

## Jeff Montgomery

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**From:** Jeff Montgomery <jeffm@spc.int>  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 May 2024 8:25 PM  
**To:** Jeff Montgomery  
**Subject:** News Flash - CRVS Pacific report released



## *News Flash!*

Landmark research on the potential to share news of births, deaths and other life events across national agencies and borders has been shared by the Pacific Community, charting a new frontier for civil registration and vital statistics. It is thought to be the first time that research like this has been done, with civil registration and vital statistics—the recording of births, adoptions, marriages, name changes, divorces and deaths, and their flow-on use in official statistics—usually seen as an internal, rather than international, matter.

The report comprises a detailed examination of experiences in American Samoa, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Vanuatu, and provides practical advice to jurisdictions planning to move to or replace digital registration systems.

The work looks at interoperability and the sharing of data both nationally and regionally. Within countries and territories, this includes—for example—the exchange of information between settings where people are commonly born or die, like hospitals, with registry and passport-issuing agencies.

It also looks at the need to share data across borders. The Pacific region sees large patterns of migration, with the need to exchange information about births and deaths in the context of trans-border initiatives, spanning public health to border security, or where a secondary country—like the United States of America or New Zealand—is responsible for issuing travel identity documents.

Read the report, [in brief](#) or [in full](#) (PDF)



## BRIEF: INTEROPERABILITY AND DATA SHARING BETWEEN CIVIL REGISTRATION, HEALTH INFORMATION, STATISTICS AND ASSOCIATED SYSTEMS

"Interoperability and data sharing between civil registration, health information, statistics and associated systems" is a detailed examination of experiences in eight countries and territories in the Pacific: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The registration of vital events such as births, deaths, marriages, and divorces requires data sharing among various governmental and civil entities, involving healthcare providers, vital records offices, public health agencies, funeral directors and court systems. These need to collaborate to harmonize accurate legal records and facilitate services like public health surveillance and civil document verification.

**Interoperability** is the ability of diverse systems to work together using compatible data formats, communication protocols, system interfaces, concepts, definitions, standards, classifications and well-standardized non-digital records.

**Digital systems** offer fast and cost-effective data sharing but create challenges such as data privacy, security concerns and the need for common standards. **Identity verification** depends on data exchange, allowing for real-time updates and the generation of digital proof.

**Pacific CIVS systems** exhibit varying levels of digital development, from initial digitization efforts to moderately integrated systems, and some highly advanced digital setups. Each country faces challenges in its journey towards an efficient, integrated civil registration and vital statistics system.



## INTEROPERABILITY AND DATA SHARING BETWEEN CIVIL REGISTRATION, HEALTH INFORMATION, STATISTICS AND ASSOCIATED SYSTEMS



**Who Is PCRN?:** Membership is open to any Civil Registrar with state or country level responsibility for civil registration or vital statistics and their nominees. Associate membership has also been extended to partner agencies. We currently have members from 36 countries, 25 agencies and 12 businesses. We are supported by the Brisbane Accord Group and secretariat support is provided by the Pacific Community. More information - <https://sdd.spc.int/pacific-civil-registrars-network-pcrn>



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