Coverage of vital registration of deaths

Rationale for use

Health information is an essential component of health systems. The registration of births and deaths with causes of death, called “civil registration (vital registration)”, is an important component of a country health information system.

Definition

Percentage of estimated total deaths that are ‘counted’ through civil registration system.

Associated terms

None.

Data sources

Country reports of coverage and WHO assessment of coverage.

Methods of estimation

Expected numbers of deaths by age and sex are estimated from current life tables, based on multiple sources. Reported numbers are compared with expected numbers by age and sex to obtain an estimate of coverage of the vital registration system.

Disaggregation

None.

References


Database

- WHO mortality database website: (http://www.who.int/whosis/mort/en)

Comments

Though sample registration systems only partially cover deaths in a country, they can be an important intermediate solution to obtain mortality and causes of death information about the country.