

Effect of Policy Change in 2009 at Turkish Death Registration System
An Assessment of Completeness of Death Registration System in Turkey:
2009-2014

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Mortality data with cause of death is essential for assessing population health status. It is basis for policy makers and epidemiological studies. In spite of its vital importance and common use, the quality of mortality data in the most developing and under developed countries are questionable. Although there has been an improvement in compiling, coding, and analyzing in mortality data collection, according to WHO World Health Statistics for the year 2014, in most of the developing countries civil registration completeness, especially cause of death completeness, is unsatisfied. In UN principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system (2014), complete registration is defined as “*every vital event that has occurred to the members of the population of a particular country (or area), within a specified time period, has been registered in the system, i.e., has a vital event registration record.*” Mathers et al. (2005) carried out a study for assessing the coverage and quality of global mortality data based on the data for WHO member states. According to results in Turkey, coverage of cause of death data is seen under 50 percent for the years 1987-1998 and coverage of death registration is 89 percent for the years 1967- 2000. In Turkey, data on mortality is collected by Ministry of Interior through Central civil registration system (MERNIS). It is analyzed and disseminated by Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT). Although Turkey has been to collect data on mortality and cause of death for whole country since 1957, mortality data was highly incomplete before 2000. Especially data for maternal deaths, infant and neonatal deaths were very limited. After significant improvements in data completeness and quality, death registration data has become the major source of mortality analysis. In the year 2009, mortality data collected by MERNIS and TURKSTAT has

been started to reconcile. These data are matched according to ID number of deceased. Aim of this study is to examine the completeness of death registration system in Turkey for under-five and adult mortality for the years 2009-2014. Completeness of death registration will be analyzed according to sex, and age of the deceased. I will make use of the TURKSTAT mortality database from 2009 to 2014 and Turkish Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) -2008 and TDHS-2013. Data set by TURKSTAT includes the month of death and registration month of death by sex, age and 5 region for each year from 2009 to 2014. I will use TDHS -2008 and TDHS- 2013 as a secondary source especially for infant and child mortality estimations. Indirect methods (General Growth Balance and Extinct Generations Methods) and life tables will be used for estimating the completeness of death registration. Recently, Özdemir et al. (2015) had a comparative study to assess the impact of changes on completeness of death registration for İzmir city and Turkey for the years 2001- 2008 and 2009-2013. Results showed that there is very high improvement in completeness of death registration. While for 2001 -2008 completeness is 57.7 percent for males and 61.1 percent for females, in 2009- 2013 this rate is 99.2 percent for males and 99.7 percent for females in Turkey. In our study, it is expected that death registration system in Turkey will show a satisfactory improvement in completeness for the period 2009-2014.

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