



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

Ninth meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and
Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, 10-12 May 2023

CRVS RESILIENCE LESSONS FROM COVID-19

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01 CRVS System in Malaysia

02 Challenges During COVID-19

03 Lesson Learns from COVID-19

04 Way Forward

BIRTH



DEATH



MARRIAGE



DIVORCE



CRVS SYSTEM IN MALAYSIA





Malaysia's Commitment

Malaysia has adopted the resolutions proposed in the **Ministerial Conference in a Ministerial Declaration to 'Get Everyone in The Picture'** and **Regional Action Framework (RAF) for the Decade** in 2014

Stakeholders

- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA)**
- **Ministry of Health (MOH)**
- **National Registration Department (NRD)**



Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
in Asia and the Pacific



GOVERNANCE FOR CRVS



1 STEERING COMMITTEE

Chaired by Secretary General of Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA)

MEMBERS

Consist of representatives from various related government agencies:

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA)
- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Women & Family
- Ministry of Education (MOE)
- Ministry of Economy Affairs (MEA)
- National Registration Department (NRD)
- Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)
- Attorney General's Chambers (AGC)
- Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU)
- Department of Islamic Development

TERM OF REFERENCE (ToR)

To evaluate and endorse the suggestion, planning or enhancement activities on CRVS

2 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Chaired by Director General of National Registration Department (NRD)

MEMBERS

Consist of representatives from various related government agencies:

- National Registration Department (NRD)
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA)
- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)
- Immigration Department of Malaysia
- Royal Malaysian Police (RMP)
- Social Welfare
- Department of Islamic Development
- Sabah State Secretary
- Sarawak State Secretary

TERM OF REFERENCE (ToR)

To prepare suggestion, planning and execute the enhancement on CRVS

3 TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)

Chaired by Director of Population and Demography Statistics Division, DOSM

Maternal Mortality Data

Under-5 Mortality Data

Stillbirth Mortality Data

Covid-19 Mortality Data

Suicide Data

MEMBERS

Technical unit, MOH & DOSM

TERM OF REFERENCE

To check and verify the data

4 INTER AGENCY PLANNING GROUP (IAPG)

Chaired by Chief Statistician, DOSM

Vital Statistics

Cause of Deaths Statistics

Marriage & Divorce Statistics

Population Statistics

MEMBERS

All data providers & Stakeholders

TERM OF REFERENCE

To validate and endorse the statistics

CRVS PUBLICATIONS

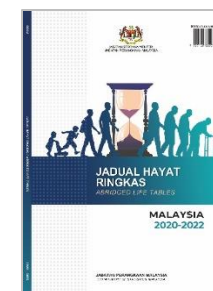
Vital Statistics



Statistics Causes of Death



Abridged Life Tables



Marriage and Divorce Statistics



Population Current Estimates



CIVIL REGISTRATION AGENCIES

- National Registration Department (NRD)
- Royal Malaysia Police (RMP)
- Ministry of Health (MOH)

- Federal and States Religious Department
- National Registration Department (NRD)
- Department of Syariah Judiciary Malaysia
- Council For Native Customs And Traditions

- National Registration Department (NRD)

- Live births
- Deaths
- Fatal deaths

- Health services
- Certification on causes of death

- Marriages
 - Muslim (M)
 - Non-Muslim (NM)

- Divorces (M & NM)
- Annulments
- Judicial separations

Authorized institutions

- Courts
- Judicial institution

- Adoptions
- Legitimation
- Recognition

NRD is centralise agency for CR

Civil Registration, including population registers

Principles:

- Compulsory
- Universal
- Continuous
- Confidentiality

To give individual legal identity such as:

- National ID's (MyCard/MyKid/MyPR)
- Birth & Death Certificates

Types of Data

VITAL STATISTICS AGENCY

Vital Statistics

- Compilation
- Processing
- Validation
- Quality control
- Dissemination

DOSM is responsible agency to process VS in Malaysia

Complementary/ Interim sources

- Population estimation
- Census
- Surveys

Inputs for:

- Stakeholders
- Researcher
- Academicians
- Students

CRVS USES

Inputs for the formulation of policies and planning of programmes related to population development, health, education and occupation as well as a useful source of reference for researchers and academia.

CHALLENGES DURING COVID-19



MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (MCO)



The 2020 Movement Control Order commonly referred to as the MCO, is a quarantine implemented as a preventive measure by the federal government of Malaysia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the country on some phases. Only an essential services are allowed to run the business during MCO and Malaysians are not allowed to travel more than 10 kilometers away from home except for banking and financial services, to buy everyday necessities, to obtain health services and so on. **Registration for births and deaths only by appointment or online.**

Level of MCO's Phase

PHASE	KNOWN AS	DURATION
PHASE 1	MCO	18 MARCH – 31 MARCH 2020
PHASE 2	MCO	1 APRIL – 14 APRIL 2020
PHASE 3	MCO	15 APRIL – 28 APRIL 2020
PHASE 4	MCO (CONDITIONAL)	29 APRIL – 12 MAY2020
PHASE 5	MCO (CONDITIONAL)	13 MAY – 9 JUNE 2020
PHASE 6	MCO (RECOVERY)	10 JUNE – 31 AUGUST 2020
PHASE 7	MCO (RECOVERY)	31 AUGUST – 31 DECEMBER 2020
PHASE 8	MCO (RECOVERY)	JANUARY-MARCH 2021

Malaysia began its **transition to the endemic phase** from 1 April 2022

CIVIL REGISTRATION DURING MCO

Essential services as stipulated in the Federal Constitution of Malaysia **does not include, births and deaths registration.**

NRD counters for birth and death registration were closed from **mid-March to mid-May 2020**, and later only available by **appointment.**

Extension of up to 90 days for registration of births and deaths.

1 Civil registration are not included in essential services as stipulated in the Federal Constitution of Malaysia

- Registration offices were closed from mid-March to mid-May 2020, and later only available by appointment. This meant the births and deaths registration accessible by DOSM represented only a fraction of the expected births and deaths.
- Lagging up to 90 days for registration (by appointment).
- For example, Average monthly data for Birth (35,000), Death (14,000), Non-Muslim Marriage (4,000) and Divorce (1,000). **During COVID-19**, the average shows a declining trend due to **late registration**.
- However, all the occurrences during pandemic have been late registered starting June 2020 and onwards.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BIRTHS	40,582	36,151	25,245	862	37,426	73,411	49,946	40,914	43,550	36,238	35,262	39,333
DEATHS	15,741	13,310	9,791	10,222	16,348	14,624	14,244	15,074	13,323	12,820	12,666	13,956
MARRIAGE*	2,862	4,926	2,841	2,862	894	3,484	3,612	3,674	3,638	4,353	3,350	4,091
DIVORCE*	41	250	216	222	260	648	854	598	670	448	927	773

Note: * refer to Non-muslim Marriage and Divorce



2

Estimation of live birth and deaths statistics

- Using Time Series Modeler- Exponential Smoothing Models (10 years time series data).
- Estimation was based on scenario during pandemics:
 - The **rate of road accidents** has **dropped by nearly 70 per cent**;
 - **4 or 5 deaths daily** caused by road accidents as compared to average of death for March 2010-2019 recorded **380 deaths per month and 12 deaths per day**.
- In practical, we have to estimate the **third month of every quarter**, but because of the pandemic and late registration data, the estimation was also applied for the **second month**.
- At this point of time, **quarterly data are not revised** and considered as preliminary data, but the annual data will be revised later.

POST-PANDEMIC: RECOVERING PHASE OF CIVIL REGISTRATION



In normal situation, late registrations recorded an average of 3,000 for births and 250 for deaths. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 and 2021) the average of late registration were increased to 24,000 for births and 350 for deaths.

Subsequently, late registrations were recorded of 1,900 for births and 350 for deaths in 2022. This situation can illustrate that civil registration in Malaysia is recovering after the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Average per month	Average late		Average per month	Average late		Average per month	Average late		Average per month	Average late
Births	40,000	3,000	Births	39,000	24,000	Births	36,000	3,500	Births	36,000	1,900
Deaths	14,000	250	Deaths	13,000	350	Deaths	18,000	550	Deaths	17,000	350



2019

2020

2021

2022

LESSONS FROM COVID-19

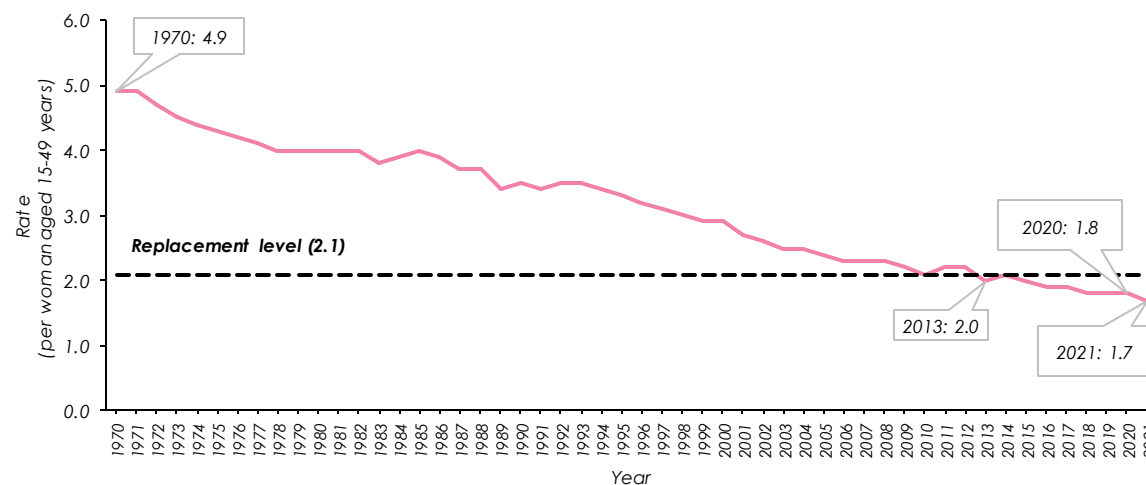
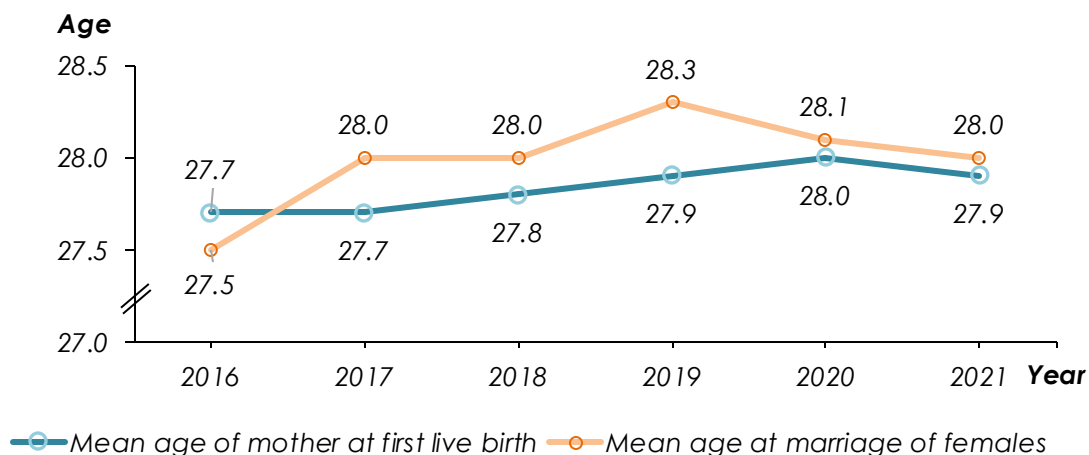




1. Importance of **data sharing** among agencies using an integrated data system. Improve cooperation with data provider to strengthen the process as well as data access and data sharing
2. **The Strengthening of the National Statistical System (SNSS)** was launched during National Statistics Day in October 2021. SNSS is implemented of to prepare and enhance the Malaysian Statistical System to meet the complexities of the environment and the challenges that are dynamic in the present and future.
3. Civil registration should be considered an **essential service** mandated to continue operations during a pandemic.
4. **Strengthening the capacity of public health services in Malaysia** by allocating more budget in health services and several new hospitals, clinics and facility construction projects will be implemented.
5. DOSM have **accessed to COVID-19 cases and death** to monitor number of death due to COVID-19. Technical Working Group with MOH has been established in 2021 to check and verify before dissemination of data.

5. Demographic statistics in Malaysia

- This situation affects the change in the structure of the age of marriage and the increase in the average age of maternal mothers and implications for reducing the productive age of women aged 15-64 years. This will directly affect the decline in the total fertility rate in Malaysia in the long term.
- Over the last five decades, Total fertility rate declined significantly from 4.9 children per woman of childbearing age in 1970 to 1.7 in 2021.

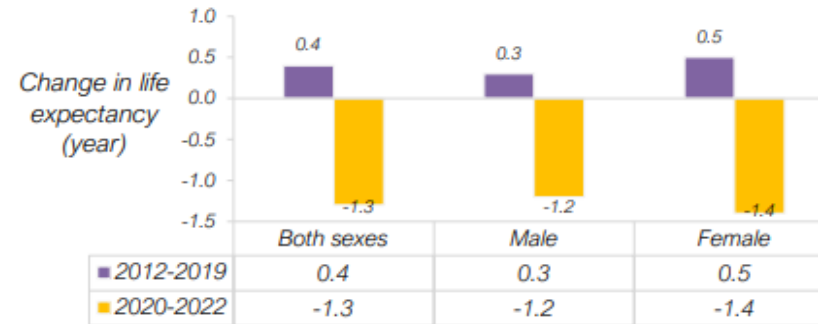




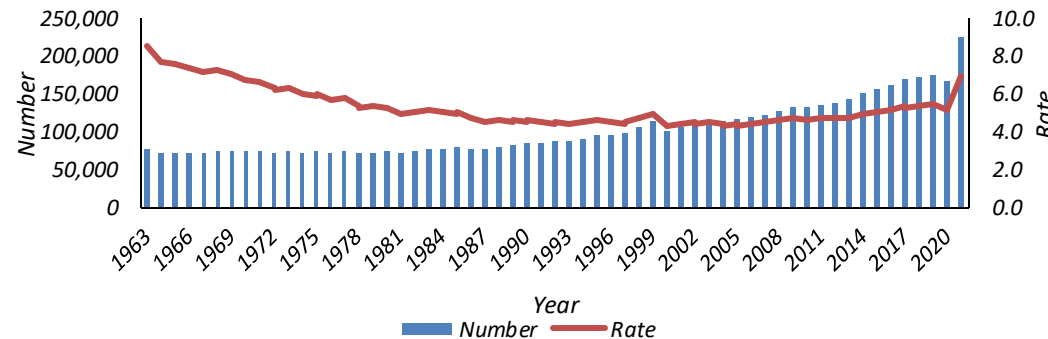
LESSONS FROM COVID-19 (cont.)



- From 2020 to 2022 (3 years), life expectancy at birth decreased by 1.3 years with males decreased by 1.2 years while females decreased by 1.4 years. The decline in life expectancy for 2020 to 2022 is attributed to the increase in the number of excess deaths during pandemic COVID-19 in 2021.



- In 2021, the number of deaths in Malaysia increased drastically, an increase of 34.5 per cent as compared to 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. Crude death rate also increased to 6.9 as compared to 5.1 in 2020. Based on a preliminary analysis conducted by the Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Health Malaysia, the excess deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic in Malaysia were lower than in most countries at 18,011 deaths (Ministry of Health Malaysia, 2022).





ARTICLE BOX:



Malaysia has made important progress in the production of vital statistics in the country over the past few years. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) and the National Registration Department (NRD) have a long-standing relationship and are continuously improving their collaboration to facilitate the sharing of birth and death registration records to produce vital statistics. As a result, the data exchange protocols between the two agencies gradually evolved from hardcopy documents to monthly online transfers since 2016. This has allowed DOSM to produce quarterly statistics on births and deaths and to shorten the timeframe in producing annual vital statistics from 24 months to less than 12 months.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic had a disruptive effect on this system. The offices of NRD had to close due to the implementation of the Movement Control Order to prevent the spread of the virus, since birth and death registration are not included as essential services in the Federal Constitution of Malaysia. Registration offices were fully closed from mid-March to mid-May 2020, and later only available by appointment. NRD also offered an extension of up to 90 days to register births and deaths after the order was lifted. As a result, from mid-March 2020

birth and death registration data accessible by DOSM represent only a fraction of the expected births and deaths. In parallel to the NRD, the Ministry of Health registers and keeps records of births within and outside its facilities as well as deaths within its facilities and the Royal Malaysian Police keep records of deaths outside of health facilities. These records are transmitted online to NRD for issuance of birth and death certificates. Unlike NRD, both agencies continued operating during the Movement Control Order. DOSM only has access to the records consolidated and verified by NRD, and it has no direct access to the records of the Ministry of Health and the Royal Malaysian Police. These data could not, therefore, be used for vital statistics.

DOSM still produced its Vital Statistics report for the first quarter of 2020, but in the absence of complete data, it resorted to estimation methods based on time-series data from the past 10 years, as well as methods more specific to the situation. For example, DOSM considered the drop in the number of road accidents and the late registration of births and deaths due to the Movement Control Order. The department was able to use past experience, especially the adjustments performed on death data in Sabah Province, to compensate for underregistration.

The pandemic, by bringing an unexpected challenge to civil registration processes in many countries, highlighted the need for resilient systems such as the one in Malaysia. This is especially critical considering the importance of accurate and timely data to respond to crises. The prompt action from DOSM is proof that human resources are a key element to a well-functioning CRVS system, with the application of complex demographic models to ensure the continuity of vital statistics. However, there is a need to further strengthen the collaboration with the stakeholders and the potential to have access to their data in times of emergency. CRVS stakeholders in Malaysia have learned the importance of enhanced CRVS data sharing and subsequently a data sharing agreement was formalized between the Ministry of Health and DOSM, which will certainly lead to a more resilient CRVS system.



- Improve cooperation with data provider to strengthen the process as well as data access and data sharing.
- Civil registration should be considered an essential service mandated to continue operations during a pandemic.
- Conducting study on under reporting civil registration in West Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak) to assess the coverage level of birth and death registration in Sabah and Sarawak

"STATISTICS BLOOM IN HARMONY"

Doesn't matter far or near
Strength in numbers
we don't live in fear

Birds of feather flock together
Statistics our form of adour
We, will always live it up

So let us live in solidarity
And in the world arena we'll
succeed

It is statistics that will come to be
The reason we will bloom in
harmony

Everybody undivided
Data's where our hearts reside in
There will always be a bind

Just like fire that ignites
That's how brightly lit our dreams are
We'll reach higher than the stars

Sending love to one another
Leaving no one in a slumber
We will stand with unity

Mustering our courage while
Embracing our disparities
We'll achieve our victory

One dream with unity
One love with harmony



"STATISTICS BLOOM
IN HARMONY"
VIDEO

<https://bit.ly/StatisticsBloomInHarmony>

THANK YOU



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