

Publication

Addressing the evidence gap in the economic and social benefits of civil registration and vital statistics systems: a systematic review

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Objectives: Considering the aspiration embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals to Leave No One Behind by 2030, civil registration and vital statistics systems have an essential role in providing reliable, up-to-date information to monitor the progress. Thus, the aim of this systematic review is to compile empirical evidence on the benefits of a functioning civil registration and vital statistics system. **Methods:** Selected databases were systematically searched until 2019. Key experts were also contacted for relevant literature. The review process was managed with the software EPPI-Reviewer and followed standard methods for systematic reviews. **Results:** A total of 18 studies were included. The findings revealed that having birth, death, and/or marriage registration, and vital statistics were associated with access to rights and protection, positive impact on economic and health outcomes, and increased access to education. **Conclusion:** The present review supports the idea that systemic approaches strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems due to the cumulative effects of vital events' registration. Ensuring appropriate systems for civil registration will have an impact not only on the individuals but also on the generations to come.

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