

BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Birth and death are the two most important events in life worth recording. A world without birth or death record is inconceivable, so much so that in the near future, the world without complete registration of births and deaths will also seem unthinkable.

Birth and death records are legal as well as statistical documents. The true relationship of their uses, legal and statistical, involves two powerful sets of interests. The first is rooted in the necessity of protecting the rights and ensuring the privileges of an individual while the second interest arises from the urgent needs of public health for statistics which will measure the extent of health problems and the progress in public health programmes.

However, in recent years, these interests have been centered more in improving the statistics available for public health rather than in the use of the vital records as legal documents. Since the interest to improve vital statistics comes from public health, it is but natural that attempts to obtain better vital statistics will first require the improvement of the registration of these vital events.

Probably, no vital statistical reporting system now existing is completely accurate with respect to the degree by which events are reported; the degree of correctness of information provided for in each event; and more on the degree of coverage.

The Bureau of the Census and Statistics, therefore, in an effort to improve the registration of vital events in the Philippines undertook a survey in October 1964 to measure the

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birth and death registration completeness in the different areas of the country.

This was a special inquiry taken in addition to the October 1964 round of the labor force survey of the Philippine Statistical Survey of Households.

The results of this special inquiry will be the basis for an extensive educational campaign to be undertaken by the Bureau of the Census and Statistics to improve registration of vital events. The data gathered will also help in the proper implementation of the Civil Registry Law. Furthermore, this survey may represent an important benchmark in the study of birth and death registration problems in the Philippines.

History of birth and death registration in the Philippines¹

Before the Spaniards came to the Philippines, there were no means of keeping records of births and deaths. However, there seemed to be some evidences of a method of keeping records but these records pertained only to the fighting strength of localities which was necessary during that period when tribal wars were frequent.

During the Spanish rule, there appeared to be no evidence on record that any of the laws and the numerous decrees issued concerned civil registry. At that time, the church and the state were inseparable. The various religious orders of the Catholic church maintained full records of baptisms and burials. The Church required every parish priest to keep a book in which records of baptisms and burials were kept. These were preserved in the parochial archives.

The principal change came with the establishment of a civil registry for the first time in the country on December 8,

¹ "Manual on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics", Bureau of the Census and Statistics, Manila, 1957.

1889 when the Civil Code of Spain was extended to the Philippines by a royal decree. But this reform was of short duration.

After the Philippine Revolution in 1898, the independent Government promulgated a decree on June 18, 1898, organizing the towns, and a set of rules and regulations in connection with the registration of births and deaths was proclaimed. The Delegate of Justice and Civil Registration assisted by the Chief of the Pueblo prepared two books on births and deaths. In one book, the Delegate entered the birth in chronological order stating the name of the child, the place and date of birth and the name and domicile of the godfather, who had to sign the entry as a witness together with the Chief. In the other book, death was recorded specifying the name, profession, marital condition, domicile of the deceased and the disease from which he died.

During the American occupation, changes were brought about in the recording of these events. In 1901, Act No. 82 known as the Municipal Law, was enacted by the Philippine Commission with the provision that the municipal secretary of each municipality keep a civil register for the municipality in which records of all births and deaths with their respective dates were entered. It also instructed the physicians and midwives residing within the limits of the municipality to forward to the municipal secretary notification of every birth and death that occurred under his or her professional observation, together with the necessary information for proper entry in the civil registry book. By virtue of such provisions, the civil registers were kept in every municipality under the care of the municipal secretary.

It was only on March 8, 1922, by virtue of Act No. 3022, when the municipal secretary at the end of each quarter, sent to the Chief of the Division of Archives of the National Library certified copies of the civil register containing entries of all births and deaths that have occurred during the quarter.

However, the compulsory registration of births and deaths was established by the passage of the Civil Registry Law of 1930, known as Act No. 3753. The duties of the local civil registrars were also transferred to the treasurers in the case of regular municipalities and municipal districts, and health officers and other persons as designated by the charter, in case of cities. This Act specifies that the attendant, i.e. physician, midwife or either parent of the newborn baby has the specific responsibility for the registration of the birth. In the case of death, the physician who attended to the deceased or, in his default, the health officer concerned, or in default of the latter, any member of the family of the deceased or any person having knowledge of the death, shall report the same to the local health authorities, who shall issue a death certificate and shall order the same to be recorded in the office of the local civil registrar. The same Act provided that the events, births and deaths, should be recorded in the municipality where the event occurred and that a copy of these certificates be forwarded to the Civil Registrar-General within the first ten days of each month.

When the Bureau of the Census and Statistics was created on August 19, 1940 by Commonwealth Act No. 591, the functions of the Division of Archives of the National Library on civil registrations were transferred to the Bureau. This made the Director of the Bureau of the Census and Statistics, the Civil Registrar-General of the Philippines.

Previous studies, surveys and estimates on registration completeness

Prior to 1964, there were some known studies, surveys and estimates on the extent of registration in the country.

In 1939, Dr. T. J. Jaramillo² estimated the degree of under-registration of births and deaths to be on the average of 29.2

² "Journal of Philippine Statistics", Bureau of the Census and Statistics. Vol. 1, No. 3, September, 1941, Manila.

per cent for males and 32.2 per cent for females in case of birth and 14.6 per cent for males and 13.1 per cent for females in the case of death. Although there is no available information which may lead to indicate whether under-registration has declined or not after that date, still there existed a strong suspicion of serious under-registration and this was revealed by more recent studies and estimates.

In 1956, the Department of Health surveyed Nueva Ecija, believed to be a province with relatively good registration, where it estimated under-registration of births at approximately 35 per cent and deaths at 11 per cent.³ A later study of death registration by the same Department in collaboration with Dr. Alvaro Aldama, WHO Consultant Statistician, made in the four (4) Regions in Luzon (Health Regions 1 to 4) estimated under-registration of deaths at 27.3 per cent.⁴ It may be stated that in this survey the cemeteries visited were only those readily accessible and nearest the office of the local civil registrars. If these cemeteries which are near the local civil registrar's office gave evidence of such under-registration of the dead, it is logical to believe from this study that the percentage of under-registration would be higher if they went to cemeteries located in remote barrios.

Father Francis C. Madigan, S. J. of the Research Institute for Mindanao Culture, Xavier University, analyzed birth and death registration completeness for the province of Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City. He estimated that 59.5 per cent of the provincial deaths were not registered in 1960. He also estimated under-registration of births at 55.4

3 Report by Dr. J. J. Dizon, Chief of the Epidemiology and Vital Statistics, Bureau of Health, during the Committee meeting on Demography at the National Economic Council, April 10, 1958, Manila.

4 Letter of Dr. J. J. Dizon, Chief, Disease Intelligence Center, Department of Health, Manila to Dr. Eliseo M. Perez, Jr., Assistant Director, Bureau of the Census and Statistics, Manila, dated May 8, 1964, with an attached copy of the survey.

per cent for the province and 58.4 per cent for Cagayan de Oro City.⁵

Under registration is not surprising in this country. The country is composed of more than 7,100 islands and islets. There are many mountains, and roads through these mountains are few. Trails are often long and winding and therefore many barrio people fail to report family births and deaths in the municipal center within the time prescribed by law. In fact, they often do not report these vital events at all. There is lack of transportation facilities in many rural areas thus making it very difficult for people to go to the town.

The important question therefore is not whether births and deaths are under-registered but by how much they are under-registered. Answering this question is one of the functions of this paper.

The October 1964 test on birth and death registration completeness

This survey was conducted as an additional inquiry to the regular Labor Force Survey of October 1964 of the Bureau of the Census and Statistics using the household as the unit of enumeration.

The multi-stage sampling method⁶ was used in selecting the representative cross-section of Philippine households which numbered 7,206. The selected households were scattered over 300 barrios, 150 poblaciones, 58 provincial capitals, chartered cities and metropolitan Manila, which included Caloocan, San Juan, Pasay City, Quezon City, Mandaluyong, Makati and Parañaque.

5 "The Facts of Life in Misamis Oriental", Francis C. Madigan, S. J., *Philippine Sociological Review*, Vol. 11, Nos. 1-2, January-April, 1963, pp. 106.

6 "The Philippine Statistical Survey of Households", *Bulletin Series 1, No. 2* (Manila: Bureau of the Census and Statistics).

Since this survey was conducted as a part of the regular Labor Force Survey, there was no alternative but to make such households (7,206) as were sampled for the Labor Force Survey, the sampling units for this inquiry.

During the survey, the enumerators were instructed to fill out a special block in the questionnaire which was intended to collect information on whether there was a live birth or death that occurred during the period from January to December 1963 within the sample household.

Figure 1 collects all live births including those already dead before the survey but were born within the survey period.

A. LIVE BIRTH (For every child born during the period from January to December 1963, including one already dead.)		
1. Name of child _____	(First)	(Middle) (Last)
2. Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	3. Date of birth _____	
	(Month)	(Day) (Year)
4. Place of birth (a) _____		
(Municipality and province/City)		
(b) <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Clinic <input type="checkbox"/> Health Center <input type="checkbox"/> Home		
5. Title of attendant at birth		
<input type="checkbox"/> Doctor <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse <input type="checkbox"/> Midwife <input type="checkbox"/> Midlet <input type="checkbox"/> Other(specify) _____		
6. Was this birth registered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
a. If Yes, where was the birth registered? _____		
(Municipality and province/City)		
b. If No, why was the birth not registered? _____		
7. Name of mother (maiden name) _____		
8. Name of informant _____		9. Relation to child _____
10. Verification of registration (Verify regardless of answers to Q. No. 6.)		
a. L.C.R.No. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Not registered (Registry in sample area)	
b. L.C.R.No. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Not registered (Records, Civil Reg. General)	

Figure 1

Figure 2 collects information for every person who died during the period from January to December 1963.

The enumerators were instructed to verify each event in the office of the Local Civil Registrar to check the answers given by the household to question No. 6 for birth and question

B. DEATH (For every person who died during the period from January to December 1963.)

1. Name of deceased _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

2. Sex Male Female 3. Age _____

4. Civil status Single Married Widowed Divorced or separated

5. Usual occupation _____

6. Date of death _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

7. Place of death _____
(Municipality and province/City)

8. Place of burial _____
(Municipality and province/City)

9. Was this death registered? Yes No
If Yes -
a. Where was the death registered? _____
(Municipality and province/City)
b. Who certified as to the cause of death? Private doctor
 Pub. Health Officer Hospital authorities None
If No -
c. Why was this death not registered? _____

10. Name of informant _____ 11. Relation to deceased _____

12. Verification of registration (Verify regardless of answers to Q. Nos. 7 to 9.)
a. L.C.R.No. _____ Not registered (Registry in sample area)
b. L.C.R.No. _____ Not registered (Records, Civil Reg. General)

Figure 2

no. 9 for death occurrences. This verification of registration by the enumerator was not final. This was only the first stage of the matching operation. The schedules were again matched against the birth and death records on file with the Civil Register-General.

The birth schedule (Figure 1) was matched against the birth certificates (Figure 3) and the death schedules (Figure 2) against the death certificates (Figure 4).

Regarding those that were still unmatched at this level, additional inquiries through telegrams were again sent to the Office of the Local Civil Registrars for further matching and final verification. In the case of local civil registrars in Manila and suburbs, personal verifications were made. After this matching operation, each unmatched schedule is then assumed to represent an unregistered event.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

(FILL OUT COMPLETELY, ACCURATELY, LEGIBLY IN INK OR TYPEWRITER)

Province: _____ Register Number: _____
 City or Municipality: _____ (a) Civil Registrar-General No. _____
 (b) Local Civil Registrar No. _____

1. PLACE OF BIRTH		2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER (When does mother live?)	
a. PROVINCE		a. PROVINCE	
b. CITY OR MUNICIPALITY		b. CITY OR MUNICIPALITY	
3. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION (If not in hospital, give street address)		4. NUMBER AND STREET	
4. IS PLACE OF BIRTH INSIDE CITY LIMITS?		4. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
5. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM?		6. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
6. NAME (Type or print) First Middle Last			
7. SEX		8. DATE OF BIRTH	
Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Month _____ Day _____ Year _____	9. IS TWIN OR TRIPLET, WAS CHILD	
10. If TWIN OR TRIPLET, WAS CHILD		11. USUAL OCCUPATION	
1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/>		12. KIND OF BUSINESS OR OCCUPATION	
13. NAME (Type or print) First Middle Last			
14. AGE (At time of this birth) Years		15. PREVIOUS DELIVERIES TO MOTHER (Do not include this birth)	
16. BIRTHPLACE		a. How many children are now living?	
17. MOTHER'S SIGNATURE		b. How many other children were born alive but are now dead?	
18. NAME OF FATHER		c. How many total deaths (includes those dead any time after conception)?	
19. ADDRESS			
20. MOTHER'S MARITAL ADDRESS (Number, Street, City or Municipality, Province)			
21. ATTENDANT AT BIRTH			
I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended the birth of this child who was born alive at _____ o'clock _____ M. on the date above indicated.		22. DATE SIGNED BY ATTENDANT AT BIRTH	
a. SIGNATURE		23. TITLE OF ATTENDANT AT BIRTH	
b. NAME IN PRINT		<input type="checkbox"/> M. D. <input type="checkbox"/> MIDWIFE	
c. ADDRESS		<input type="checkbox"/> NURSE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)	
24. SUBMITTED IN THE OFFICE OF THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR BY:			
a. SIGNATURE		25. a. GIVEN NAME ASSED FROM DEVELOPMENTAL RECORDS	
b. NAME IN PRINT		b. DATE WHEN GIVEN NAME WAS ASSIGNED	
c. TITLE OR POSITION			
d. DATE			
26. LENGTH OF PREGNANCY		27. WHETHER AT RISK	
Completed Weeks _____		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
28. DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE OF PARENTS (For legitimate births)		29. THIS CERTIFICATE IS PREPARED BY:	
(Month) _____ (Date) _____ (Year) _____		SIGNATURE:	
City or Municipality _____ Province _____		NAME IN PRINT:	
		TITLE OR POSITION:	
		DATE:	

18-63 SPACE FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH NOTES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

Exhibit "B"

Figure 3

Evaluation of the 1963 Registration Test

The data collected must be treated with certain limitations in mind because no statistical survey is free from errors and naturally it is to be expected here, too.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

FILL OUT COMPLETELY, ACCURATELY, AND LEGIBLY WITH INK OR TYPEWRITER

Province _____		City or Municipality _____		Register Number: (a) Civil Registrar-General No. _____ (b) Local Civil Registrar No. _____	
1. PLACE OF DEATH:		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived, if institution; residence before admission).			
a. PROVINCE	b. CITY OR TOWN	c. LENGTH OF STAY	d. ADDRESS STREET OR NUMBER		
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print)		4. DATE OF DEATH:			
a. (First)	b. (Middle)	c. (Last)	a. (Month)	b. (Day)	c. (Year)
5. SEX	6. RACE	7. MARRIAGE: NEVER MARRIED; WIDOWED; DIVORCED OR SEPARATED (Specify)	8. DATE OF BIRTH	9. AGE (Years)	10. If UNDER 1 YEAR (Months) (Days) (Hours) (Minutes)
11. a. USUAL OCCUPATION (State nature and character)	12. b. CIVIL STATUS (Single, Married, Widowed, Divorced, etc.)	13. c. PLACE OF BIRTH (Philippines or foreign country)	14. d. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY		
15. FATHER'S NAME (Write plainly in full)			16. MOTHER'S MARRIED NAME (Write plainly in full)		
17. If MARRIED, NAME AND ADDRESS OF SURVIVING SPOUSE			18. SIGNATURE: a. (Signature) b. (Name in Print) c. (Address) d. (Relation to deceased)		
19. CAUSE OF DEATH (Many only one cause per line (a), (b) and (c). * This does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, pneumonia, etc. It means the disease, injury, or complication which caused death.)		20. MEDICAL CERTIFICATE I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH: ANTICIPATORY CAUSE (a) _____ Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause (a) stating the underlying cause last. DUE TO (b) _____ DUE TO (c) _____ II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS-- Conditions contributing to the death but, not related to the disease or condition causing death.			21. INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH
22. DATE OF OPERATION		23. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION			
24. ACCIDENT (Specify) BURDEN HORRORS	25. PLACE OF INJURY (e. g. In or about home, farm, factory, street, office, building, etc.)	26. (Town or Street)	(City)	(Province)	
27. TIME OF INJURY (Month) (Day) (Year) (Hour) _____ M	28. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/>	29. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?			
30. I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing particulars are correct or near as the same can be ascertained, and I further certify that I have/see that death occurred at _____, from the causes and on the date stated above.					
31(a) CERTIFIED CORRECT BY:		31(b)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Physician		(Signature) _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Health Officer		(Full name in printed letters) _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital authorities		(Address) _____			
		(Date) _____			
32. BURIAL, CREMATION, REPOSAL (Specify)	33. DATE	34. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY	35. LOCATION Province (City, town)		
36. DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR	37. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE (Name in print)	38. DEDUCTIBLE PREMIUM NO. _____ ISSUED ON _____	39. TRANSFER PREMIUM NO. _____ ISSUED ON _____ BY _____		

Figure 4

The fact that the interviewers or enumerators who performed the inquiries have much experience in this kind of work improved the quality of the data and also reduced the "interviewer's bias". There were other errors and the possible existence of these errors may be due to the following:

1. Incorrect information from the informant. This incorrect information may have contributed to the "misstatement of age-error". The parents may have reported their children who were born before or after the observation period as having been born within the period;
2. The "not-at-home error". This is an error which may arise when the enumerator, after several call backs in which he does not find a responsible person at home, finally asks anybody in the household. These respondents may not know the correct name of the child, the date of birth or age of the child and the place of birth of the child.
3. The "non-resident error". A child who is temporarily staying with the grandparents or the in-laws. This is usually the cause of misinformation particularly as to the age of the child and other information about the child; and
4. The tendency to report the deaths occurring before the observation date.

Analysis of the results

By how much per cent are the births and deaths under-registered in the Philippines?

This survey covered 7,206 households that were asked the following questions: (1) Was there any child born in this household during the period between January and December 1963? (2) Did any person in this household die during the period from January to December 1963? A total of 1228 live births and 229 deaths were recorded from these households. Table 1 shows the distribution by region.

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF SAMPLE HOUSEHOLD, BIRTH AND DEATH
BY REGION

Region	Sample Household	Recorded events	
		Birth	Death
PHILIPPINES	7,206	1,228	229
I. Metropolitan Manila	911	161	12
II. Ilocos & Mountain Province	476	68	11
III. Cagayan Valley & Batanes	316	65	11
IV. Central Luzon	941	190	27
V. Southern Luzon, Mindoro, Marinduque & Palawan	919	181	34
VI. Bicol and Masbate	552	87	16
VII. Western Visayas	997	157	41
VIII. Eastern Visayas	1,042	168	42
IX. Southwestern Mindanao and Sulu	610	84	13
X. Northeastern Mindanao	442	67	22

Source: May 1964 Philippine Household Survey, Bureau of the Census and Statistics, Manila.

The per cent registration of birth and death

Final results of the test showed that birth and death registration was 60.3 per cent and 70.0 per cent, respectively, for the whole country. Table 2 shows the percentage registration by region for births and deaths.

Registration completeness by region which registered above the national average are the following:

For birth, Regions I, II, III, IV, V and VI with percentage registration of 68.3, 61.7, 88.5, 73.8, 65.3 and 66.0 respectively.

For death, Regions III, IV, V, VI and VIII with percentage registration of 90.5, 100.0, 86.0, 84.6 and 78.1 respectively.

TABLE 2
PERCENTAGE REGISTRATION OF BIRTH AND DEATH,
BY REGION

Region	Birth		Death	
	Registered	Not registered	Registered	Not registered
PHILIPPINES	60.3	39.7	70.0	30.0
I. Metropolitan Manila	68.3	31.7	50.0	50.0
II. Ilocos & Mountain Province	61.7	38.3	20.0	80.0
III. Cagayan Valley & Batanes	88.5	11.5	90.0	9.5
IV. Central Luzon	73.8	26.2	95.0	5.0
V. Southern Luzon, Mindoro, Marinduque & Palawan	65.3	34.7	86.0	14.0
VI. Bicol and Masbate	66.0	34.0	84.6	15.4
VII. Western Visayas	41.7	58.3	69.7	30.3
VIII. Eastern Visayas	54.5	45.5	78.1	21.9
IX. Southwestern Mindanao and Sulu	44.1	55.9	52.4	47.6
X. Northeastern Mindanao	36.7	63.3	22.0	78.0

Source: Computed from the results of the Matching Operation.

Birth by place of delivery

The biggest percentage of births recorded were delivered in the home, followed by deliveries in hospitals. Table 3 shows the registration percentage according to the place of delivery.

TABLE 3

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION AND REGISTRATION
OF BIRTH BY PLACE OF DELIVERY

Place of Delivery	Distribution	Registered	Not Registered
PHILIPPINES	100.0	60.3	39.7
Hospital	11.1	73.1	26.9
Clinic	1.5	77.8	22.2
Health Center	0.9	82.4	17.6
Home	86.5	58.1	41.9

Source: Computed from the results of the Matching Operation.

It was expected that high under-registration will occur when deliveries are in the homes, but it is sad to note that even deliveries outside the home, especially in hospitals, posed quite a problem insofar as registration is concerned. It might be possible that there are hospital institutions who are still ignorant of their responsibilities with regard to registration. The per cent under-registration is highest in the home with 41.9, followed by hospital, clinic and health center with per cent under-registration of 26.9, 22.2 and 17.6 respectively.

Table 4 shows per cent distribution of births by place of delivery, by region.

Birth by attendant

Classified as to the attendant at birth, table 5 shows a much lower percentage of registration among births attended to by hilots (unlicensed midwives) and others than those attended to by the doctors, nurses and licensed midwives.

TABLE 4

PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS, REGISTERED AND
UNREGISTERED BY PLACE OF DELIVERY,
BY REGION, 1963

Region	Total	All births			
		Hospital	Clinic	Health	Home
PHILIPPINES	100.00	11.09	1.49	0.94	86.48
Region I	100.00	60.25	4.35	2.48	32.92
Region II	100.00	5.61	—	—	94.39
Region III	100.00	—	—	—	100.00
Region IV	100.00	2.72	2.38	—	94.90
Region V	100.00	8.03	2.55	2.19	87.23
Region VI	100.00	7.09	—	2.13	90.78
Region VII	100.00	10.53	—	0.81	88.66
Region VIII	100.00	8.95	0.78	0.78	89.49
Region IX	100.00	5.93	0.85	—	93.22
Region X	100.00	1.83	2.75	—	95.41
Verified Registered Births					
PHILIPPINES	100.00	13.46	1.92	1.28	83.33
Region I	100.00	60.00	5.45	.91	83.64
Region II	100.00	7.58	—	—	92.42
Region III	100.00	—	—	—	100.00
Region IV	100.00	2.30	3.23	—	94.47
Region V	100.00	10.06	1.68	3.35	84.92
Region VI	100.00	8.60	—	3.23	88.17
Region VII	100.00	21.36	—	1.94	76.70
Region VIII	100.00	10.00	1.43	1.43	87.14
Region IX	100.00	13.46	1.92	—	84.62
Region X	100.00	5.00	5.00	—	90.00
Verified Unregistered Births					
PHILIPPINES	100.00	7.50	.83	.42	91.25
Region I	100.00	60.78	1.96	5.88	31.37
Region II	100.00	2.44	—	—	97.56
Region III	100.00	—	—	—	100.00
Region IV	100.00	3.90	—	—	96.10
Region V	100.00	4.21	4.21	—	91.58
Region VI	100.00	4.17	—	—	95.83
Region VII	100.00	2.78	—	—	97.22
Region VIII	100.00	7.69	—	—	92.31
Region IX	100.00	—	—	—	100.00
Region X	100.00	—	1.45	—	98.55

TABLE 5

PER CENT DISTRIBUTION AND REGISTRATION
BY ATTENDANT AT BIRTH

Attendant at birth	Distribution	Registered	Not Registered
PHILIPPINES	100.0	60.3	39.7
Doctor	12.1	75.5	24.5
Nurse	3.8	71.0	29.0
Midwife	20.2	79.8	20.2
Hilot and others	63.9	50.6	49.4

Source: Computed from the results of the Matching Operation.

High registration among the professional groups is always expected because they are more aware of the laws governing registration than the hilots and others. However, the same table shows that some of the professionals — doctors, nurses and midwives, also neglect their responsibilities of registering the births attended to by them. Of the total births, 12.1 per cent were attended to by doctors, 3.8 per cent by nurses, 20.2 by midwives and a very big majority of 63.9 per cent by the hilots and others. Deliveries attended to by hilots and others accounted for relatively low percentage of registration. Most hilots are ignorant of the existing law requiring birth registration while others purposely do not register the births because they might be accused of malpractice of the profession.

Table 6 shows percent distribution of births by attendant at birth, by region.

Table 7 shows the different reasons why some births and deaths are not registered.

TABLE 6

PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS, REGISTERED
AND UNREGISTERED BY ATTENDANT AT BIRTH,
BY REGION

Region	All births					
	Total	Doctor	Nurse	Midwife	Hilot	Others
PHILIPPINES	100.00	12.14	3.81	20.20	62.31	1.55
Region I	100.00	60.25	6.21	29.19	4.35	—
Region II	100.00	5.61	—	23.36	54.21	16.82
Region III	100.00	0.96	1.92	14.42	78.85	3.85
Region IV	100.00	7.82	4.76	27.89	59.52	—
Region V	100.00	11.31	4.74	22.26	60.95	.73
Region VI	100.00	8.51	2.13	17.73	71.63	—
Region VII	100.00	9.31	4.05	18.62	68.02	—
Region VIII	100.00	7.00	3.89	12.06	75.49	1.56
Region IX	100.00	3.39	5.08	19.49	72.03	—
Region X	100.00	4.59	.92	10.09	84.40	—
Registered Births						
PHILIPPINES	100.00	15.20	4.49	26.74	52.56	1.01
Region I	100.00	62.73	3.64	31.82	1.82	—
Region II	100.00	7.58	—	36.36	54.55	1.52
Region III	100.00	1.09	2.17	16.30	76.09	4.35
Region IV	100.00	9.22	5.53	30.41	54.84	—
Region V	100.00	12.29	7.26	29.61	49.72	1.12
Region VI	100.00	8.60	1.08	21.51	68.82	—
Region VII	100.00	20.39	6.80	26.21	46.60	—
Region VIII	100.00	7.86	3.57	19.29	66.43	2.86
Region IX	100.00	7.69	9.62	30.77	51.92	—
Region X	100.00	12.50	—	22.50	65.00	—
Unregistered Births						
PHILIPPINES	100.00	7.50	2.78	10.23	77.08	2.36
Region I	100.00	54.90	11.76	23.53	9.80	—
Region II	100.00	2.44	—	2.44	53.66	41.46
Region III	100.00	—	—	—	100.00	—
Region IV	100.00	3.90	2.60	20.78	72.73	—
Region V	100.00	9.47	—	8.42	82.11	—
Region VI	100.00	8.33	4.17	10.42	77.08	—
Region VII	100.00	1.39	2.08	13.19	83.33	—
Region VIII	100.00	5.98	4.27	3.42	86.32	—
Region IX	100.00	—	1.52	10.61	87.88	—
Region X	100.00	—	1.45	2.90	95.65	—

TABLE 7

**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF NON-REGISTERED
BIRTH AND DEATH BY REASON**

Reason for non-registration	Birth	Death
PHILIPPINES	100.0	100.0
Ignorance	21.2	26.7
Custom	13.1	22.7
Lack of Interest	37.1	42.6
Distance	12.9	—
Belief that baptism is registration	12.9	—
Forms not available	2.2	—
Others	—	8.0
Not reported	0.6	—

Source: Computed from the results of the October 1964 Survey on Under-registration of births and deaths taken together with the Labor Force Survey, Bureau of the Census and Statistics, Manila.

The very low registration of births and deaths may be attributed more to ignorance, custom and lack of interest among the respondents. In fact, lack of interest was the common cause for non-registration. For birth, it is 37.1 per cent and death, 42.6 per cent. Ignorance and customs constitute 34.3 per cent and 49.4 per cent for births and deaths, respectively. There is still a considerable number of people who believes that baptism is equivalent to registration. This reason constitutes 12.9 per cent of the total births not registered.

Table 8 shows the percent distribution of births, by reason for non-registration, by region, for 1963.

It will be noted that "lack of interest" which was the most common reason for non-registration in the Philippines was significant in all the regions with the exception of Region X.

TABLE 8

PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF UNREGISTERED BIRTHS BY REASON FOR
NON-REGISTRATION BY REGION, 1963

Region	Unregistered births	Reasons for non-registration						
		Ignorance	Custom	Disinterest	Mistaken belief that baptism is registration	Non-avail- ability of forms	Distance	Not reported
PHILIPPINES	100.0	21.23	13.10	37.10	12.90	2.18	12.90	.60
Region I	100.0	—	—	100.00	—	—	—	—
Region II	100.0	43.24	8.11	32.43	—	—	16.22	—
Region III	100.0	—	—	100.00	—	—	—	—
Region IV	100.0	12.50	—	52.08	4.17	—	29.17	2.08
Region V	100.0	11.76	5.88	58.82	—	—	20.59	2.94
Region VI	100.0	—	—	78.95	—	15.79	5.26	—
Region VII	100.0	22.31	6.61	36.36	18.18	—	16.53	—
Region VIII	100.0	11.63	—	36.05	43.02	—	9.30	—
Region IX	100.0	26.79	32.14	17.86	5.36	14.29	3.57	—
Region X	100.0	39.06	51.56	7.81	1.56	—	—	—

Ignorance, as the next most common reason for non-registration was highest in Region II with 43.24 per cent followed by Region X with 37.06 per cent.

The 3rd reason, namely, custom, was highest in Region X with 51.56 per cent. This can be attributed to the presence of a large number of "cultural minorities" in this region.

The mistaken belief that baptism is already registration was a very common reason for non-registration in Region VIII with 43.02 per cent of unregistered birth in the region being ascribed to it.

Summary and Conclusion

The paper describes primarily the extent of under-registration of births and deaths in the Philippines. The final results showed that the under-registration of birth is 39.7 per cent while that of death is 30.0 per cent.

Registration incompleteness is very noticeable in regions where urbanization is slow and the area rugged and mountainous.

Many people are ignorant of the laws governing registration and if they happen to know, they have no interest in registering the events.

Reasons for under-registration have been summed up on the answers received from the sample households and the more significant and typical answers which we got from the respondents were the following:

1. We have no information about registering a newly-born child.

2. Registration of children is not being enforced in this barrio.
3. I did not register "due to financial status and so much work".
4. I forgot.
5. I was lazy to register "due to distance of the municipality".
6. Our neighbors do not also register their children.
7. I have no time to go to the municipal building.
8. I neglected to register.
9. We are accustomed not to register our child's birth.
10. After baptism we thought the birth was already registered.
11. I have no money to pay the registration fee.
12. I am not interested because we have already baptismal certificates from the church.
13. We are always busy in the farm.
14. No forms were available in the office when father went there.