta	Belize	Canada	Costa Rica	Dominican Republic	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Mexico	Panama
I. THE EVENT										
* 1. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
* 2. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
4. Type of marriage			X	X	X					X
II. BRIDE AND GROOM										
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)				X	X		X	X	X	X
3. Duration of residence										
4. Educational attainment								X		
5. Ethnic (national) group										
6. Literacy status						X	X			
* 7. Marital status		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Number of previous marriages ..					X		X	X		
9. Occupation	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10. Place of birth			X	X	X		X		X	X
11. Place of previous residence										
12. Place of residence at a specific past date										
* 13. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
14. Type of activity										

TABLE A.15 (continued)

Characteristics of marriage	Country or area									
	America, North (continued)			America, South						
	Puerto Rico	Trinidad and Tobago	United States of America	Argentina	Bolivia	Brazil	Chile	Ecuador	Peru	Uruguay
I. THE EVENT										
* 1. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Date of registration	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Place of occurrence	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
4. Type of marriage		X	X							X
II. BRIDE AND GROOM										
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)							X	X		X
3. Duration of residence							X			
4. Educational attainment			X	X	X				X	
5. Ethnic (national) group	X									
6. Literacy status								X	X	
* 7. Marital status	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Number of previous marriages ..	X		X					X	X	
9. Occupation	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
10. Place of birth	X		X	X			X	X	X	X
11. Place of previous residence										
12. Place of residence at a specific past date							X			
* 13. Place of usual residence	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
14. Type of activity	X			X					X	

Characteristics of marriage	Country or area									
	America, South (continued)	Asia							Europe - USSR	
		Venezuela	Afghanistan	Brunei	Hong Kong	Japan	Macau	Philippines		Singapore
I. THE EVENT										
* 1. Date of occurrence	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
* 2. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
* 3. Place of occurrence	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
4. Type of marriage		X	X	X		X	X	X		
II. BRIDE AND GROOM										
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X		X	X	X		X		X	
3. Duration of residence									X	
4. Educational attainment				X						
5. Ethnic (national) group								X		
6. Literacy status	X									
* 7. Marital status	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
8. Number of previous marriages ..	X			X						
9. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	
10. Place of birth		X		X						
11. Place of previous residence										
12. Place of residence at a specific past date					X					
*13. Place of usual residence	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
14. Type of activity									X	

TABLE A.15 (continued)

Characteristics of marriage	Country or area										
	Europe - USSR (continued)										
	Belgium	Bulgaria	Channel Islands: Guernsey	Greece	Finland	France	Germany, Federal Republic of	Gibraltar	Hungary	Iceland	Ireland
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Place of occurrence		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
4. Type of marriage				X	X			X		X	X
II. BRIDE AND GROOM											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X			X	X	X	X			X	
3. Duration of residence								X			
4. Educational attainment				X					X		
5. Ethnic (national) group		X									
6. Literacy status				X							
* 7. Marital status	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Number of previous marriages ..		X		X	X				X	X	
9. Occupation	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X
10. Place of birth				X	X	X				X	
11. Place of previous residence										X	
12. Place of residence at a specific past date							X				
*13. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
14. Type of activity		X				X			X		

Characteristics of marriage	Country or area										
	Europe - USSR (continued)										
	Isle of Man	Italy	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
* 2. Date of registration	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
* 3. Place of occurrence	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			
4. Type of marriage	X	X			X			X			
II. BRIDE AND GROOM											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)			X		X	X		X	X		X
3. Duration of residence											X
4. Educational attainment		X					X				X
5. Ethnic (national) group											
6. Literacy status											
* 7. Marital status	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Number of previous marriages ..			X		X	X			X		
9. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
10. Place of birth		X		X	X	X				X	
11. Place of previous residence											
12. Place of residence at a specific past date											
*13. Place of usual residence	X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X
14. Type of activity			X				X			X	

TABLE A.15 (continued)

Characteristics of marriage	Country or area								
	Europe - USSR (continued)								
	United Kingdom				Oceania				
	England and Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Yugoslavia	Australia	Fiji	New Zealand	Samoa	Vanuatu
I. THE EVENT									
* 1. Date of occurrence	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
* 2. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Type of marriage		X	X		X		X		X
II. BRIDE AND GROOM									
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)				X					
3. Duration of residence									
4. Educational attainment				X					
5. Ethnic (national) group									
6. Literacy status									
* 7. Marital status	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Number of previous marriages				X	X				
9. Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10. Place of birth			X		X	X	X	X	X
11. Place of previous residence									
12. Place of residence at a specific past date									
* 13. Place of usual residence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
14. Type of activity				X					

* First-priority topics.

TABLE A.16. CHARACTERISTICS OF DIVORCE INVESTIGATED IN THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, BY COUNTRY OR AREA

Characteristics of divorce	Country or area										
	Africa			America, North							America, South
	Central African Republic	Ethiopia	South Africa	Costa Rica	Dominican Republic	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Panama	Trinidad and Tobago	United States of America
											Ecuador
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Date of registration		X		X		X	X	X		X	X
* 3. Place of occurrence	X		X			X	X		X	X	
II. DIVORCES											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X						X		X		
* 3. Duration (date) of marriage	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Duration of residence in usual place											
5. Educational attainment		X						X			X
6. Ethnic (national) group			X								X
7. Literacy status						X					X
8. Mode of dissolution of previous marriage											
9. Number of children born alive to the marriage being dissolved						X	X				X
* 10. Number of dependent children of divorces		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
11. Number of previous marriages		X	X						X		X
12. Occupation	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
13. Place of birth	X	X									
14. Place of previous residence											
15. Place of residence at a specific past time											
* 16. Place of usual residence	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X
17. Type of activity											
18. Type of marriage being dissolved			X								

TABLE A.16 (continued)

Characteristics of divorce	Country or area										
	Europe - USSR										
	Asia		Belgium	Bulgaria	Finland	France	German Democratic Republic	Greece	Hungary	Iceland	Luxembourg
	Israel	Japan									
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Date of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
* 2. Date of registration	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
* 3. Place of occurrence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
II. DIVORCES											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)	X	X	X	X	X						X
* 3. Duration (date) of marriage ...	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Duration of residence in usual place											
5. Educational attainment				X			X		X		
6. Ethnic (national) group				X							
7. Literacy status				X							
8. Mode of dissolution of previous marriage											
9. Number of children born alive to the marriage being dissolved	X						X	X	X		X
*10. Number of dependent children of divorces		X	X	X	X		X			X	X
11. Number of previous marriages .				X					X		
12. Occupation		X	X	X		X	X		X		
13. Place of birth	X				X	X					
14. Place of previous residence		X		X						X	
15. Place of residence at a specific past time											
*16. Place of usual residence	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	
17. Type of activity	X			X		X			X		
18. Type of marriage being dissolved											

Characteristics of divorce	Country or area										
	Europe - USSR (continued)										
	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Sweden	Switzerland	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*	United Kingdom: Scotland	Yugoslavia	Oceania		
									Australia	New Zealand	Vanuatu
I. THE EVENT											
* 1. Date of occurrence		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
* 2. Date of registration	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* 3. Place of occurrence							X	X	X	X	X
II. DIVORCES											
* 1. Age or date of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Citizenship (nationality)				X		X		X			
* 3. Duration (date) of marriage ...	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Duration of residence in usual place						X					
5. Educational attainment			X			X		X			
6. Ethnic (national) group											
7. Literacy status											
8. Mode of dissolution of previous marriage											
9. Number of children born alive to the marriage being dissolved					X			X			
*10. Number of dependent children of divorces	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
11. Number of previous marriages .								X			
12. Occupation	X		X		X			X		X	X
13. Place of birth					X				X		X
14. Place of previous residence											
15. Place of residence at a specific past time											
*16. Place of usual residence	X	X	X		X	X			X		X
17. Type of activity			X								
18. Type of marriage being dissolved							X				

* First-priority topics.

ANNEX II

The Vital Statistics Methods Questionnaire

(The present annex contains section I, summary information—sources of vital statistics, and section II, civil registration system, of the questionnaire. The other part of the questionnaire, section III, sample registration area scheme, and section IV, sample surveys, was not reproduced. Very few countries or areas have replied to sections III and IV.)

Statistical Office of the United Nations

VITAL STATISTICS METHODS QUESTIONNAIRE

Country _____

The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect information in a uniform manner, on the methods and procedures of collecting vital statistics currently used by the various countries of the world. Such information is helpful in the preparation of United Nations studies to assist countries in the development and appraisal of their vital statistics services.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Please *complete all parts* of Section I. Sections II, III and IV should be completed only if the answer is *YES* to the following questions in Section I:

- (a) Question A.1, if answer is *YES*, complete Section II.
- (b) Question B.1, if answer is *YES*, complete Section III.
- (c) Question C.1, if answer is *YES*, complete Section IV.

2. In filling out the questionnaire, the following procedures are suggested:

- (a) Where a box ☐ is provided, insert an "X" in the appropriate space.
- (b) Please use a typewriter to answer questions of a descriptive nature.
- (c) Please make liberal notes in answer to questions, and do not hesitate to make the descriptions as thorough and detailed as required for international comparison and for the interpretation of the questions.
- (d) If space provided for any question is not sufficient, please use additional sheets of paper.

3. As an aid in supplying the information requested, reference may be made to *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.XVII.9).

Agency responsible for completing this questionnaire _____

Name and address of official who can provide the United Nations Statistical Office with any needed clarification _____

Section I

SUMMARY INFORMATION ON SOURCES OF VITAL STATISTICS

A. Civil registration system

1. Does a civil registration system exist in your country? YES ☐ NO ☐

If *YES*, please answer questions 2 to 6 below and complete Section II (pages 6-18).

2. (a) When was the original civil registration law enacted? Give date _____

(b) Does the registration legislation provide for compulsory or voluntary registration? COMPULSORY ☐ VOLUNTARY ☐

(c) When was the civil registration law implemented? Give date _____

3. Does the system cover all segments of the population in the entire country? YES ☐ NO ☐

If *NO*, please give a brief description of the coverage:

(a) Geographic areas _____

(b) Population (ethnic or national groups) _____

4. Are statistics compiled (a) on LIVE BIRTHS ☐; (b) on DEATHS ☐; (c) on FOETAL DEATHS ☐; (d) on MARRIAGES ☐; (e) on DIVORCES ☐?

5. Are vital statistics published? YES ☐ NO ☐

If *YES*, please give frequency of publication _____

6. Do they include annual vital rates per 1,000 population? YES ☐ NO ☐

If *YES*, please indicate the nature of the base measurement for the population estimates used in the computation of current annual vital rates:

(a) population census of _____ (give year); (b) sample survey of _____ (give year); (c) other, specify _____

B. Sample registration area scheme

1. Is there a sample registration area scheme in your country? YES ☐ NO ☐

If *YES*, please answer questions 2 to 7 below and complete Section III (pages 19-24).

2. Since when has it been in operation? Give date _____

3. Please give a brief description of the following:

(a) Coverage

i. Geographic areas _____

ii. Population (ethnic or national groups) _____

(b) Sampling fraction (approximate) _____

- (c) Sampling unit _____
 (d) Methods of sampling _____

4. What are the vital events investigated? LIVE BIRTHS ☐;
 DEATHS ☐; FOETAL DEATHS ☐; MARRIAGES ☐; DI-
 VORCES ☐

5. Are statistics compiled (a) on LIVE BIRTHS ☐; (b) on
 DEATHS ☐; (c) on FOETAL DEATHS ☐; (d) on MAR-
 RIAGES ☐; (e) on DIVORCES ☐?

6. Are vital statistics published? YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please give frequency of publication _____

7. Do they include annual vital rates per 1,000 population?
 YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please indicate the nature of the base measurement for the
 population estimates used in the computation of current annual vital
 rates:

(a) population census of _____ (give year); (b) sample
 survey of _____ (give year); (c) other, specify _____

**C. Any sample surveys providing vital estimates for at least
 50 per cent of the total population**

1. Have you undertaken sample surveys to obtain vital statistics?
 YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please answer questions 2 to 9 below and complete Section
 IV (pages 25-30). If there are more than two surveys, please use
 additional sheets of paper.

2. Title of survey _____

3. Date _____

4. Coverage:

(a) Geographic areas _____

(b) Population (ethnic or
 national groups) _____

5. Sample fraction _____

6. Type of operation:

(a) Single-round survey .. _____

(b) Multi-round follow-up
 survey

(c) Sample survey com-
 bined with continuous registra-
 tion (dual record system)

7. Method of sampling ... _____

8. Demographic data inves-
 tigated:

(a) Population

(b) Live births

(c) Deaths

(d) Foetal deaths

(e) Marriages

(f) Divorces

9. Were results published?

(a) If YES, give date of
 publication

(b) NO

Section II

CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

(To be completed only if YES to question A.1 in Section I.)

A. Historical review of the registration system

1. At what date was the civil registration law enacted for
 registration of a LIVE BIRTH _____; of a DEATH
 _____; of a FOETAL DEATH _____; of a MAR-
 RIAGE _____; of a DIVORCE _____?

2. At what date was the civil registry established for registration
 of a LIVE BIRTH _____; of a DEATH _____; of a
 FOETAL DEATH _____; of a MARRIAGE _____;
 of a DIVORCE _____?

3. Please give the date when compulsory registration was
 established for LIVE BIRTHS _____; for DEATHS
 _____; for FOETAL DEATHS _____; for MAR-
 RIAGES _____; for DIVORCES _____.

4. Did the original system cover the entire country? YES ☐
 NO ☐

If NO, please give a description of the coverage of each type of
 event.

(a) Geographic areas _____

(b) Population (ethnic or national groups) _____

(c) Does it now cover the entire country? YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, give date when the entire country was covered _____

If NO, give description of the present coverage for each type of
 event.

i. Geographic areas _____

ii. Population (ethnic or national groups) _____

5. Were there any amendments enacted since the introduction of
 the civil registration system? YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please describe briefly the principal amendments and the
 date when each took effect _____

6. Please attach copies of the registration laws now in force.

B. Administrative organization for registration

1. Please give the name of the agency responsible for the civil
 registration function at the:

NATIONAL LEVEL _____

Please give the name of the Ministry or Department which
 administers this agency _____

SUBNATIONAL LEVEL, if there is any _____

Please give the name of the government body which administers this
 agency _____

2. Please give a brief description of the administrative and
 organizational structure of the system, e.g., what is the responsibility
 of the national agency, of the local offices, who exercises control over
 the local registry offices _____

3. Total number of local registration offices:

Categories	Registration unit	Number
Primary or basic registration unit, e.g., municipios, com- munes, towns, townships, dis- tricts etc.	_____	_____
Secondary registration unit, i.e., unit usually attached to, and dependent administra-	_____	_____

Categories	Registration unit	Number
tively on, a primary registration unit, e.g., aldeas, caserios, cantons, quarters, villages, hospitals or health centres		
4. The registrars:		
(a) Identity of the local registrars, e.g., the mayor or his deputy, judge, justice of the peace, town or city treasury, tax collector, civil registrar, village headman, schoolteacher, sub-prefect.		
	Registration unit	Identity of registrars
(b) Do local registrars receive regular salary as registrars? YES ☐ NO ☐		
i. If YES, how does local registrar's salary compare with other local personnel: e.g., same as schoolteachers		
ii. If NO, does local registrar receive remuneration for effecting a registration? YES ☐ NO ☐ If YES, describe how he is paid		
(c) Local registrar's duties and responsibilities:		
i. With respect to registration		
ii. With respect to recording and reporting information for statistical purposes		
5. Methods employed, if any, to encourage the efficiency of the local registrars and other employees of the registration offices:		
(a) Are all local registrars provided:		
i. With copies of laws currently enforced? YES ☐ NO ☐		
ii. With instruction manuals? YES ☐ NO ☐ If YES, please attach copies of manuals currently used.		
(b) Supervision: please give a brief description on whether and how the various local registration units are supervised		
(c) Training activities: please give a brief description of the training activities provided for the local registrars and other government personnel involved in the registration of vital events		
(d) Is there an association of local registrars in your country? YES ☐ NO ☐		
If YES, please give the name of the association and its activities (publications)		
(e) Does a population register exist in your country? YES ☐ NO ☐		
If YES, are vital records used in such registers? YES ☐ NO ☐		
If YES, please give a description of procedures used for co-ordinating the records used by the two systems		
(f) Has there been established in your country a co-ordinating committee, e.g., committee on vital and health statistics or similar body? YES ☐ NO ☐		

If YES, please indicate:

- Name of the committee
- Date established
- Is it actively in operation? YES ☐ NO ☐
- If YES, please give the name of the member institutions and the title of the officials representing them:

Name of the institution

Title of its representative/s

C. Registration process

- Please give the identity of the informant, i.e., the individual legally responsible for declaring to the registrar the fact of the occurrence of:

LIVE BIRTH:

FOETAL DEATH:

DEATH:

MARRIAGE:

DIVORCE:

2. Please indicate where the following vital events are registered:
LIVE BIRTHS: place of occurrence ☐; place of residence of mother ☐; other, specify

FOETAL DEATH: place of occurrence ☐; place of residence of woman ☐; other, specify

DEATHS: place of occurrence ☐; place of residence ☐; other, specify

INFANT DEATHS: place of occurrence ☐; place of residence of mother ☐; other, specify

MARRIAGES: place of occurrence ☐; place of residence of groom ☐; place of residence of bride ☐; other, specify

DIVORCES: place of occurrence ☐; place of residence of husband ☐; place of residence of wife ☐; other, specify

3. Please indicate what requirements are needed for the registration

(a) of LIVE BIRTH:

i. Fee is required ☐; ii. Doctor's or midwife's certificate is required ☐; iii. Witness/es is/are required ☐;

iv. Presentation of the child before the registrar is required ☐;

v. Other requirements, specify

(b) of DEATH:

i. Fee is required ☐; ii. Medical certification is required ☐;

iii. Witness/es is/are required ☐;

iv. Other requirements, specify

(c) of FOETAL DEATH:

i. Fee is required ☐; ii. Medical certification is required ☐;

iii. Witness/es is/are required ☐; Other requirements, specify

(d) of MARRIAGES:

i. Fee is required ☐; ii. Notice of intended marriage is required ☐; iii. Marriage certificate is required ☐;

iv. Witness/es is/are required ☐;

v. Other requirements, specify

(e) of DIVORCES:

i. Fee is required ☐; ii. Marriage certificate is required ☐;

- iii. Transcript or certified copy of the divorce record is required ☐;
- iv. Other requirements, specify _____

4. Please give the maximum time period prescribed by law within which to register:

LIVE BIRTHS: _____; FOETAL DEATHS: _____,
DEATHS: _____; MARRIAGES: _____,
DIVORCES: _____.

5. How are delayed (i.e., after the expiration of the statutory period) registrations effected? _____

6. If registration is compulsory, what are the penalties for non-compliance to register? _____

7. What are the procedures for registration of vital events occurring outside your national territory to residents during periods of temporary absence from your country? _____

Give (an estimate of) the number of vital events occurring to your residents outside your country per annum _____

8. What are the procedures for registration of vital events occurring to non-residents while temporarily in your country? _____

9. Are there measures taken to safeguard the confidentiality of personal information? If so, what are these measures? _____

10. Are there incentives to register vital events through proof of registration being required for eligibility for certain benefits? YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please give the type of requirements, such as birth certificates as a prerequisite to enter school; death certificate as a requirement for issuance of a burial permit; marriage certificate to establish citizenship rights etc. _____

11. Form and content of registration records: please *attach* copies of the registration records currently in use for LIVE BIRTHS, FOETAL DEATHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES.

D. Compilation—statistical processing

1. (a) Please give the name of the agency responsible for compilation of vital statistics and the name of the ministry or department which administers this agency, at the:

NATIONAL LEVEL _____

SUBNATIONAL LEVEL, if there is any _____

(b) Is there in this agency a separate section exclusively responsible for the compilation of vital statistics? YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please give the name of this section _____

2. Definitions used for statistical purposes for:

LIVE BIRTHS: _____

FOETAL DEATHS: _____

DEATHS: _____

MARRIAGES: _____

DIVORCES: _____

3. Type and contents of the statistical report, i.e., the records in which the registrars transmit the required statistical information to the national compiling agency.

(a) Type of statistical report: individual report ☐; summary type report ☐; collective or list type report ☐; other, specify _____

(b) Contents of the statistical report: please *attach* copies of the statistical reports currently in use for LIVE BIRTHS, FOETAL DEATHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES.

4. Time schedule set for the national statistical programme:

Activity

Frequency (e.g., weekly, monthly, annually)

Collection of statistical reports _____

Editing _____

Coding _____

Classifying _____

Tabulating of data _____

Publication, date of release _____

Title of publications: _____

5. Please give the procedures used in controlling the receipt of reports _____

6. What steps are taken to ensure the completeness of reporting by registrar? _____

7. Editing, coding and processing procedures. If descriptions of these procedures are contained in a report, please *attach* a copy of such a report. If no such report is available, please give below a brief description of these procedures _____

8. Please indicate the basis for the final annual tabulations of:

LIVE BIRTHS: Date of occurrence ☐ Date of registration ☐

DEATHS: Date of occurrence ☐ Date of registration ☐

FOETAL DEATHS: Date of occurrence ☐ Date of registration ☐

MARRIAGES: Date of occurrence ☐ Date of registration ☐

DIVORCES: Date of occurrence ☐ Date of registration ☐

9. Please *attach* a list of tabulations which are published on a regular annual basis or on other time intervals, such as every two years, every five years etc.

10. Method of tabulation: Manual tabulation ☐; Mechanical ☐; Computer ☐; Other, specify _____

11. In processing vital statistics, is sampling used for: Quality control ☐; Advance tabulations ☐; Final tabulation ☐; Tabulation

for special purposes ☐ Specify the purpose _____

E. Evaluation

1. Have there been studies of the degree of completeness of registration and statistical reporting? YES ☐ NO ☐

(a) If YES, when were these studies made? Please give dates of studies _____

(b) What method(s) was (were) used? _____

(i) Matching of vital event records with other records ☐

(ii) Analytical comparisons with census results ☐

(iii) Other, specify _____

(c) Were the results published? YES ☐ NO ☐

(d) If YES, please give the title and date of publication _____

2. What, if any, remedial measures have been taken in recent years to promote improvement in the registration and reporting of vital events? _____

F. Budget—personnel and other cost items

1. Personnel: please provide classification and number of personnel according to the operational scheme of the civil registration system, and of the statistical services. If possible, provide an estimate of man/months work annually and an estimate of the monthly salary, in local currency. For example:

Classification of personnel	Man/months work annually	Total monthly salary in local currency
(a) Administrative personnel ...	_____	_____
(b) Personnel engaged in:		
i. Collection of data (registra- tion)	_____	_____
ii. Compilation (statistical processing)	_____	_____
iii. Evaluation of data	_____	_____

Classification of personnel

iv. Publication of data

Man/months
work
annually

Total
monthly
salary in
local
currency

2. Other cost items: if the detailed annual budget for maintaining the registration services and the statistical services can be made available, please *attach* a copy of the budget for the two latest available years.

Budget attached ☐; No budget is available ☐

3. If no budget is available, please give the estimated amount, in local currency spent on:

(a) Civil registration system

Salaries:

Central Office

Local Office

Transportation

Travelling expenses

Office stationery, supplies and equipment

Telephone and telegrams

Rents and utilities

Printing of publications, documents, instruc-
tion manuals etc.

Training of personnel, e.g., group training,
such as seminars, meetings, workshops, and
in-service training

Other expenditures, specify

(b) Statistical services: processing and com-
pilation of vital statistics

Salaries:

Central Office

Local Office

Transportation

Travelling expenses

Office stationery, supplies and equipment

Telephone and telegrams

Rents and utilities

Computer time

Printing of publications, documents, instruc-
tion manuals etc.

Training of personnel, e.g., group training,
such as seminars, meetings, workshops, and
in-service training

Other expenditures, specify