

CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS IN WALLIS AND FUTUNA

Wallis and Futuna is a French island collectivity in the South Pacific. Mata-Utu is the capital and biggest city. The territory is made up of 3 main volcanic tropical islands along with a number of tiny islands.



Land area
(km²)
142

2020 mid-year
population estimate
11,400

Population growth
rate (%)
-0.5



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



Pacific CRVS
supported by Brisbane Accord Group

unicef
for every child

OVERVIEW

This civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) country profile for Wallis and Futuna is part of a series of country profiles for the Pacific Island region. The CRVS profiles consolidate knowledge shared by countries on the status of their CRVS systems in the recent past, including through government websites, published reports, media releases and presentations, and direct engagement between the authors of these profiles and in-country civil registration offices and health information offices. The objective of these CRVS country profiles is to provide a living resource (updated every 2-3 years) and quick reference point on the status and developments in CRVS systems in the Pacific Island region. The profiles provide an overview of the legislative, organisational and management frameworks of CRVS systems, registration processes, levels of completeness of birth and death registration, and the most recent developments towards improving CRVS systems. Whilst civil registration covers many vital events, these profiles focus on the registration of births and deaths, and collation of cause of death information. It is envisaged that these country profiles will serve as a fundamental tool in advocating for further investment in strengthening the coverage and completeness of CRVS systems across the Pacific Island region.

SOURCE OF BIRTH AND DEATH DATA

The source of figures in Table 1 (births) and Table 2 (deaths) is outlined below each table, with the full citation given in the Reference section at the end of the document. All figures were obtained from published sources or through direct contact with in-country civil registration offices and health information offices. The date figures were obtained through direct in-country contact is stated below the tables, and indicates when those figures were extracted from in-country databases.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Pacific Community and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 2021. Civil registration and vital statistics in Wallis and Futuna. Noumea, New Caledonia: Pacific Community.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the Statistics for Development Division (SDD) – Pacific Community at: contact-sdd@spc.int; <https://sdd.spc.int/>

CRVS LEGISLATION, ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

Agencies responsible for birth and death recording and registration

Civil status data which includes births, deaths and marriages are collected on a weekly basis by the official of the service concerned with this task from the civil status office in both Wallis and Futuna. Any event relating to civil status must be the subject of an act drawn up by the registrar and signed by the Head of the district. The registrar is responsible for recording all the events that take place in the district (births, deaths, marriages, etc.). In 2018 there were 7,940 civil status certificates (in particular birth, death and marriage certificates) issued by the civil registry; compared with 5,546 the previous year. The increased demand for civil status documents in recent years has been attributed in part to an increased need for identity documents, and an increasing requirement for birth certificates to be presented to schools in order for children to be enrolled (Govt Wallis & Futuna, 2019).

REPORTING AND REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS

Recording births at health facilities and registering births at the civil registry

Due to the absence of a maternity hospital on the island of Futuna, pregnant women leave Futuna from their seventh month of pregnancy and travel to Wallis to give birth. In 2019, 18 babies were born on Wallis Island to Futunian parents. It is for this reason that no births are recorded on Futuna, and no health records of births need to be transported to Wallis for birth registration (Govt Wallis & Futuna, 2020).

Tasks which require a 'Birth Certificate' and incentives (financial or other) for completing the birth registration process

A birth certificate is required to obtain a passport, and has been increasingly required for enrolment of a child in school.

REPORTING AND REGISTRATION OF DEATHS

Registration process for deaths occurring overseas

During 2018 there were 764 medical evacuations from Wallis and Futuna, mainly to New Caledonia. If a death occurs overseas following medical evacuation, the family may receive support from the Government to repatriate the body (Govt Wallis & Futuna, 2019).

COMPLETENESS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION DATA

The completeness of birth and death registration can be estimated by comparing the number of births and deaths in the civil registry with the number of births and deaths recorded by the health system, enumerated during national censuses, and estimated by international agencies. In some countries and territories in the Pacific Island region, the births and deaths of citizens overseas can be registered in the civil registry. For the purpose of estimating completeness, it is best these overseas births and deaths are not included in the civil registry figures since the other sources which it is compared to, e.g. health records, do not include overseas events. In Wallis and Futuna, we were unable to determine if overseas births and deaths can be registered in the civil registry, or if they have been included in Table 1 and 2 below. If overseas events have been included, the estimates of completeness for the civil registry will be higher than if overseas events were excluded.

Table 1. Completeness of birth registration data

Year	Source of deaths				Completeness of death registration		
	Civil Registry ^a	Health ^b	SPC projection ^c	Census ^d	Compared with health	Compared with SPC	Compared with census
2019	171	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018	129	126	154	150 [^]	102%	84%	[^]
2017	145	157	-	-	92%	-	-
2016	-	156	-	-	-	-	-
2015	-	157	-	-	-	-	-
2014	-	142	-	-	-	-	-
2013	-	-	-	173 [^]	-	-	[^]
2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Sources: ^aCivil registry (Government of Wallis and Futuna, 2020; 2019; 2018). ^bThe Health Agency (Government of Wallis and Futuna, 2019); ^cCalculated from 2018 crude birth rate (Pacific Community 2018a) and 2018 population projection (Pacific Community 2018b). ^dThe 2013 and 2018 censuses asked information on births in the five years preceding the censuses (2008–2013; 2013–2018) and the figures in the table represent the average annual number of births during these five year periods, calculated from the published crude birth rate of 14.2 for 2008–2013 (INSEE, 2014) and from the published figure of 750 births occurring between 2013–2018 (INSEE 2019). [^]Because they are annual averages over a five-year period, the census figures have not been used in the estimation of the completeness of the civil registry. Completeness calculated by: dividing 'Civil Registry' by 'Health'; and dividing 'Civil Registry' by 'SPC projection'.

Table 2. Completeness of death registration data

Year	Source of deaths				Completeness of death registration		
	Civil Registry ^a	Health ^b	SPC projection ^c	Census ^d	Compared with health	Compared with SPC	Compared with census
2019	56	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018	79	-	83	70 [^]	-	95%	[^]
2017	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2013	-	-	-	70 [^]	-	-	[^]
2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Sources: ^aCivil registry (Government of Wallis and Futuna, 2020; 2019; 2018). ^bNot available. ^cCalculated from 2018 crude death rate (Pacific Community 2018a) and 2018 population projection (Pacific Community 2018b). ^dThe 2013 and 2018 censuses asked information on deaths in the five years preceding the censuses (2008–2013; 2013–2018) and the figures in the table represent the average annual number of deaths during these five year periods, calculated from the published crude death rate of 5.7 for 2008–2013 (INSEE 2014) and from the published figure of 350 deaths occurring between 2013–2018 (INSEE 2019). [^]Because they are annual averages over a five-year period, the census figures have not been used in the estimation of the completeness of the civil registry. Completeness calculated by dividing 'Civil Registry' by 'SPC projection'.

PUBLICATION OF CRVS DATA AND REPORTS

The Government of Wallis and Futuna publishes an annual Wallis and Futuna Activity Report, which contains figures for births and deaths registered in the civil registry, and sometimes also includes figures for births recorded in the health system. The reports include a summary of the activities of the civil registry office, including how many requests for civil status documents have been processed each year (2017–2019) (Govt Wallis & Futuna, 2020; 2019; 2018). The *Service Territorial de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques (STSEE) du Territoire des îles Wallis et Futuna* (the Territorial Service for Statistics and Economic Studies of the Territory of the Wallis and Futuna Island) publishes intermittent updates on births and deaths in Wallis and Futuna, however at

the time of publication of this report the information was not available (STSEE, 2019)

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