

# Overview of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems

Training Workshop on CRVS

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# Outline

- Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems
- Historical developments and geographical differences
- Examples: Norway, Albania, Kenya, Philippines

# What is CRVS?

- **Civil Registration (CR)** is the *recording* of vital events:
  - Live births
  - Deaths
  - Marriages and divorces
  - Causes of death (?)
- **Vital Statistics (VS)** constitute the collection, analysis, and publication of *statistics* on vital events
- Source: *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*, UN Statistics Division, 2014
- **Migration** is not considered a vital event
  - Immigrations
  - Emigrations
  - Internal moves *to* an area
  - Internal moves *from* an area

# Principles of a Vital Statistics System

- Universal coverage
- Continuity
- Confidentiality of personal information
- Regular dissemination

## Why is CRVS important?

- Human rights
- Administrative use
- Population registers
- Statistics for monitoring, planning, health, local administration ....

# Why Civil Registration?

- **Legal, human rights**

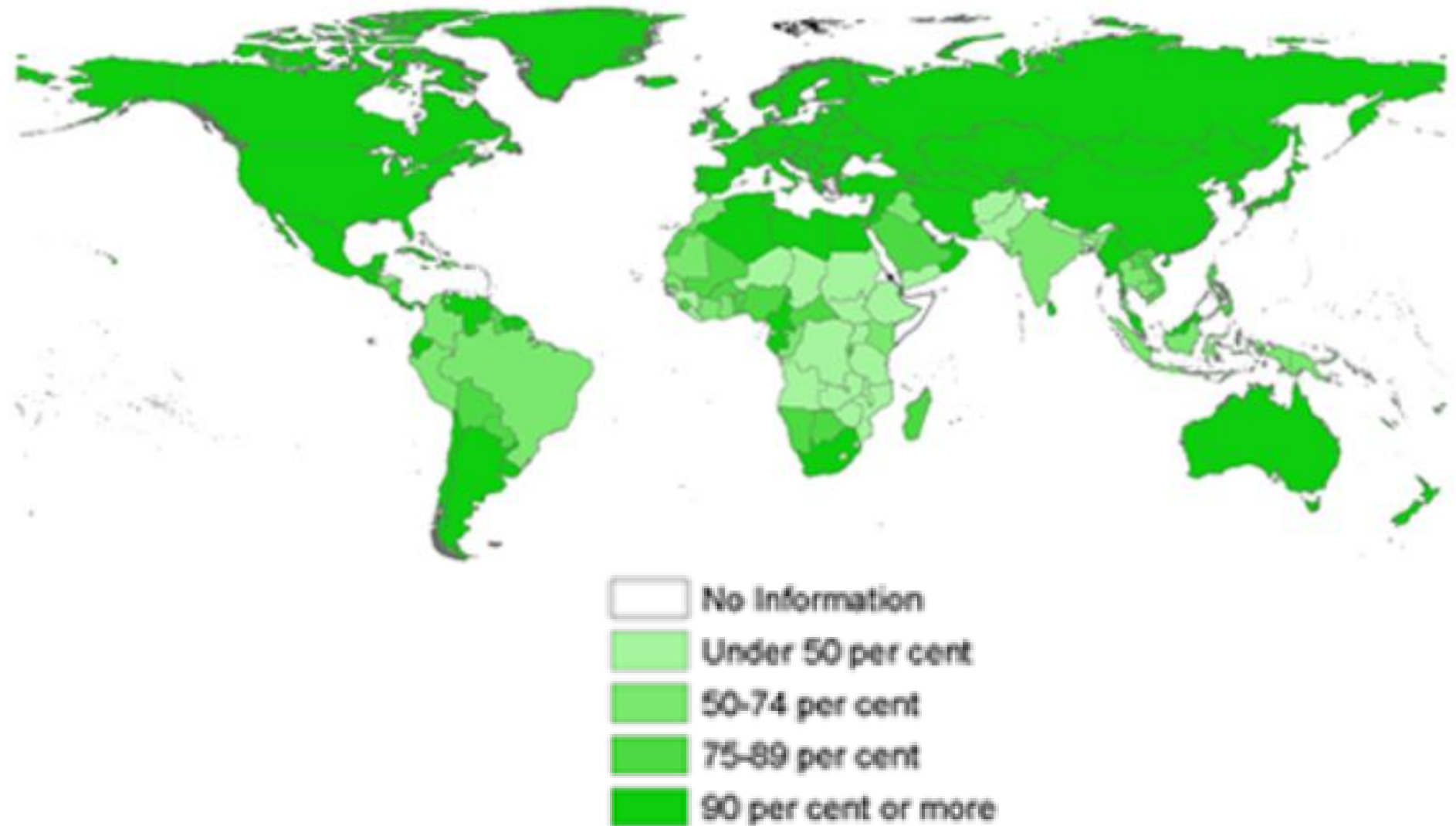
- The recording of a birth is usually accompanied by the issuance of a birth certificate
- To prove age, name, parents, nationality, country of birth ...
- To obtain a passport and other identification documents
- To fight child labour, under-age marriage, health, human trafficking, child prostitution ...
- To obtain health and education services, voting rights ...
- Death certificates also needed for legal reasons (burial rights, inheritance, remarriage ...)

- **Statistical, administrative**

- To produce Vital Statistics
- To establish population registers for administrative and statistical purposes

## CRVS: Births

- 62% of countries register at least 90% of births



## CRVS: Deaths

- 57% of countries register at least 90% of deaths
- 85 countries produce high-quality COD data





# CRVS Subprocesses

Notification of vital event (VE)



Validation of VE



Registration of VE



Certification of VE



Storage and archiving of VE



Compilation of VS



Quality control of VS



Generation of VS



Dissemination of VS

**Vital statistics (VS)**

# Why Vital Statistics?

- Essential for setting targets and evaluating social and economic plans and programmes (UNSD 2014)
- To derive fundamental demographic and epidemiological measures needed in national planning for health, education, labor ... (WHO 2010)
- For government activities (population registers and other administrative registers ...)
- For commercial enterprises (life insurance, marketing of products ...)
- Core of a country's health information system (HIS)

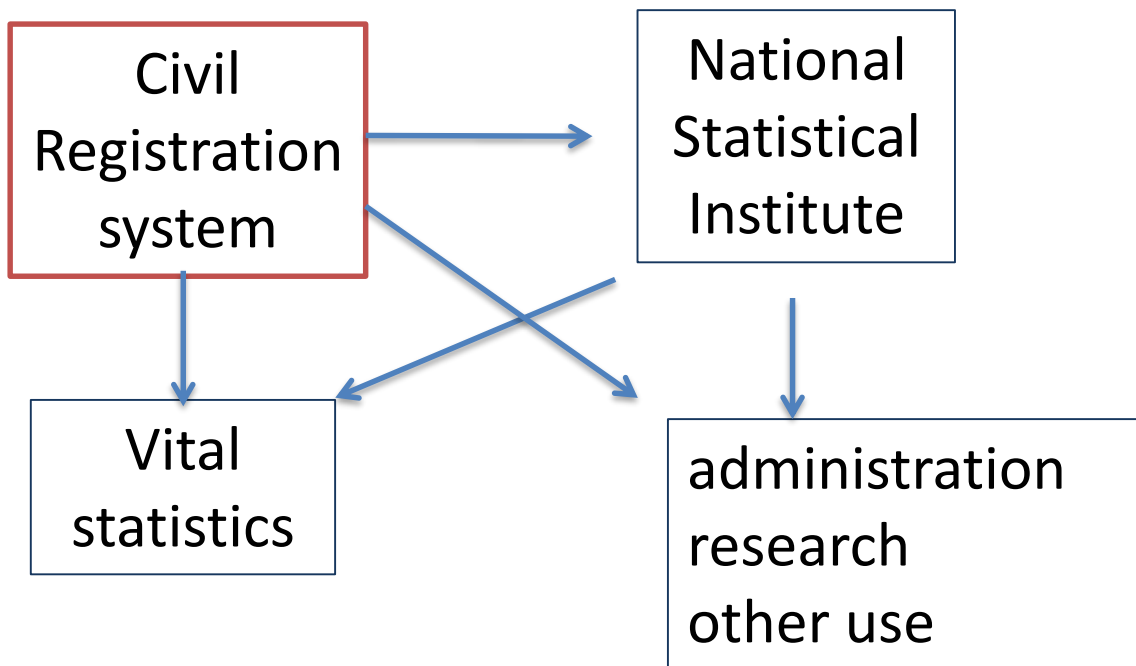
# Vital Statistics

- Produced by the national statistical office in most countries
- Produced by the national CR agency in some countries
- The two national institutions are combined in a few countries
- The third related institution is the national Identity management office (ID cards)

# Data flows on vital events

Micro data or  
Aggregate data

National  
Identity  
Management



## **Sustainable Development Goals (UN Sept. 2015)**

CRVS usually the best data source to estimate the SDG indicators

# Stages of the development of a CRVS system and a Central Population Register

## 1. Basic CR

Registration of births and deaths

Limited local recording of information on paper

Birth and death certificates are issued

## 2. Computerized register of births and deaths

Local and/or national level

## 3. Computerized register of *all* vital events, including

Marriages and divorces

Immigrations and emigrations

Internal migrations

#### **4. Civil Registration with PIN (Personal Identification Number)**

Assigning a unique personal identification number (PIN) to all new born

PIN entered into birth register

PIN on birth certificates and other documents

Assigning a PIN to all new immigrants

#### **5. Comprehensive (Central) Population Register**

All residents are registered with name, date of birth, PIN and *address*

Register is regularly updated with data on new events

#### **6. Integrated system of registers**

Links between registers of *persons*, *properties* (incl. land titles) and *companies* based on PINs

# History of CR

- When was CR introduced and by whom?
- What were the reasons for introducing CR?
- Was CR initially including everybody or did it only include some regions or population groups?
- Have there been important changes in CR over time on issues such as legislation, organization and completeness?
- Does the country produce VS reports? How frequently are they published and what is the period covered by each report?



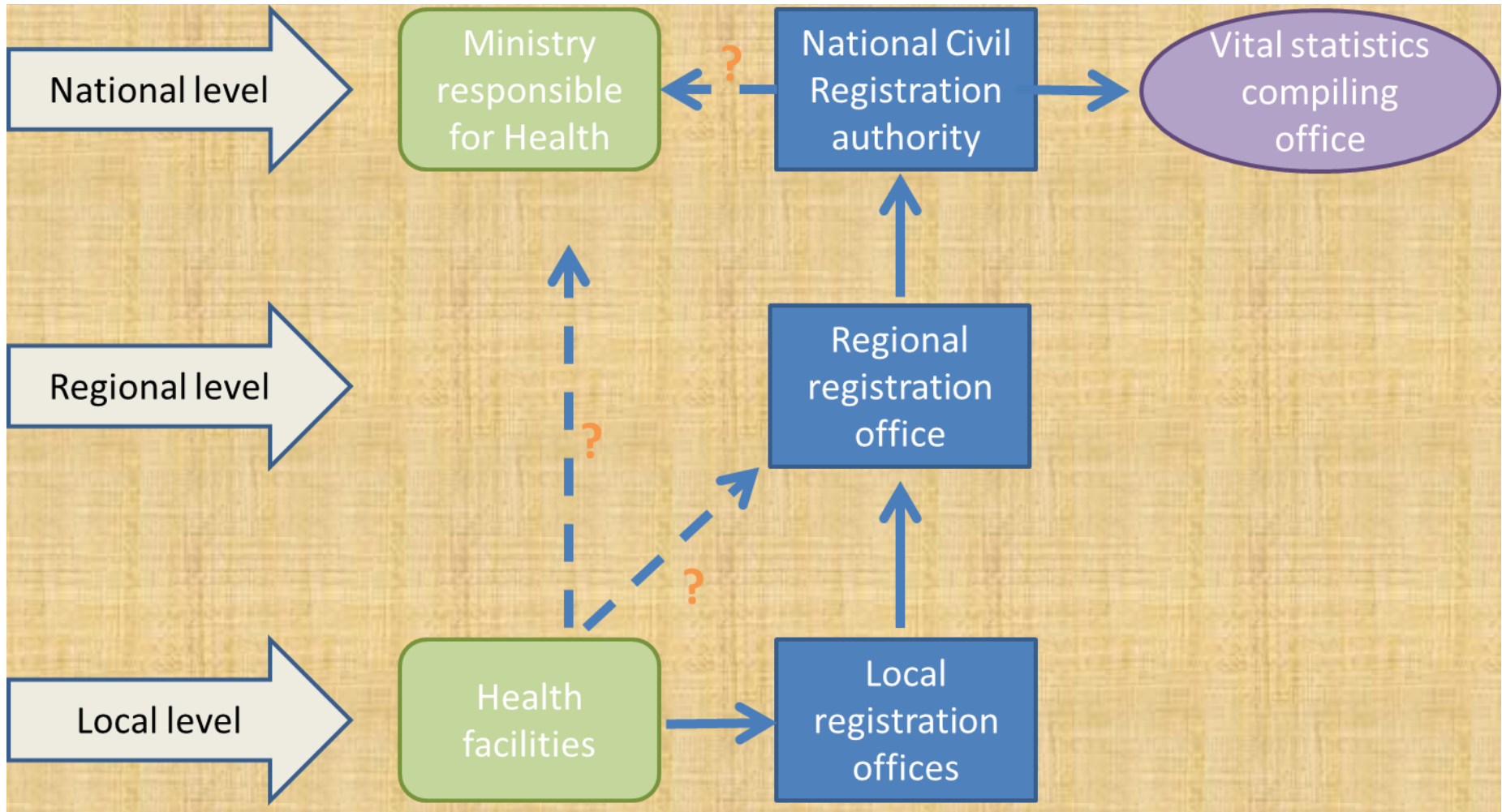
# Legal and administrative issues

- Are there special laws or acts for registration of vital events?
- Does the legislation specify which vital events should be registered?
- What are the time lines for vital event registration?
- What is considered “late” registration in the law?
- Does the legislation specify how the registration should be done?
- Does the legislation specify which information should be included when registering?
- Does the legislation specify who can register?
- Can vital events of non-citizens be registered? What about refugees and stateless persons?
- Is it specified in the legislation the administrative units that should register vital events, i.e. name of the institution, geographic level, etc.?
- Are there any fees for registering?
- Is there a penalty for late registration?
- What do the relevant laws say about sharing data and confidentiality of data?
- Are there exceptions for using CR data for producing statistics?
- How are the registration laws implemented?
- Is there a system for issuing and administering ID cards?
- Is this integrated into the CR system or is there a separate system for ID management?
- Are personal identification numbers used in the CR system and/or elsewhere systems?

# Organizational structure, registration process and information flows

- Organization of the CRVS system between agencies at the central level
  - Who has which responsibilities?
  - What are the data flows between different agencies?
- How are the different agencies organized internally?
  - What are the data flows between different units and administrative levels?
  - What are their responsibilities?

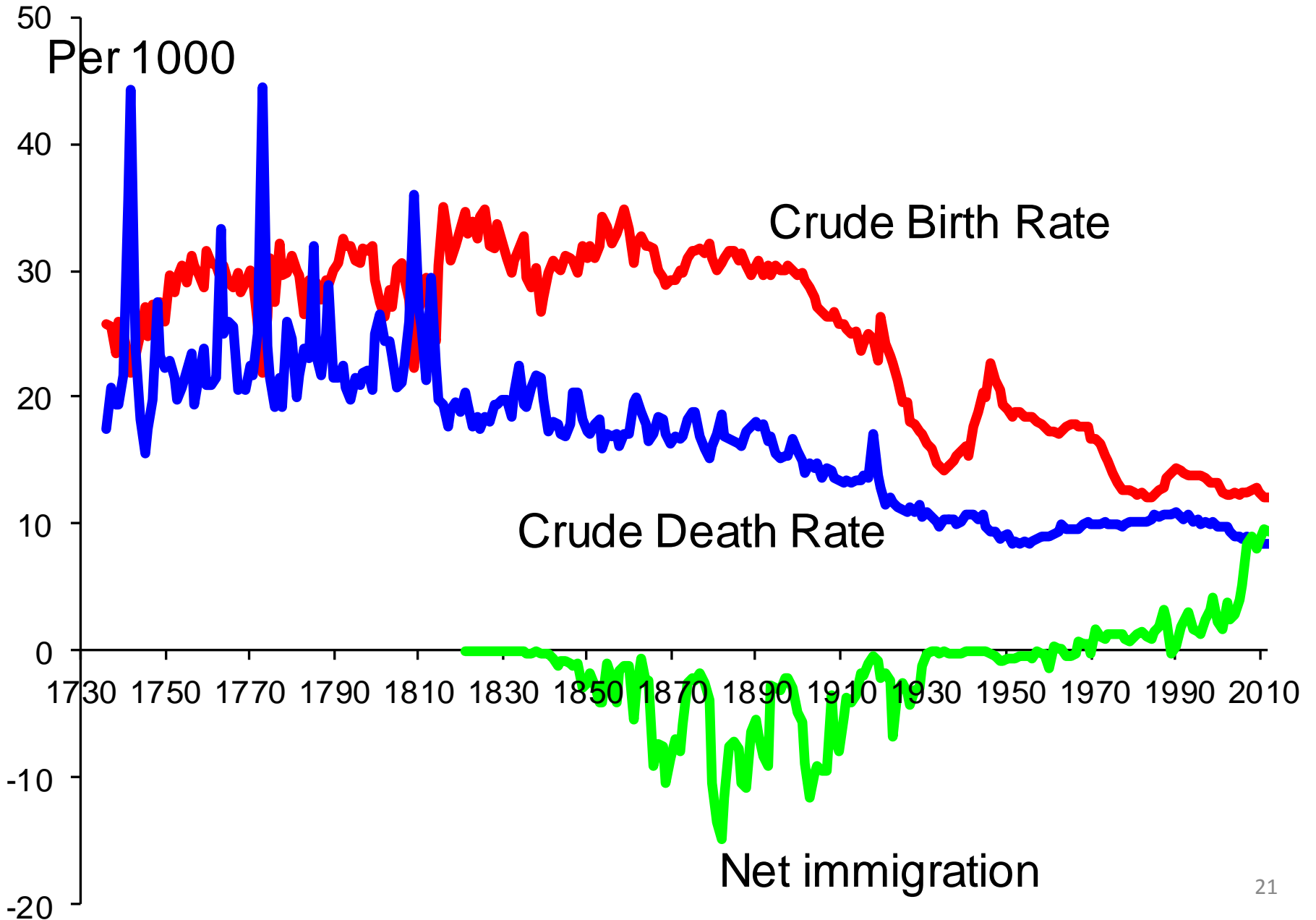
# Possible role of health facilities



# History of population registration in Norway

- 15-1600s: Parish books with name and date for baptisms, marriages and burials established in more and more churches
- 1685: Churches report aggregate births, deaths and marriages to higher levels (bishops)
- 1866: First reports on *individuals*
- 1905: First Act on population registration  
(local registers *allowed* )
- 1946: Act on population registries  
(local registers *compulsory*)
- 1948-1964: Local population registers only  
(730-500, all manual)

# The Demographic Transition in Norway



# Nordic model of population registration

- Established in the 1960s in the five Nordic countries
  - In Norway in 1964, based on the 1960 census
- Central Population Register with links to local offices
- Unique Personal Identification Number (PIN) assigned at birth or first immigration
- CPR continuously updated with data on births, deaths, change of address, marriages, name changes, citizenship ...
- CPR and PIN widely used for administrative purposes, by both public and *private* institutions
- Wide use of PIN to link data from different administrative registers, such as social security, taxes, schools and universities ...
- Widely used for statistics and research
- Population census now based on registers only (from 2010)
- Close *cooperation* between public institutions, incl. sharing of data
- PIN considered and treated as sensitive information
- Safeguarded through legislation and a data inspectorate

# Most important variables in Norway's CPR

- Personal Identification Number, PIN (includes date of birth and sex)
- Residence status (resident, deceased, emigrated ...)
- Address
- Dwelling number
- Municipality
- Place of birth (municipality or country)
- Name (incl. first and middle names)
- Surname prior to marriage
- Citizenship
- Country of immigration
- Country of emigration
- Marital status
- **PIN of spouse, mother and father**
  - Links between siblings, cousins, children and grandparents, ...

## All individual historical data are kept

- Number of **residents**: 5.2 million
- Persons in the CPR: More than 7 million
- Nobody (no record) is deleted physically
  - but status (resident, dead, emigrated) may be changed
- Official date of *registration* and date of *entry* recorded for every data entry



# Other person registers with PIN

- Population censuses 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2001
  - Later censuses based on administrative registers only and not on census forms
- Refugees and other immigrants
- Causes of death
- Cancer cases
- Tuberculosis cases
- Medical personnel
- Prescriptions
- Vaccinations
- Voters
- Drivers' licences
- Passports
- Soldiers
- Bank accounts
- Insurance registers
- Income and wealth
- Pensions and other social security transfers
- Educational activity and attainment, incl. examination results
- Employees

# Three basic registers in Norway

- Central Population Register
  - Companies and enterprises
  - Real property
  - Linked through PINs (owners and share holders) and addresses
- Geographical coordinates of all persons
- Examples
    - Maps showing population living near roads with heavy traffic
    - Distance between children and grandparents – and travelling time

# Examples of use of CPR

- Statistical use
  - Population censuses
  - Statistics
  - Analysis and research
- Linked through PIN (owners and share holders) and addresses
  - Geographical coordinates of all persons

# Administrative use: important users

- Directorate of Taxes
- Defense
- Police
- School Enrolment Authorities
- Social welfare offices
- Banks
- Insurance companies
- Directorate of Roads (names of driving license holders)
- National Educational Loan Fund
- National Broadcasting Corporation (licenses)
- Hospitals (names of residents in district)
- Employers
- Debt collecting agencies
- Commercial inquiry agencies
- Researchers
- Private organizations and individuals

# Research and analysis: examples

- Educational attainment and fertility patterns
- Mortality by occupation
- Marriage patterns among immigrants
- Immigrant residential concentration in Oslo
- Labour market integration of refugees
- Employment among lone parents
- Cohabitation (consensual unions)
- The impact of spouses' and parents' education on divorce rates
- Market work, child care and the division of household labour
- Returns to education
- Fetal and maternal contributions to risk of pre-eclampsia

# Modernisation of the Civil Status system in Albania

- 2001-2009

## Previous Civil Status System in Albania

- Civil Registry in every commune and municipality
- Information kept in books, called Fundamental Register (since 1937)
- Family based (household)
- Special books for births, deaths and marriages
- Used for many purposes, including:
  - Issuance of certificates (births, deaths, marriages, family, etc)
  - Valid for 3 months
  - Fees
- Used to make voters' lists

# Modernization of the civil status registers in Albania

- Civil registers old fashioned, difficult to use, poorly updated, many errors
- Several attempts to modernise the registers
  - Local
  - Computerisation
  - No national coordination
- Voters' lists: Expensive and time-consuming

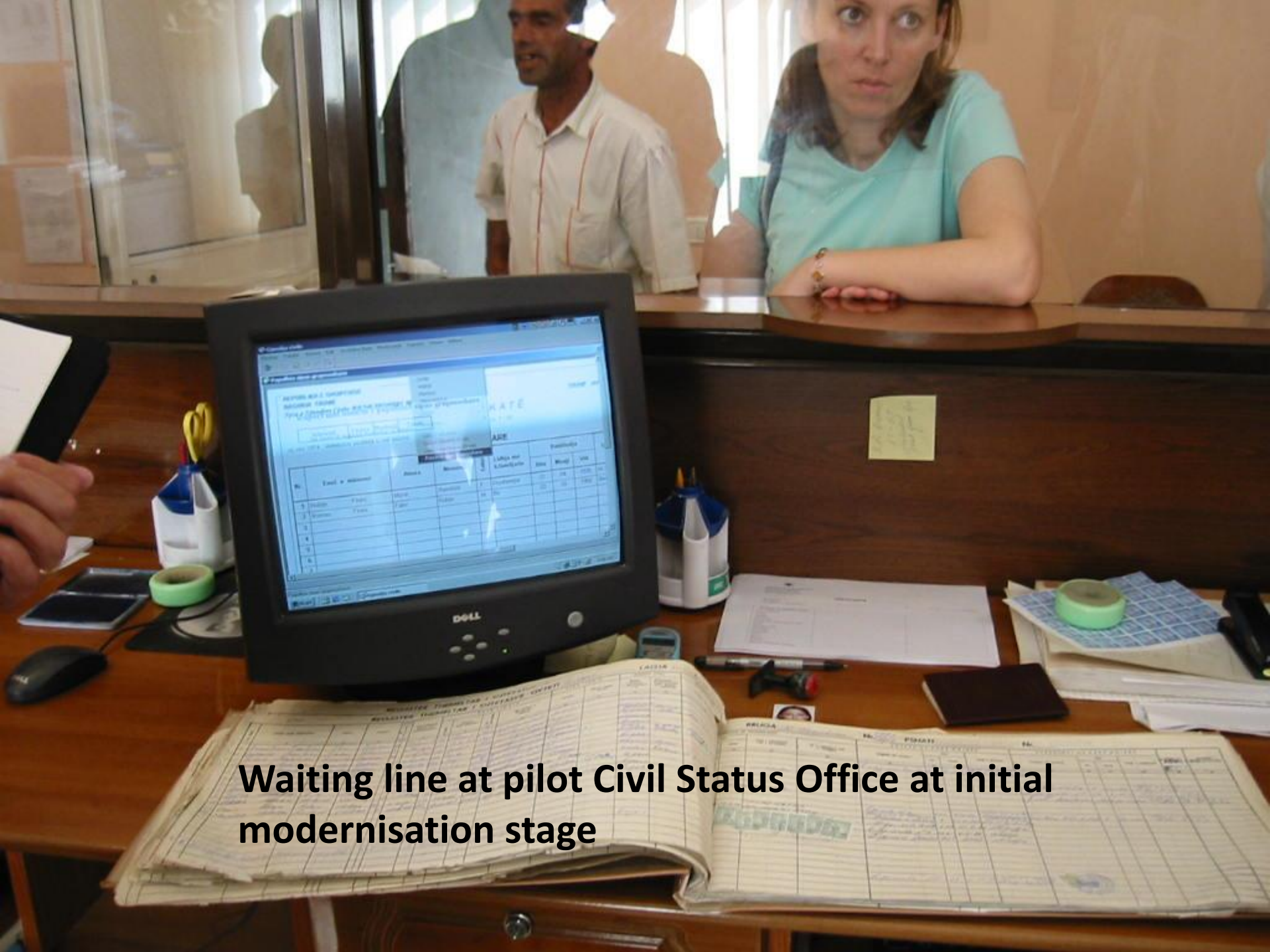


REGJISTER THEMELTAR I SHITETASVE QYTETI  
 REGJISTER THEMELTAR I SHITETASVE QYTETI

LAGJA 3

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2	Ngjalla Maritza	Rakia	Elmira	15	Shkurt	15	Shkurt	1935	qytetare muntë	Lezë		Lezë	
3	Elmira Maritza	Amastas	Elmira	12	Shkurt	12	Shkurt	1938	qytetare muntë	Lezë		Lezë	
4	Amastas Maritza	Amastas	Elmira	11	Shkurt	11	Shkurt	1938	qytetare muntë	Lezë		Lezë	
5	Roland Maritza	Amastas	Elmira	13	Shkurt	13	Shkurt	1938	qytetare muntë	Lezë		Lezë	
6	Elmira Maritza	Amastas	Elmira	13	Shkurt	13	Shkurt	1938	qytetare muntë	Lezë		Lezë	
7	Amastas Maritza	Amastas	Elmira	31	Shkurt	31	Shkurt	1969	qytetare muntë	Lezë		Lezë	
8	Elmira Maritza	Amastas	Elmira	11	Shkurt	11	Shkurt	1957	qytetare muntë	Lezë		Lezë	
9	Amastas Maritza	Amastas	Elmira	14	Shkurt	14	Shkurt	1966	qytetare muntë	Lezë		Lezë	
10	Amastas Maritza	Amastas	Elmira	1	Shkurt	1	Shkurt	1992	qytetare muntë	Lezë		Lezë	
11	Amastas Maritza	Amastas	Elmira	24	Shkurt	24	Shkurt	1998	qytetare muntë	Lezë		Lezë	
12	Amastas Maritza	Amastas	Elmira	20	Shkurt	20	Shkurt	2002	qytetare muntë	Lezë		Lezë	

Left page of Fundamental Register



**Waiting line at pilot Civil Status Office at initial modernisation stage**



# Modernization of the civil status registers in Albania

- Selection of 6 municipalities for pilot project
- Installing computers, printers and software in local offices
- Training local personnel
- Digitizing books in local offices
- Quality control of data, incl. removal of duplicates
- Using local (or central) databases to print certificates
- Updating local registers with new reports on births, deaths, moves ...
- Establishing a central register for all of Albania
- Using the central register to handle reported moves and migrations
- Using local and central registers to make voters' lists
- Using registers to assign ID numbers
- Using registers to make ID cards
- Using registers to produce statistics?

# Reference material

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- CDC Training Course on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, <http://www.emro.who.int/entity/civil-registration-statistics/index.html>
- Civil Registration and Vital Statistics for Refugees. To appear in *UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2015*.
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- Guidelines for making a VS Report. Forthcoming from Statistics Norway.

# CRVS system in Kenya

- Civil Registration Department: Registers births and deaths
- National Registration Bureau: Issues ID cards
- Kenya National Bureau of Statistics: Assists CRD in making VS
- Challenges
  - Many vital events not registered
  - No universal and unique ID numbers
  - ID cards only to persons 18+
  - Difficult for foreigners and stateless to register births and to marry

# CRVS system in the Philippines

- Monina Collado

Thank you for your attention:  
Questions and comments?