

Strengths and Weaknesses of Data Sources

Main Sources of Vital Statistics

- civil registration
- population censuses
- in-depth household surveys

Main Sources of Vital Statistics

- population censuses
 - specific questions on fertility and mortality added to population censuses
- in-depth household surveys
 - demographic and epidemiological processes that complements the information obtained through civil registration.
- OTHERS: vital records from sample registration and health records

EXERCISE (Country Groups)

- Go through your vital statistics report and list the various sources of data that have been used for producing vital statistics
- For each type of data source, discuss and list the likely strengths and weaknesses of that source or what you think the issues are (15 minutes)

Advantages

Disadvantages

Civil Registration

Population Censuses

In-depth Household
Surveys

Advantages

Disadvantages

Civil Registration

- May be compiled monthly quarterly or annually
 - Available for small subdivisions of the country
- directed toward the legal and administrative uses of its records
 - compilation and publication of statistics tend to disturb the day-to-day operation of the register
 - sometimes incomplete or non-uniform administrative based system
 - Office or staff dedicated to registration activities

Population Censuses

- Available for small subdivisions of the country
- Costly to administer

In-depth Household Surveys

- Flexible - May collect additional information
- Available only for selected subdivisions depending on the sampling design
 - Costly to administer