

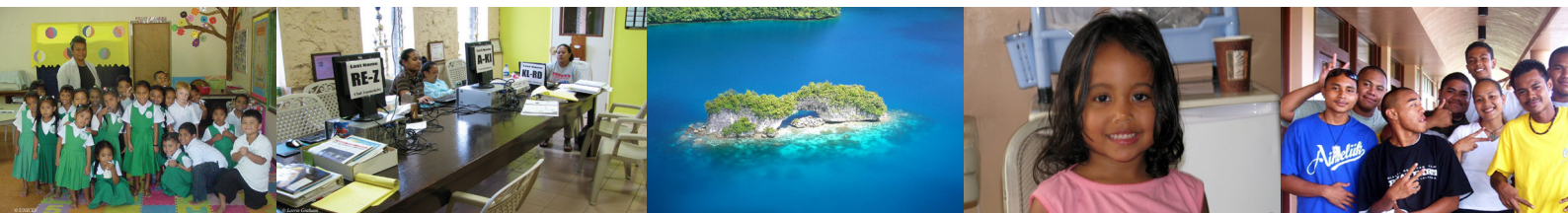
Linking CRVS data through a unique identifier

REPUBLIC OF PALAU



REGISTRATION DATA HAS MANY USES FOR GOVERNMENT

- Every Palauan citizen and resident born in Palau is issued a hospital number when a Certificate of Live Birth is recorded at the Belau National Hospital. This hospital number is unique to each individual.
- The unique identifier allows matching of birth and death records from the Ministry of Health with the Clerk of Courts who serves as the Civil Registrar.
- This linking of data also ensures that other important records can be updated when a death occurs, including social security payments and pensions, and the electoral roll.



CRVS in Palau

Nearly all births and deaths in Palau occur at the Belau National Hospital (BNH).

When a birth occurs outside the hospital, the mother and child are transported to BNH for a check up and the Certificate of Live Birth is recorded.

When a death occurs outside the hospital:

- If a person dies in Koror or on Babeldaob, the body is transported to the morgue at BNH where the medical certificate is completed.
- If a death occurs in one of the more remote states, the death must be certified by two legally authorized persons and reported to BNH.
- In cases of missing bodies, the court must declare the person dead before the death is certified.
- Vital Status Registry is the responsibility of the judicial system, with the Clerk of Courts also acting as the Civil Registrar. The Ministry of Health certifies live births as the first step for Birth Registration, and all deaths.

What was done

Palau undertook a partial CRVS assessment in 2012 and identified 3 priority areas:

- A legislation update
- A review of the need to establish a separate Civil Registry Office
- Upgrade cause of death coding from ICD9 to ICD10.

Achievements and key challenges

- Since the assessment in 2012 there has been progress made in these targeted areas.
- There is a proposed bill before the Palau National Congress to establish a Division of Vital Records under the Ministry of Health. The aim is to establish a central office tasked with maintaining vital records and serving the public by providing copies of vital records to qualified requestors.
- The Bureau of Public Health has begun work to amend and improve their policy on the certification of live births at the Belau National Hospital. There is a need to modify birth certification and birth registry procedures to facilitate the process and also ensure compliance with the Palau National Code and Public Health Regulations.

In 2012 and 2013, ICD10 was used in cause of death coding. However, there is still a need to build ICD coding capacity within the Ministry of Health through training of staff to improve the quality of vital statistics data.

Next steps

Next steps for Palau are to conduct a comprehensive CRVS assessment and to draft a national CRVS improvement plan. With the growing non-communicable disease epidemic in the Pacific region, Palau should continue to improve the accessibility and quality of birth, death, and cause of death statistics derived from the registration data for planning and evaluation.

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