**CHS 224**

**Sources of Demographic Data (2)**

**Civil Registration**

**Purpose:**

* Primarily administrative
* To collect data on the vital events happening in a population (generally concerned with live births, deaths, marriages and divorces)
* Help understand demographic characteristics of different populations at different points in time

**Essential Characteristics**

* Universality
* Continuity

**Content**

* Live birth
* Death
* Marriage
* Divorce

**Live Birth**

Live birth—Complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered live-born

All live-born infants should be registered and counted as such irrespective of gestational age or whether alive or dead at time of registration, and if they die at any time following birth they should also be registered and counted as deaths

**Data of live birth rigestration**

**Data on event**

•Date of occurrence

•Date of registration

•Place of occurrence

•Type of birth/delivery

•Attendance at birth

**Data on infant:**

–Sex

–Legitimacy status

–Weight at birth

**Data on mother:**

–Age or date of birth

–Number of previous children born alive

–Date of marriage or duration of marriage

–Place of usual residence

**Death Registration**

Death—Permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (post-natal cessation of vital functions without capability of resuscitation)

This definition excludes fetal deaths

**Fetal Death**

Fetal Death—Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy

**Fetal Death Categories**

Three major categories of fetal deaths recommended by WHO:

* Early fetal death: < 20 completed weeks of gestation
* Intermediate fetal death: ≥ 20 but < 28 weeks
* Late fetal death: ≥ 28 weeks

**Stillbirth:** Stillbirth—Late fetal death

**Death Registration:**

**Data on event:**

•Date of occurrence

•Date of registration

•Place of occurrence

•Cause of death

•Certifier

**Data on decedent:**

–Age or date of birth

–Sex

–Marital status

–Occupation

–Place of usual residence

**Problems with Cause of Death Data**

􀂊Knowledge of certifier

􀂊Certifier may never see deceased

􀂊“Garbage codes”: missing, senility, etc . . .

􀂊Heart versus brain function loss in the definition of death

􀂊Multiple and contributory causes of death

**Marriage Registration**

Marriage—Ceremony or process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted

The legality of the union may be established by civil, religious, or other means as recognized by the laws of each country

**Divorce Registration**

Divorce—Final legal dissolution of a marriage, that is, that separation of husband and wife which confers on the parties the right to remarriage under civil, religious and/or other provisions, according to the laws of each country

**Civil Registration**

**Advantages**

* Continuous monitoring of vital rates
* May provide both numerator and denominator for some rates (e.g., Infant Mortality Rate—IMR)
* Small area data available
* Base for testing the accuracy of censuses and surveys

**Disadvantages**

* Uncertain coverage: Difficult to ensure registration of all the events
* Easily disrupted by political/economic events
* Costly