



## **Session 4: Data Quality**

# **Quality Assurance: Dimensions of Quality**

#### 2nd TRAINING WORKSHOP

Project to strengthen national capacity in producing and disseminating vital statistics from civil registration records in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand, 6-10 March 2017

### Basic framework

Adequately funded evaluation activities are essential

- For improving systems that have deficiencies
- For maintaining systems that function satisfactorily

**Quality Assurance** 

**Quality Assessment** 

### Basic framework

# **Quality Assurance**

- Encompasses each stage of CRVS operations
- All vital events are registered without duplication
- All related information is recorded
- Information is compiled, validated and processed
- Vital statistics are released in timely manner



- Specific studies for specific questions
- Coverage of registration of vital events
- Accuracy of variables
- Overall functioning of subsystems
- Can be ad hoc or regular exercises

## **Quality Standards**

Completeness

Correctness or Accuracy

Availability

**Timeliness** 

# **Quality Standards**

### Completeness

- Every vital event is registered
- Statistical report is filed for every registered event
- Coverage error

# Correctness or Accuracy

- Every data item is filled
- Data items are accurately filled
- Content error

# **Quality Standards**

#### **Availability**

 Data and statistics are available to users in a friendly format

#### **Timeliness**

- every event has been reported for registration within the legally stipulated
- Prompt production, publication and dissemination of the vital statistics

# Steps in Quality Assurance

local registration areas have carried out the required registration

every vital event in a given area has a record in the system

all local offices
transmit the records
to a higher-level
registration office

Set-up procedures in compilation and processing

# Quality Assurance in VS System

Coding

Keying

Sorting

Posting

**Tabulation** 

## Quality Assurance in VS System

#### Coding

- independently recoding a sample of the data recorded
- performed by a person other than the one who did the original coding
- Set tolerance limits and redo if the limit is exceeded

#### Keying

- If mechanical and manual transcription, 100 per cent verification is needed by an independent group of verifiers
- If computer data processing is used, sophisticated and extensive checks of the data through the use of an edit program
  - missing values
  - values that are outside an acceptable range
  - Values inconsistent with other related data
  - missing data may be imputed

# Quality Assurance in VS System

#### Posting

- posted tables can be verified by proofreading ie one person reads from the original tables while another scans the posted data
- "internal checks" ie summation of marginal subtotals to the table total and checking the consistency among several tables
- technical review of tabulations for credibility, consistency and plausibility

#### **Tabulation**

- errors might be introduced through programming mistakes
- all tabulations to be inspected by both statisticians and dataprocessing personnel

## Example of Edit Specs

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/birth\_edit\_ \_specifications.pdf



#### Table 19 List of scores in the area of Data quality and plausibility checks

Rapid assessment questions	Response	Scores
Data quality and plausibility checks		2.00
20. What consistency and plausibility checks on fertility and mortality levels are carried out before the data are released?	B. Checks on overall levels of fertility and mortality derived from vital statistics data are undertaken by calculating rates and comparing these to earlier time series	2
21. What consistency and plausibility checks are applied to data on cause of death?	B. Routine checks of the consistency of patterns in cause of death are made to ensure that mortality from any disease group does not vary significantly from year to year, and that any fluctuations can be explained	2

Source: Rapid Assessment of National Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems A case study of Thailand, November 2012. http://www.this.or.th/files/6.pdf

### Exercise

Identify the quality assurance procedures of the vital statistics systems in your country