

# CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

French Polynesia is an overseas collectivity of the French Republic and the only overseas country of France. It is composed of 118 geographically dispersed islands and atolls stretching over an expanse of more than 2,000 kilometres (1,200 mi) in the South Pacific Ocean.



Land area  
(km<sup>2</sup>)  
**3,521**

2020 mid-year  
population estimate  
**278,900**

Population growth  
rate (%)  
**0.4**

## OVERVIEW

This civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) country profile for the French Polynesia is part of a series of country profiles for the Pacific Island region. The CRVS profiles consolidate knowledge shared by countries on the status of their CRVS systems in the recent past, including through government websites, published reports, media releases and presentations, and direct engagement between the authors of these profiles and in-country civil registration offices and health information offices. The objective of these CRVS country profiles is to provide a living resource (updated every 2-3 years) and quick reference point on the status and developments in CRVS systems in the Pacific Island region. The profiles provide an overview of the legislative, organisational and management frameworks of CRVS systems, registration processes, levels of completeness of birth and death registration, and the most recent developments towards improving CRVS systems. Whilst civil registration covers many vital events, these profiles focus on the registration of births and deaths, and collation of cause of death information. It is envisaged that these country profiles will serve as a fundamental tool in advocating for further investment in strengthening the coverage and completeness of CRVS systems across the Pacific Island region.

## SOURCE OF BIRTH AND DEATH DATA

The source of figures in Table 1 (births) and Table 2 (deaths) is outlined below each table, with the full citation given in the Reference section at the end of the document. All figures were obtained from published sources or through direct contact with in-country civil registration offices and health information offices. The date figures were obtained through direct in-country contact is stated below the tables, and indicates when those figures were extracted from in-country databases.

## SUGGESTED CITATION

Pacific Community and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 2021. Civil registration and vital statistics in French Polynesia. Noumea, New Caledonia: Pacific Community.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the Statistics for Development Division (SDD) – Pacific Community at: [contact-sdd@spc.int](mailto:contact-sdd@spc.int); <https://sdd.spc.int/>



### Tasks that require a death certificate and incentives (financial or other) for completing the death registration process

A death certificate is required for burial of the deceased, and for inheritance of land, property and estates of deceased persons.

### Registration process for deaths occurring overseas

In the event of the death of a French citizen abroad, it is possible to declare the death to the French consulate so that it can be registered with the Central Civil Status Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION COMPLETENESS

Civil registration of births is considered to be near 100% complete in French Polynesia (Sorchik et al. 2019).

The completeness of birth and death registration can be estimated by comparing the number of births and deaths in the civil registry with the number of births and deaths recorded by the health system, enumerated during national censuses, and estimated by international agencies. In some countries and territories in the Pacific Island region, the births and deaths of citizens overseas can be registered in the civil registry. For the purpose of estimating completeness, it is best these overseas births and deaths are not included in the civil registry figures since the other sources which it is compared to, e.g. health records, do not include overseas events. In French Polynesia, we were unable to determine if overseas births and deaths can be registered in the civil registry, or if they have been included in Table 1 and 2 below. If overseas events have been included, the estimates of completeness for the civil registry will be higher than if overseas events were excluded.

Table 1. Completeness of birth registration data

Year	Source of births				Completeness of birth registration		
	Civil Registry <sup>a</sup>	Health <sup>b</sup>	SPC projection <sup>c</sup>	Census <sup>d</sup>	Compared with health	Compared with SPC	Compared with census
2018	3,776	-	4,237	-	-	89%	-
2017	-	-	-	4,100 <sup>^</sup>	-	-	<sup>^</sup>
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	3,888	-	-	-	-	-	-
2014	4,161	-	-	-	-	-	-
2013	4,203	-	-	-	-	-	-
2012	4,296	-	-	-	-	-	-
2011	4,374	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	4,580	-	-	-	-	-	-

Sources: <sup>a</sup>Civil registry (ISPF 2019; 2016). <sup>b</sup>Not available. <sup>c</sup>Calculated from 2018 crude birth rate (Pacific Community 2018a) and 2018 population projection (Pacific Community 2018b). <sup>d</sup>The 2017 census reported the average annual number of births between 2012 and 2017. <sup>^</sup>Because the figure is an average, it has been excluded from use in assessing the completeness of the civil registry, and is presented as a guide only (INSEE 2018). Completeness was calculated by dividing 'Civil Registry' by 'SPC projection'.

Table 2. Completeness of death registration data

Year	Source of deaths				Completeness of death registration		
	Civil Registry <sup>a</sup>	Health <sup>b</sup>	SPC projection <sup>c</sup>	Census <sup>d</sup>	Compared with health	Compared with SPC	Compared with census
2018	1,633	-	1,551	-	-	105%	-
2017	-	-	-	1,500 <sup>^</sup>	-	-	<sup>^</sup>
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	1,394	-	-	-	-	-	-
2014	1,427	-	-	-	-	-	-

2013	1,441	-	-	-	-	-	-
2012	1,360	-	-	-	-	-	-
2011	1,242	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	1,261	-	-	-	-	-	-

Sources: <sup>a</sup>Civil registry (ISPF, 2019; 2016). <sup>b</sup>Not available. <sup>c</sup>Calculated from 2018 crude death rate (Pacific Community 2018a) and 2018 population projection (Pacific Community 2018b). <sup>d</sup>The 2017 census reported the average annual number of deaths between 2012 and 2017. <sup>e</sup>Because the figure is an average, it has been excluded from use in assessing the completeness of the civil registry, and is presented as a guide only (INSEE 2018). Completeness was calculated by dividing 'Civil Registry' by 'SPC projection'.

## PUBLICATION OF CRVS DATA AND REPORTS

The *Institut de la Statistique de la Polynésie Française* (ISPF) regularly publishes a demographic review that includes figures of births and deaths registered in the civil register. The most recent publication was in 2020 and includes births and deaths for 2019 (ISPF 2020).

## RECENT INITIATIVES AND PLANS TO STRENGTHEN CRVS

In order to guarantee the quality of the civil registry data, some of the municipalities of French Polynesia have dematerialised the acts (secure sending and no data entry multiplying the risk of errors).

## REFERENCES

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