

Collating national vital statistics from state-based civil registry systems

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



- Reliable vital statistics are essential to national and the state governments for planning, policy, and evaluation.
- However, collating statistics at a national level can be very challenging when registration is a state-based function.
- FSM has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of their CRVS system and identified ways of improving registration on the ground within states, and collation of data at a national level.

CRVS in FSM

The Federated States of Micronesia is comprised of 4 states: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap.

- Health services are operated at a state level, alongside a national Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA) that is responsible for a range of policy and public health functions, and which works closely with the State Health Services. The DHSA also provides statistical support to the states through their Health Information Office, including the coding of medical certificates of death.
- Civil registration is overseen by the State courts, with procedures differing between jurisdictions.
- The National Statistics Office, which alongside the DHSA is responsible for the collation and publication of birth and death statistics is a national body, with staff in each of the states that report directly to the national office.
- Although birth and death registration is required by law in FSM, coverage varies significantly between states.
- Kosrae is a single island and has essentially complete registration coverage, in large part due to the intensive follow up of all events by medical records staff, and the direct links between Health and the Court with records manually shared on at least a weekly basis.
- The other states each have one central island and many outer islands, many of which are relatively inaccessible. Registration in these states is much lower, with statistics generally derived from the health data.

Key Priorities for Improvement

- Review of legislation to identify and address discrepancies between state and national levels.
- Formalise agreements between state and national offices to clearly define roles and responsibilities regarding data collection, notification, coding and tabulation, analysis and reporting.
- Strengthen capacity at state levels in medical certification of deaths, and coding.
- Investment in an upgraded national HIS system to support good data management practices and facilitate data sharing between state and national levels.
- Support to state courts to upgrade IT systems for data management to improve ability to search and retrieve records and facilitate data sharing with other sectors.
- Capacity building for community based health staff to improve birth and death reporting from outer islands.



FSM has undertaken a CRVS assessment and formed a national CRVS committee.

Next steps are to revisit and endorse a national CRVS improvement plan and engage key national and state stakeholders.

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