

Session 2.5: Mr. Surender Prasad Pandey

- ◆ PhD Candidate and Demographer
- ◆ The University of Melbourne
- ◆ Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
- ◆ Nepal
- ◆ BIO
- ◆ Abstract





Get every one in the picture

Differentials, barriers, and enablers of death registration in Nepal: Evidence from the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Survey

Surender Prasad Pandey^{1, 2*}, Hafizur Rahman Chowdhury³, Tim Adair¹

1. Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Australia,
2. The Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Nepal
3. CDC Foundation, United States

* Presenting Author

Asia-Pacific CRVS Research Forum

3–4 April 2023 | Bangkok, Thailand



Bloomberg
Philanthropies

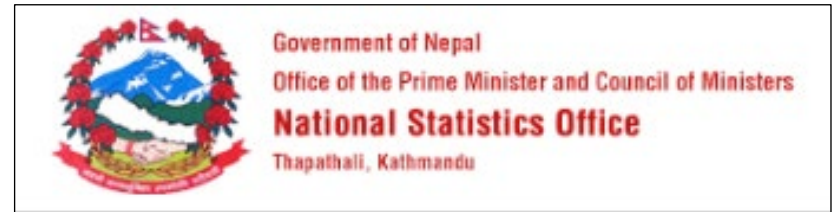
 DATA FOR
HEALTH INITIATIVE

Acknowledgements



Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Nossal Institute for Global Health





Introduction



- ◆ Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems have two major functions:
 - Register vital events, which can ensure legal identity
 - Produce vital statistics
- ◆ Impact of Global CRVS strengthening movements (including ESCAP initiatives) in Nepal
 - Conduct of nationally-representative CRVS Survey 2015/16
 - Amendments of CRVS legislation
 - Implementation of the National CRVS policy 2019
- ◆ A well-functioning CRVS system should be the primary source of timely and reliable mortality statistics
- ◆ CRVS system in Nepal has primarily focused on administrative and legal aspects (CR)
- ◆ Vital Statistics (VS) still not produced from CRVS system



Introduction



- ◆ **The CRVS Survey was the first survey in Nepal, and possibly the world, on the topic of CRVS that was administered to both households and service providers (local registrars)**
- ◆ **The CRVS Survey collected information about:**
 - Registration status of five vital events (birth, death, migration, marriage and divorce)
 - Reasons behind registration, not registration
 - Major barriers for the effective CRVS intervention
 - Possible remedies to extend the registration coverage and timely event registration to achieve CRVS Decade (2015-24) targets



Objectives

1. Understand the differentials in death registration likelihood in Nepal and reasons for registration and non-registration of deaths, and
2. Identify the possible ways to enhance death registration coverage and make registration more convenient, from both household and service provider perspectives.





Methods



◆ **CRVS Survey (2015/16)**

- Nationally-representative, conducted in 80,000 households
- The CRVS Survey asked households to report all deaths that occurred in the previous three years, and:
 - Whether these deaths were registered
 - Reasons behind registration and non-registration



Methods

◆ Data analysis

- Calculated reported completeness of household reported deaths and compared with the actual estimated completeness from CRVS data,¹
- **Logistic regression was used for assessing likelihood of death registration by:**
 - Socio-economic (education, occupation, ethnicity),
 - Demographic (sex, age),
 - Geographic (ecological belts, provinces, urban/rural),
 - Death characteristics (cause of death, place of death)



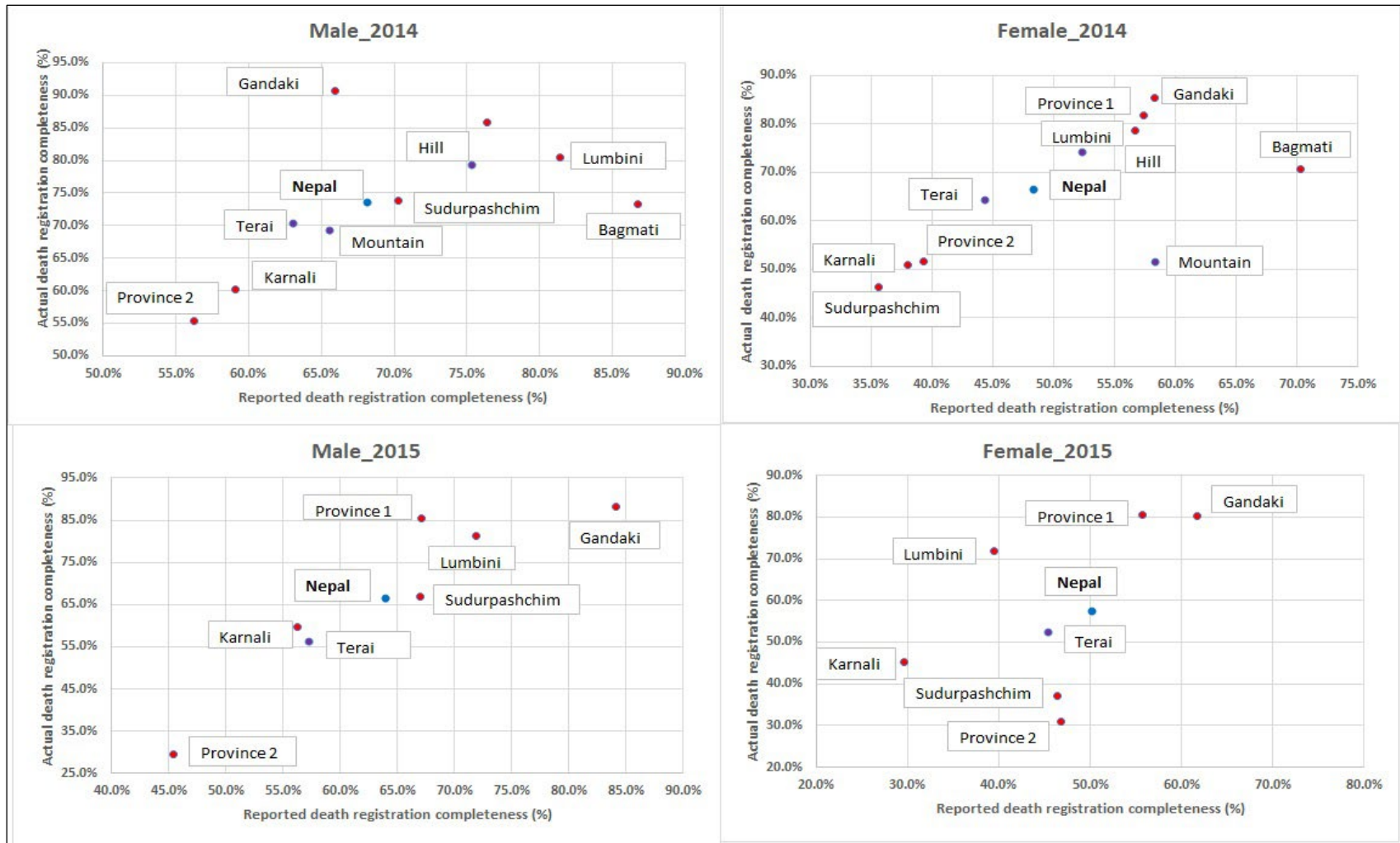


Methods

- ◆ **Data analysis was also done for**
 - Reasons for the death registration and non-registration
 - Perspectives from households about ways to improve registration
 - Service providers' responses regarding ways to make registration more convenient



Reported Completeness (70%) vs Actual Death Registration Completeness (67%)



Bivariate analysis

A lower proportion of deaths were reported to be registered if:

- The deceased was **younger** (0-14 years **26%**, 45 years and over **70%**)
 - Registration completeness at ages **0-14** years was less than **40% in all provinces, except Bagmati.**
- The deceased was **female (60%)** than **male (77%)**
- Household head's education was lower (illiterate **63%**, higher education **84%**)
- Where the household has less communication facilities (none **61%**, 3+ facilities **79%**).
- Reported death registration completeness by province ranged from **59%** in **Karnali** to **82%** in **Bagmati**

Results

Multivariate analysis

Logistic regression of reported registration completeness revealed the following:

- Far less likely for **female** than for **male** deceased
- Less likely for **age ≤ 15 years** than **age ≥ 15 years**
- Compared with **Province 1**, more likely in **Bagmati province**, while **Madhesh, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim** had a **lower likelihood**
- **Urban/rural** status **did not significantly predict** death registration
- **Pregnancy related deaths** predicted **lower likelihood** of registration while **accidents, suicide and natural disaster** predicted a **greater likelihood (cause of death)**
- Highly likely for household heads higher education and **communication facilities**

Analysis of household and service provider responses

- **Majority of households (85%)** register a death on time for one of the following reasons:
 - To transfer property entitlement (29%)
 - Social security (25%)
 - Other legal provisions (31%)
- **Majority of respondents (70%)** stated the major reason behind not registering deaths as **no need to register**. Other reasons (e.g. cumbersome process) each only stated by 6% or less.
- **Ways to make civil registration more convenient**
 - Arranging mobile registration camps (households **71%**, service providers **42%**)
 - Promoting online registration (households **28%**, service providers **52%**)
 - Registering from the place or occurrence (households **37%**, service providers **28%**)

Discussion

- Reason behind **gender gap** in death registration - **male dominance in property ownership** (mandatory death registration certificate for entitlement transfer and accessing widow pension)
- Potential reasons behind **gap in provinces**:
 - Lack of awareness
 - High poverty gap
 - Low literacy rates
 - Geographical remoteness
- The **lower death registration completeness** for certain **socio-economic groups limits the utility of death registration data** obtained from the CRVS system for those groups
- Possible interventions:
 - Establishing an **active notification system** (like in Bangladesh)-engage FCHV's;
 - Making **legislations stricter**;
 - Launching **sensitisation programs**;
 - Deploying **dedicated and trained CRVS staff**;
 - Making registration **compulsory for wider range of services**
 - Build a mechanism for the involvement of **hospitals and police as notifiers** in the CRVS system

Limitations

- Results are based on household responses
- Study is based on eight year old survey data and result might somewhat different from the current situation

Importance of the study

Results are important for:

- Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the CRVS system
- Identifying the major bottlenecks for national CRVS system development
- Valuable evidence for CRVS strengthening efforts in other low-and middle- income countries facing similar challenges like Nepal

