

The Effect of the Incompleteness of Death Registration on Life Expectancy at Birth

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Abstract

This study investigates the effect of the incompleteness of death registration on life expectancy at birth. Life table for Thai population in 2004 was constructed using registration death data, which were adjusted by the hypothetical levels of percent under-registration. The estimation of infant mortality was made by the logistic extrapolation of infant death rates from a series of the Survey of Population Change (SPC). The age distribution of death under-registration from the Kanchanaburi Project was applied to adjust the pattern of death under-registration for the age group of 1 to 4 years and over. The results show that life expectancy at birth calculated from registered deaths without adjustment was 71.17 years for men and 78.14 years for women. Life expectancy at birth decreased in accordance with the levels of percent completeness of death registration. When the level of death under-registration increased from 5% to 20%, life expectancy at birth of men decreased from 69.43 years to 66.30 years and that of women decreased from 76.27 years to 73.48 years. Moreover, the incompleteness of death registration also affects the accurate estimation of crude death rate and natural population increase rate.

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