

MEDIA RELEASE

(Release of Vital Statistics & Cause of Death reports)

17 March 2020

For immediate release

RELEASE OF VITAL STATISTICS AND CAUSES OF DEATH REPORTS

1. The Namibia Statistics Agency has just released the Vital Statistics and Causes of Death report on 17 March 2021. Vital statistics is the collection of statistics on vital events in the lifetime of a person as well as relevant characteristics of the events themselves and of the person or persons concerned. Some of the main vital statistics collected include birth, death, marriage and divorce, amongst many others.
2. The administration of the population register, which contains both civil registration and identity data, is electronically managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security whilst the Namibia Statistics Agency processes civil registration data obtained from the national population registration system to generate annual vital statistics reports.
3. The analysis in the reports focused on the registration years of 2016 and 2017 while for some information it shows trends from registration years 2011 to 2017. One of the major observations from the records perused is that the data quality of vital registration is increasing since 2011. More births are being registered, 7 out of 10, whilst births occurring in health facilities have increased to 70%.

4. The birth and death completeness rates have been increasing since 2011. It is of interest to note that in 2011 less than 20% of birth registrations were completed, and by the data as captured in this vital statistics report, the figure rose to nearly 80% in 2017. The timeliness of capturing deaths has also increased with the 2017 data showing that around 97% of deaths were recorded timely. In terms of registering marriages a tremendous increase was observed in 2017. The 2017 figures show a figure of around 60% whilst these were less than 10% in 2011.
5. The civil registration data also shows that the number of registered marriages are on a declining trend since 2014, most marriages take place in April, May and August and the vast majority are married in community of property.
6. The cause of death report is the first ever produced by the NSA and presents statistics for the year 2016 and 2017. Information on the number of deaths and their causes is vital in evaluating and tracking progress towards development goals, particularly the health-related targets for monitoring the progress towards sustainable development on health and wellbeing for all ages.
7. The report is based on death data collected through the Namibian civil registration system which is maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security. The information on causes of death is as recorded on death notification forms completed by medical practitioners and other verifying officials.

8. The key findings of the causes of death report indicates that the number of recorded deaths are higher for males (54%) than females (45%), there is a high number of infant deaths and that deaths reported have been highest in Oshana and Khomas Regions.
9. The major causes of death in Namibia have been HIV, cardiovascular diseases as well as lower respiratory diseases.
10. Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to all the data providers; both institutions and individuals, without whose assistance these publications would not have been possible. Further I would like to request all our esteemed stakeholders to continue supporting and providing NSA with the required data so that collectively we can make the production of accurate, relevant, reliable and timely statistics a resounding success.
11. To access the publications released today as well as others please visit our website at www.nsa.org.na or download our statistical app onto your mobile phone to have all statistics at your fingertips.

I thank you



ALEX SHIMUAFENI

STATISTICIAN - GENERAL & CEO

About Us

Namibia Statistics Agency is mandated with collecting, producing, analyzing and disseminating official statistics. Find us at www.nsa.org.na

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