What is Vital Statistics?

Vital statistics are derived from information obtained at the time when the occurrences of vital events and their characteristics are inscribed in a civil register.

Vital acts and events are the births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, and all such events that have something to do with an individual’s entrance and departure from life together with the changes in civil status that may occur to a person during his lifetime. Recording of these events in the civil register is known as vital or civil registration and the resulting documents are called vital records.

What is Vital Statistics System?

A Vital Statistics System is defined as the total process of:
- collecting by registration, enumeration or indirect estimation of information on the frequency of occurrence of certain vital events, as well as relevant characteristics of the events themselves and of the persons concerned;
- compiling, analyzing, evaluating, presenting and disseminating those data

The production of vital statistics comprised of a system of operations in which the registration of vital events is an important component. The system begins with the registration followed by the processing and controlling of vital records and ends with the compilation and analysis of vital statistics.

Who is responsible in the Registration of Vital Events?

Registration of vital events is the responsibility of the Local Government Units (LGUs) through the Local Civil Registrars (LCRs) but under the technical supervision of the Civil Registrar General of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

The hospitals, clinics, rural health units and similar institutions including barangay secretaries, practicing physicians, midwives, nurses, traditional birth attendants who attended births and deaths, and solemnizing officers from various religious sects and denominations who officiated the marriage ceremonies, are responsible in causing registration and shall certify to the facts of the events at the LCR Offices. The concerned parents, next of kin, contracting parties, a witness or the person who has full knowledge of the occurrence of the event shall report the event, in default of the first mentioned set of informants.

For foreign vital events, reports of births, marriages, and deaths from the Philippine Foreign Service Establishment (PFSE) are forwarded to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and in turn forwards to the Civil Registrar General of the PSA.

What are the basic sources of Vital Statistics?

The PSA maintains an archive of Civil Registration documents. Several basic forms are needed to record vital events from which vital statistics were generated. These are:
- Marriage Certificate – Municipal Form No. 101
- Certificate of Live Birth – Municipal Form No. 102
- Certificate of Death – Municipal Form No. 103
- Certificate of Fetal Death – Municipal Form No. 103A

What are the uses of Vital Statistics?

Vital Statistics are useful for local and national authorities specifically for planning of human, social and economic development. They use the data results in the following:
- as input for population estimation/projection for future planning
- as basis for forecasting requirements for food, housing, medical facilities, education and other needs of the population
- to carry out policy making at local levels for planning health, education services, housing, etc.
- to address health inequities from communicable disease, chronic disease and injuries
- generate “life tables” and life expectancies for many health-planning purposes
- measure progress on the sustainable development goals and other international health goals
- prepare polling lists for eligible voters for election purposes
- calculate the number of members of parliament for each state or province
- allocate budgets for development and for human resources
- calculate the number of citizens each year for administrative areas by age and sex
- provide denominator data for calculating health-related indicators
- help to guide efficient resource allocation
- other analytical studies which are important and useful to planners and policy-makers

Definition of Terms

Live Birth is a complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the 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 liveborn.

Marriage is a special contract of permanent union between a man and a woman entered into in accordance with law for the establishment of conjugal and family life.

Death refers to the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (postnatal cessation of vital function without capability of resuscitation).

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

Birth Statistics

The number of births registered from 2005 to 2014 showed an erratic trend.

![Number of Live Births, Philippines: 2005-2014](image)
Registered marriages in the country showed a declining trend from 2005 to 2014, except for 2009 and 2012 with minimal increase.

**Marriage Statistics**

Registered deaths from 2004 to 2013 showed an increasing trend.

**Death Statistics**

In 2014, on the average, 4,791 babies were born daily, 200 babies were born per hour, and 3 babies were born per minute.

In 2014, most of the brides married at age 26 while grooms married at age 28.

From 2011 to 2013, diseases of the heart, cerebrovascular disease and malignant neoplasm are the top 3 causes of death.

**Did you know?**

For more information or inquiries:

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