



01 - Population

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Swiss Vital Statistics: list of statistical variables reported

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0. Remark

The introduction to this document defines the context and the legal bases for the Swiss Vital Statistics. The second part describes the variables for each component of these statistics.

1. Introduction

Swiss Vital Statistics

Since 1871 the marriages, births and deaths statistics, together with the legally dissolved marriages statistics introduced in 1876, have been the cornerstone of the Vital Statistics.

Statistics on the acknowledgement of paternity statistics were added in 1931 and adoption statistics in 1953. Two further components were added in 2007 with the registration and dissolution of same-sex partnerships.

The Vital Statistics are based on notifications from Swiss registry offices recorded in Infostar – the civil register's centralised database. In some cases other federal offices are involved in the surveys.

These statistics provide an important basis for population and family studies as well as a starting point for assessing different aspects of population and family policy. Furthermore they make an essential contribution to the ongoing population statistics (STATPOP).

Findings from the Vital Statistics are published regularly and form a valuable basis for planning in politics, economy and society. The regular dissemination of findings also ensures that political decision makers and the public receive relevant and reliable information.

Legal bases

Federal Statistical Act

Demographic surveys are regulated by the the Federal Statistics Act (FStatA) of 9 October 1992, governing all statistical surveys of the Confederation.

On the basis of Article 5 para. 1 and Article 6 para. 2 of FStatA the Federal Council issued the Ordinance on the Conduct of Statistical Surveys by the Confederation on 30 June 1993.

In it the Federal Council specifically assigns the task of conducting Vital Statistics to the Federal Statistical Office.

Notifications reported to the Federal Statistical Office are to be made without the names and addresses of persons concerned by an event. All data collected are treated in confidence. The processing of data and publication of results are subject to the Federal Data Protection Act (FADP) of 19 June 1992.

Reporting obligation

According to the Ordinance on the Conduct of Statistical Surveys of 30 June 1993, the reporting offices are obliged to report all notifications to the Federal Statistical Office. The reporting offices must complete missing information with the help of relevant certificates or documents or by making further requests to the persons concerned or their family members.

The inclusion of a reporting obligation in the Act is designed to guarantee that surveys are as complete as possible. This also applies to additional requests that have to be made by the Federal Statistical Office in the event of empty fields or ambiguous answers in questionnaires. The regulatory authorities responsible support the Federal Statistical Office to ensure the reporting obligation is reserved.

2. List of variables

1. MARRIAGE

Variables regarding the event: Case number

Variables regarding the marriage: Country of marriage, wedding date

Variables regarding the man: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, civil status, place of birth, nationality, date of dissolution of previous marriage, commune of residence, religion, marital name change

Variables regarding the woman: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, civil status, place of birth, nationality, date of dissolution of previous marriage, commune of residence, religion, marital name change

Variables regarding the couple's children who were born before marriage(excl. stillbirths): Number of children, AHV/AVS and STAR number of first four children, date of birth of first four children, place of birth of first four children

2. BIRTH

Variables regarding the event: Case number

Variables regarding the birth: Country of birth, date and hour of birth, live or stillbirth, single or multiple birth, number of boys and girls for multiple birth, age of mother at birth

Variables regarding the child: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, nationality, first name, sex, length and weight at birth

Variables regarding the mother: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, nationality, commune of residence, civil status, place of birth, religion

Variables regarding the father: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, nationality

Variables regarding the marriage of the parents: Country of parents' marriage, date of marriage

Variables regarding child's birth order: which number child (excl. stillbirths) is this from the current marriage, overall

Variables of previous live birth from the current marriage: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth

Variables of previous live birth from the current marriage, altogether: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth

3. STILLBIRTH

In addition to the birth variables listed above the statistics on stillbirth contain the following variables:

Variables regarding the causes of the stillbirth: Underlying disease/underlying cause, secondary disease / unknown cause, other disease

Variables regarding any autopsy: conducted or not, causes of stillbirth confirmed by autopsy or not, results of autopsy still pending

4. DEATH

Variables regarding the event: Case number

Variables regarding the doctor, hospital or institution

Variables regarding the death: Country of death, date and hour of death

Variables regarding the deceased: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, sex, hour (only for infants under one month), commune of residence, civil status, place of birth, nationality, religion, occupation, professional position

Variables regarding spouse or partner: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, date of wedding or registered partnership, date of dissolution of previous marriage or partnership

Variables regarding minor children: Number of children, AHV/AVS and STAR number of first four children, date of birth of first four children

Variables regarding the causes of death: Underlying disease/underlying cause, secondary disease / unknown cause, concomitant disease

Variables regarding any autopsy: conducted or not, causes of death confirmed by autopsy or not, results of autopsy still pending

Accidental death: Date of accident

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Variables regarding the event: Case number

Variables regarding the acknowledgement: Date, type

Variables regarding the child: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, sex

Variables regarding the mother: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, nationality, commune of residence

Variables regarding the father: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, nationality, commune of residence

6. DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

Variables regarding the event: Case number

Variables regarding the marriage: Country of marriage, wedding date

Variables regarding the dissolution of marriage: Date, country, reason

Variables regarding the man: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, place of birth, commune of residence, nationality before marriage and at time of judgement

Variables regarding the woman: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, place of birth, commune of residence, nationality before marriage and at time of judgement

Variables regarding minor children: Number of children, AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, place of birth

7. ADOPTION

Variables regarding the event: Case number

Variables regarding the adoption: Date, place, type

Variables regarding the person adopted: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, commune of residence, country of birth, civil status, nationality before and after adoption, civil status of birth parents

Variables regarding the person adopting (man): AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, nationality, civil status

Variables regarding the person adopting (woman): AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, nationality, civil status

8. REGISTERED PARTNERSHIP

Variables regarding the event: Case number

Variables regarding the partnership: Country of registration, date

Variables regarding person 1: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, sex, civil status, commune of residence, date of dissolution of previous marriage or partnership, nationality, place of birth

Variables regarding person 2: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, sex, civil status, commune of residence, date of dissolution of previous marriage or partnership, nationality, place of birth

Variables regarding children born to person 1 (excl. stillbirths): Number of children, AHV/AVS and STAR number of first four children, date of birth of first four children, place of birth of first four children

Variables regarding children born to person 2 (excl. stillbirths): Number of children, AHV/AVS and STAR number of first four children, date of birth of first four children, place of birth of first four children

9. DISSOLUTION OF REGISTERED PARTNERSHIP

Variables regarding the event: Case number

Variables regarding the partnership: Country of registration, date

Variables regarding the dissolution of partnership: Date, country, reason

Variables regarding person 1: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, commune of residence, nationality

Variables regarding person 2: AHV/AVS number, STAR number, date of birth, commune of residence, nationality