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Volumes

Articles

Special Collections

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Copyright Information

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## Evaluation of a village-informant driven demographic surveillance system in Karonga, Northern Malawi

Andreas Jahn  
Keith Branson  
Amelia C. Crampin  
Paul EM Fine  
Judith R. Glynn  
Nuala McGrath  
Johnbosco Mwafilaso  
Elenaus Mwaiyeghele  
Venance Mwinuka  
Basia Zaba

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### Abstract

This paper describes and evaluates the first demographic surveillance system (DSS) in Malawi, covering a rural population of 30,000. Unlike others, the Karonga DSS relies on trained village informants using formatted registers for the primary notification of vital events and migrations. Seven project enumerators subsequently collect detailed data on events notified by the village informants, using stringent identification procedures for households and individuals. Internal movements are traced systematically to augment event registration and data quality. Continuous evaluation of data collection is built into the methods. A re-census conducted after 2 years indicated that the routine system had registered 97% of 1,588 births, 99% of 521 deaths and 92% of 13,168 movements.

### Author's affiliation

[Andreas Jahn](#)  
Karonga Prevention Study, Malawi  
[Keith Branson](#)  
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom  
[Amelia C. Crampin](#)  
Karonga Prevention Study, Malawi  
[Paul EM Fine](#)  
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom  
[Judith R. Glynn](#)  
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom  
[Nuala McGrath](#)  
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom  
[Johnbosco Mwafilaso](#)  
Karonga Prevention Study, Malawi  
[Elenaus Mwaiyeghele](#)  
Karonga Prevention Study, Malawi  
[Venance Mwinuka](#)  
Karonga Prevention Study, Malawi

[Basia Zaba](#)

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

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