

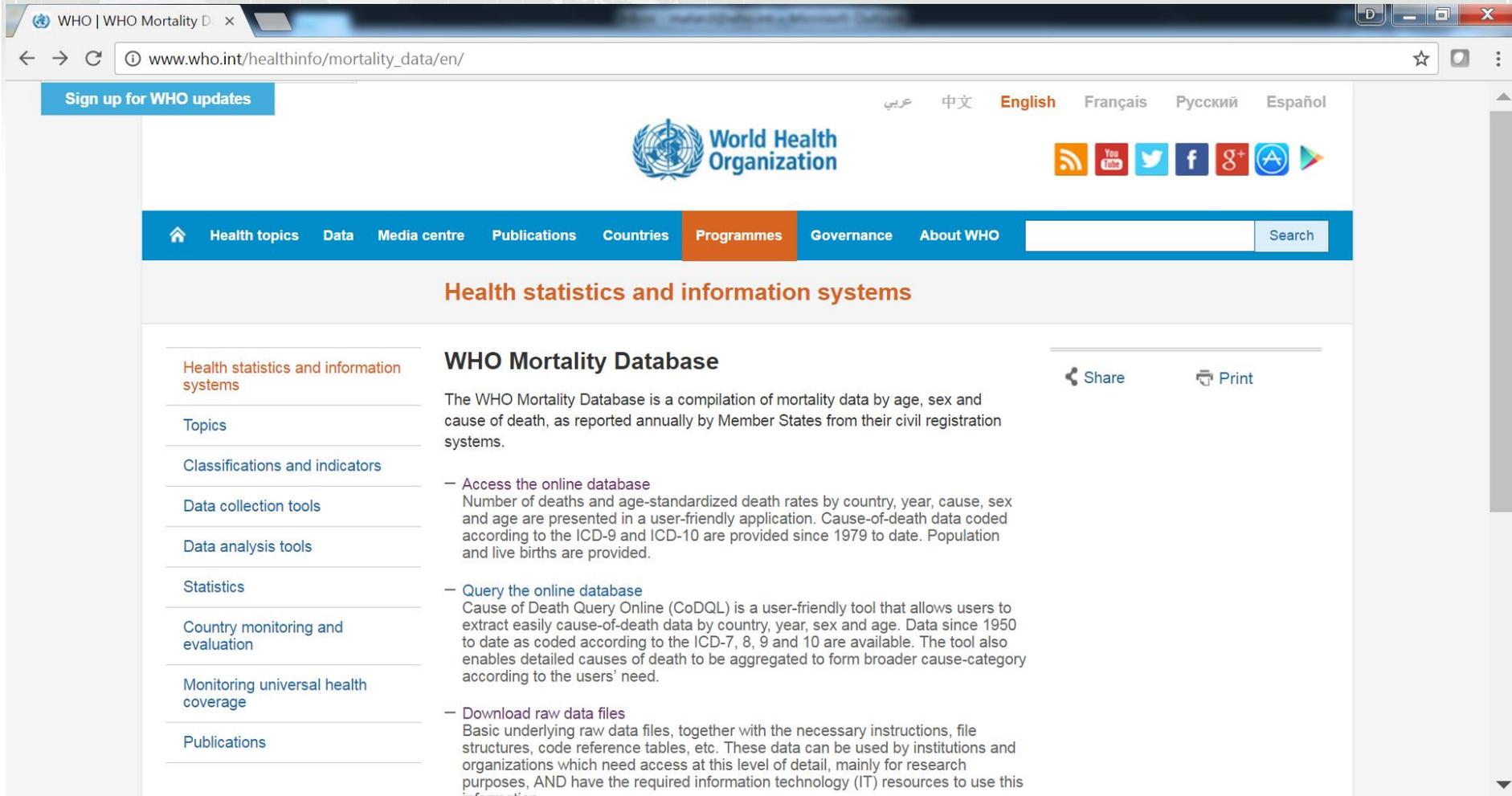
Brief overview of death registration data availability based on international reporting to WHO

Colin Mathers

UN EGM on completeness and quality of vital statistics from civil registration, Nov. 2016



http://www.who.int/healthinfo/mortality_data/en/



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the WHO Mortality Database page. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.who.int/healthinfo/mortality_data/en/. The page features a blue header with the WHO logo and navigation links in multiple languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish). Below the header is a blue navigation bar with links for Health topics, Data, Media centre, Publications, Countries, Programmes, Governance, and About WHO. The main content area is titled "Health statistics and information systems" and features a sidebar with links to various sections. The main content area is titled "WHO Mortality Database" and includes a description of the database and a list of links to access the data.

WHO | WHO Mortality D. x

www.who.int/healthinfo/mortality_data/en/

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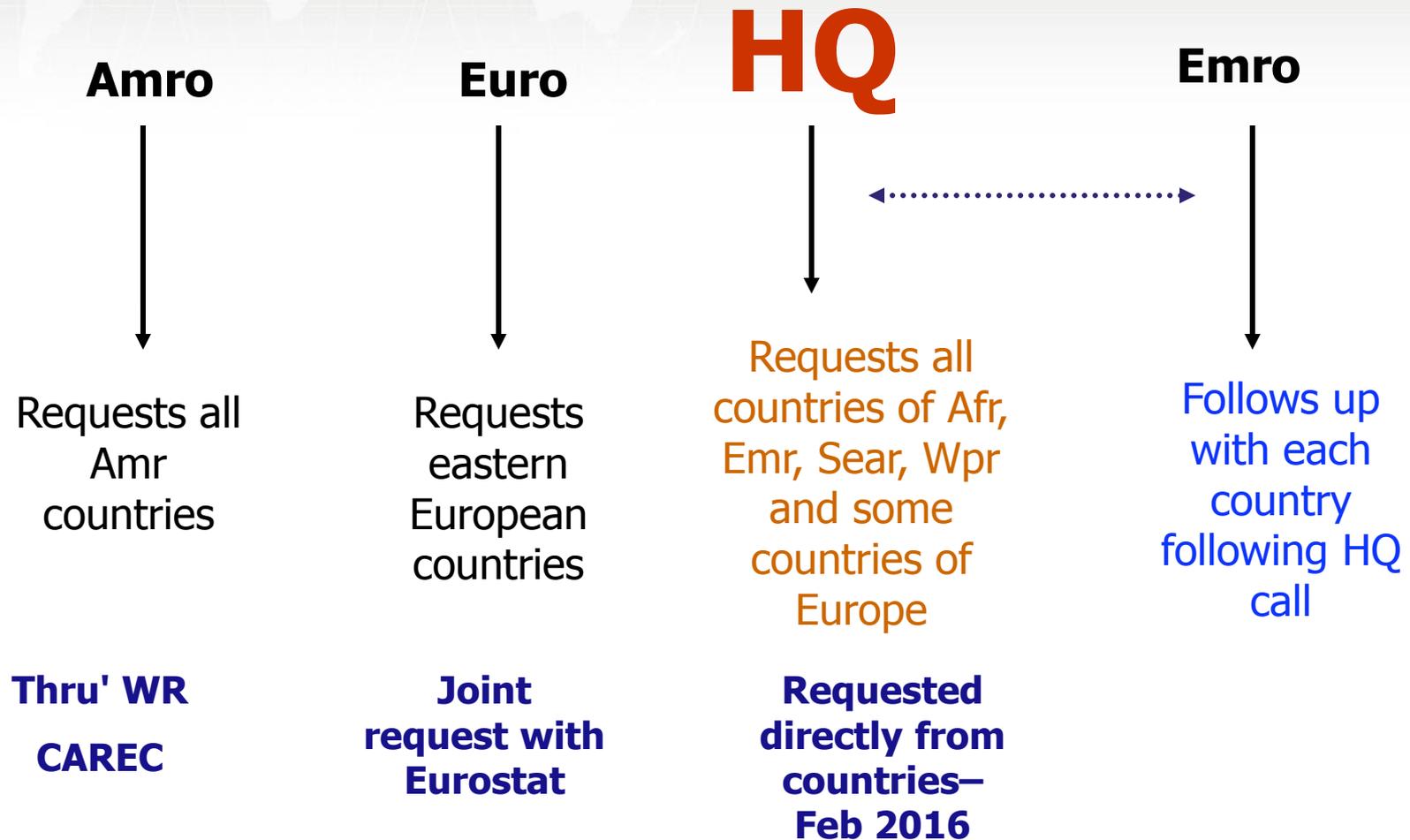
WHO Mortality Database

The WHO Mortality Database is a compilation of mortality data by age, sex and cause of death, as reported annually by Member States from their civil registration systems.

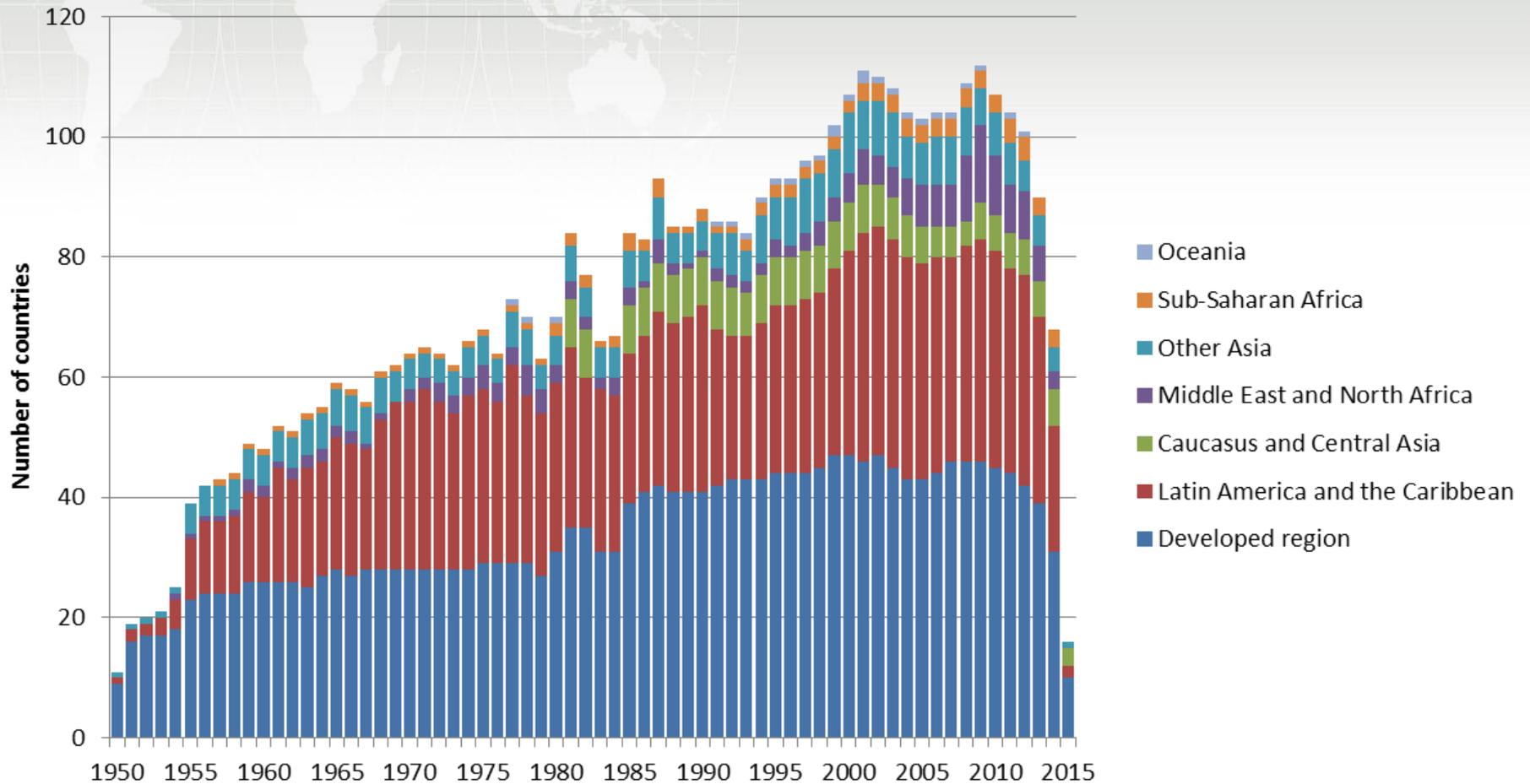
- [Access the online database](#)
Number of deaths and age-standardized death rates by country, year, cause, sex and age are presented in a user-friendly application. Cause-of-death data coded according to the ICD-9 and ICD-10 are provided since 1979 to date. Population and live births are provided.
- [Query the online database](#)
Cause of Death Query Online (CoDQL) is a user-friendly tool that allows users to extract easily cause-of-death data by country, year, sex and age. Data since 1950 to date as coded according to the ICD-7, 8, 9 and 10 are available. The tool also enables detailed causes of death to be aggregated to form broader cause-category according to the users' need.
- [Download raw data files](#)
Basic underlying raw data files, together with the necessary instructions, file structures, code reference tables, etc. These data can be used by institutions and organizations which need access at this level of detail, mainly for research purposes, AND have the required information technology (IT) resources to use this information

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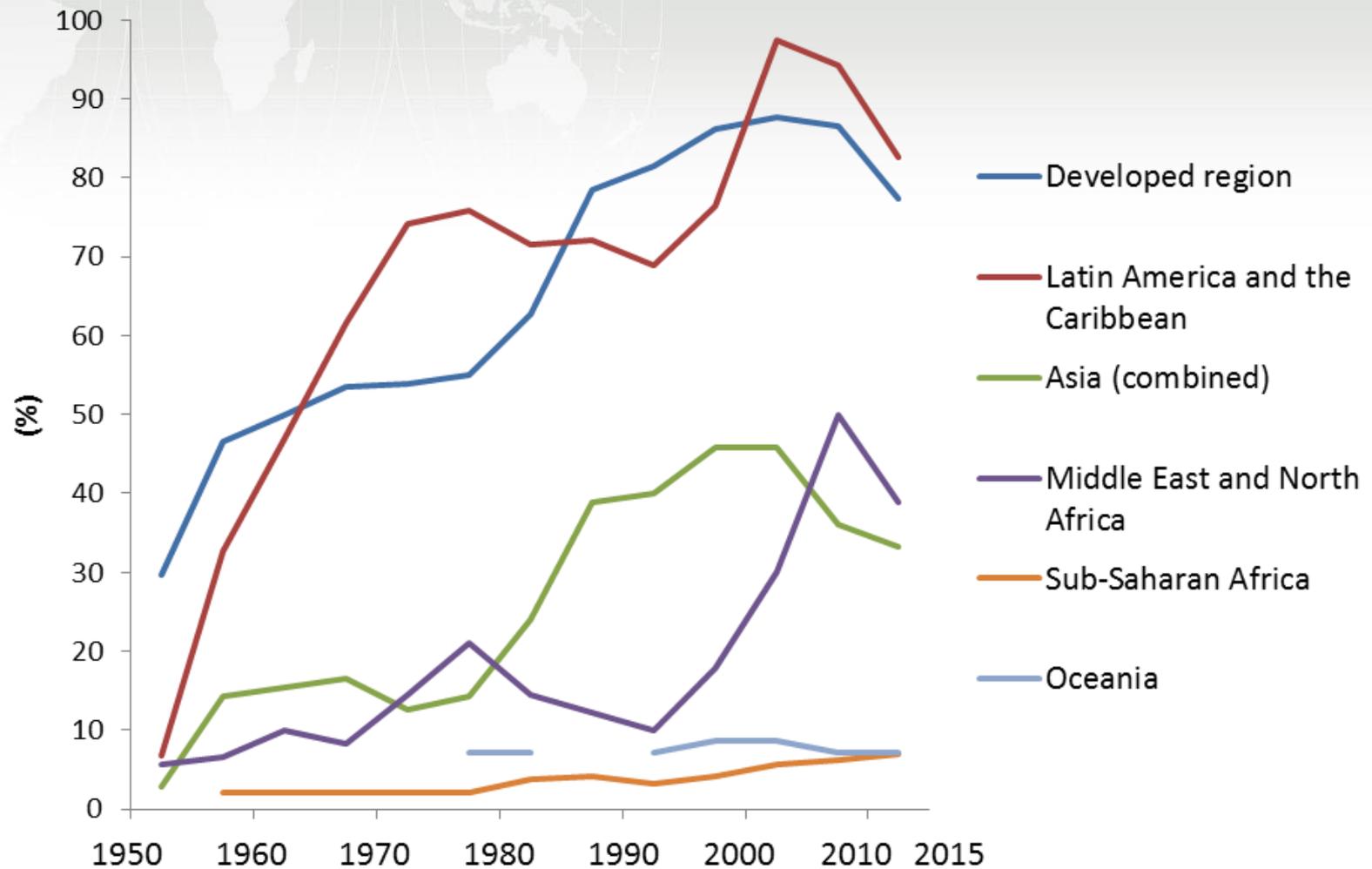
Mechanism for cause-of-death data collection



Number of countries reporting to WHO, by region and year



Per cent of countries reporting, by region



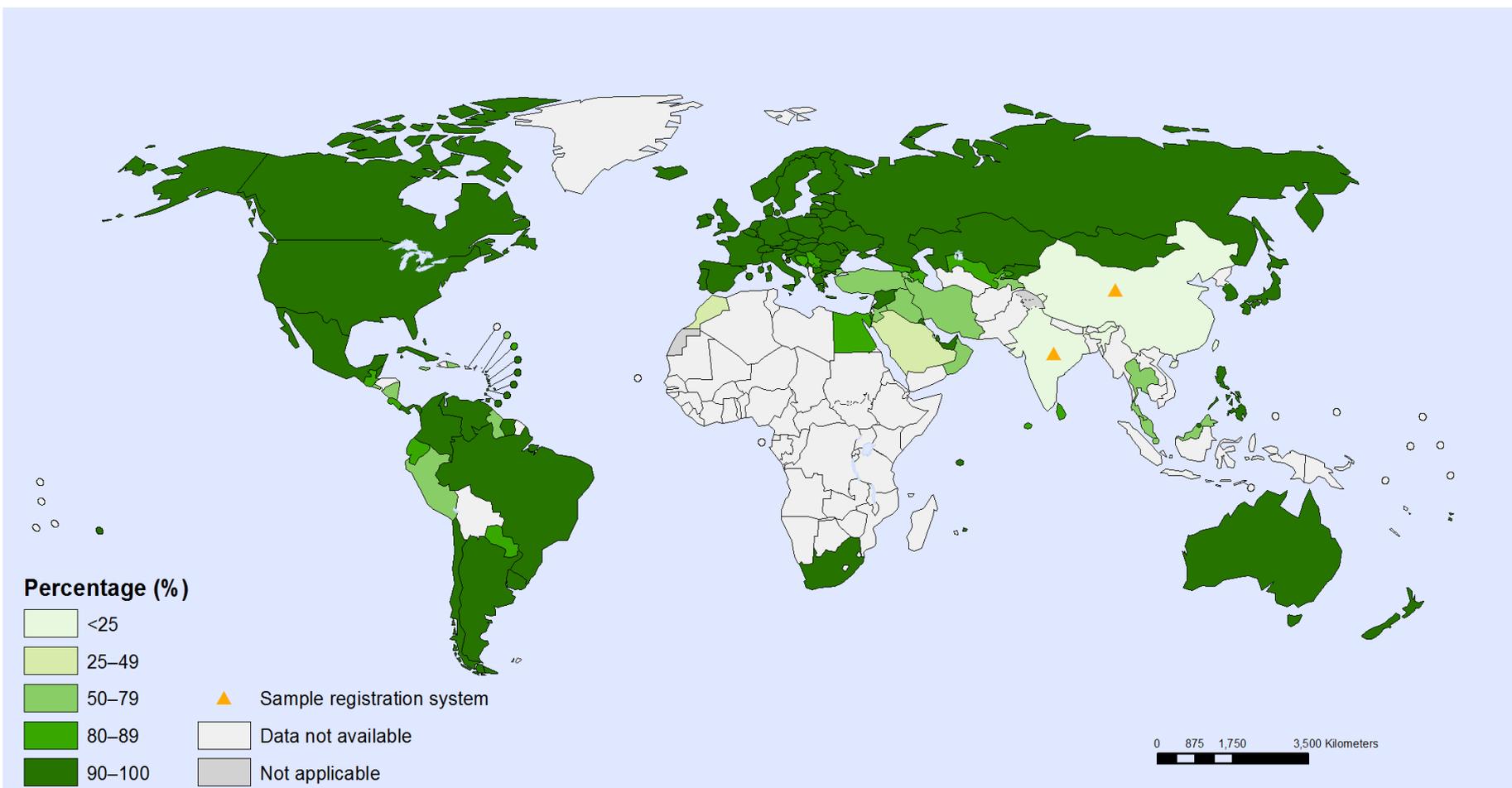
Data comparability issues

- Preference: data by year of occurrence, but unclear when data are received
- Not always clear if data are for residents or citizens or include non-residents
- Total deaths from CoD data are in most cases subsets of the total deaths from population registers. E.g. Israel, Iran
- Very few countries align the total number of deaths in their CoD data set with the number from population registers
- Some countries provide population data, but not usually consistent updated time-series, or compatible with UN population estimates
- Because of confidentiality issues, some countries are unwilling to share the data by 5-year age-group
- Reporting age format mostly 5 year age groups to 95+ or 85+ but some variation in final age group (65, 75) and some 10 year age group data

Country data issues

- **Cyprus:** data for government-controlled areas
- **Palestine:** data for West Bank only
- **Georgia:** exclude Abkhazia and South Osetia
- **Moldova:** exclude Transnistria and Bender
- **Russian Fed:** exclude Chechenya (1993-2003) but include Chechenya as from 2004
- **Serbia:** exclude Kosovo-Metohija province
- **Ukraine:** exclude non-government controlled areas as from 2014

Civil registration coverage of cause of death (%), 2005–2011



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: World Health Organization
 Map Production: Public Health Information
 and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
 World Health Organization



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Data availability for all-cause mortality

Available recent data (since 2005)	Number of WHO Member States ^a	Percentage of global deaths in 2015 ^b	Methods
Death-registration data with completeness $\geq 90\%$	59	28	Observed death rates
Incomplete death-registration data	38	25	Adjusted death rates
Other population-representative data on age-specific mortality	21	25	Estimated death rates and model life table systems
Data on child (under 5 years) and adult (15–59 years) mortality only	48	12	Estimated death rates and model life table systems
Data on child mortality only	59	10	Model life table systems
No recent data	1	<1	Projected from data for years before 2005

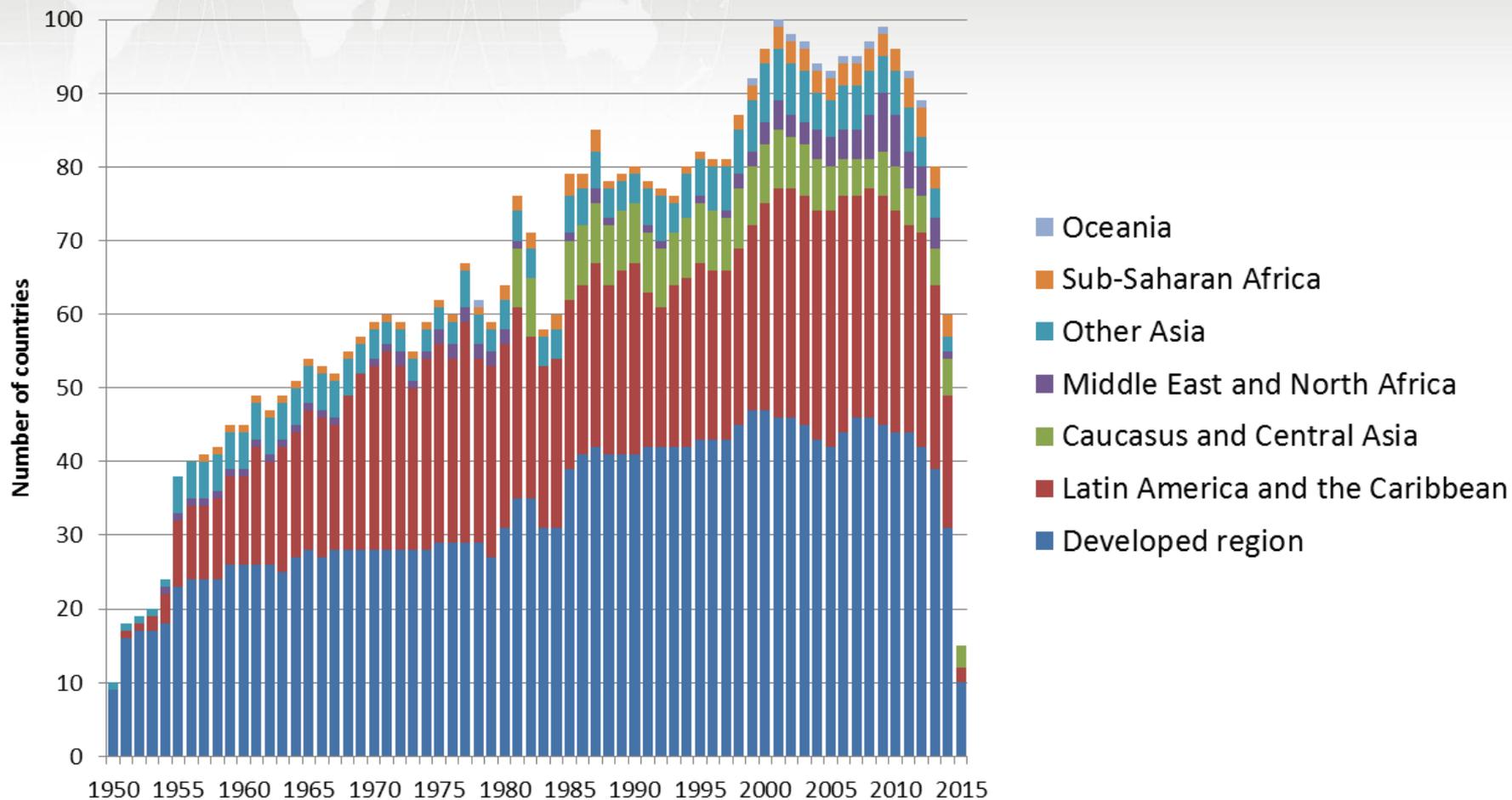
^a With population above 90 000 in 2015.

^b Total deaths that occur in the countries with data, not total registered deaths

Improved coverage in countries

South Africa:	~ 50% in 1990s	→	~ 90% in 2014
Turkey:	~ 50% in 2007	→	~ 85% in 2013
Iran:	~ 40% in 2001	→	~ 70% in 2014
China:	~ 9% in 2000	→	? >50% in 2015

SDG Indicator 17.19.2 Proportion of countries that have achieved 80% death registration



Momentum for Improvement in VR systems

- **Ministerial commitments** – Africa, Asia, Pacific, Latin Americas, Middle East
- **Global Commitments** – SDGs, G7 Health Ministers,
- **Global Health** –
 - **WHO** (Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, CoIA, African Technical Strategy for Improving Mortality Statistics)
 - **Canada and the World Bank** (Global Financing Facility)
 - **Health Partnerships for Countries** – WHO working with Global Fund, UNICEF, CDC, Bloomberg, Regional Partnerships

Ministerial Statement: African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, 12 and 13 February 2015

-Recognizing that the Ebola epidemic has shown that the need for death registration and real time cause-of-death information is no longer optional but critical;
-Realizing the centrality of civil registration based vital statistics in providing data to inform health....
-Appreciating the increased and continuing involvement of the African Ministers of Health in improving registration of births and deaths, including the collection of information on cause-of-death;
-Underscoring the important role of the health sector in the delivery of civil registration services to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach in addressing the challenges of improving CRVS systems in Africa;
-Call upon WHO, in collaboration with Pan African Organizations and other partners, to intensify their efforts in developing real time death registration and causes of death information systems at country level.