

Implementing an electronic, central registry for vital events in the US territories

AMERICAN SAMOA, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AND GUAM



- US territories have progressively implemented electronic registration systems for vital events, including a link that allows data sharing between jurisdictions.
- By investing in systems that meet guidelines developed by the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS), jurisdictions are able to install and access systems (STEVE) that allow data sharing across jurisdictions, an important advantage in territories with mobile populations.
- These US territories have undertaken a rapid assessment and mapping of their CRVS systems, and identified priorities for broader system improvements.

As nearly all births and deaths occur in hospital, strong links with the National Health Service are essential for high quality registration data.

CRVS in the US Territories has been extensively supported by the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association, and the Hawaii Registrars office.

CRVS in the US Territories

Birth and death registration in CNMI and Guam is part of the National Health Service, allowing parents and families to register events as they occur at the main hospitals. In American Samoa, registration is managed through the Department of Homeland Security, although records are also maintained at the National Hospital and used for tabulating vital statistics. The US National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) provides support for data tabulation and publication.

Births and deaths are registered in the electronic system and are then accessible to other jurisdictions that have signed up to the federal program.

US territories currently record causes of death using ICD9 although work is underway to support a shift to ICD10 in the near future.

Although data is essentially complete, statistical analysis is not always readily available at the local level.

About STEVE

The State and Territorial Exchange of Vital Events (STEVE) System was developed by NAPHSIS for the electronic exchange of vital event data between jurisdictions. STEVE replaces the use of paper hard copies, and allows for reporting of statistical data to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

Next Steps

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American Samoa is developing a draft vital statistics report which includes analysis of births, deaths, and causes of death - anticipated to be released in 2015.

SUPPORTED BY THE BRISBANE ACCORD GROUP (BAG)

