



Population and housing censuses

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Introduction to population and housing censuses



- Population and Housing Census has a role to collect, process and disseminate such small-area detailed statistics on population, its composition, characteristics, spatial distribution and organization (families and households).
- Most countries in the world conduct censuses periodically. The censuses have been promoted internationally since the end of the nineteenth century, when the International Statistical Congress recommended that all countries in the world conduct the Population and Housing Censuses.
- Since 1958, the United Nations published The Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

Roles of population and housing censuses



1. Role in public administration: reference to ensure equity in wealth distribution, government services, government funds distribution and allocation for education, health, housing programs, used by corporate sector, academia, civil society, and individual.
2. Role in the national statistical system as a benchmark for statistical compilation and sampling frame for sample surveys.
3. To generate statistics on small areas and small population groups with no minimum sampling errors. The census can produce detailed statistics for small areas and small population groups.
4. As a benchmark for research and analysis, for instance population projections.

1a. Definition (1)



Population census

- is the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of a country.
- It is necessary to have reliable and detailed data on size, distribution and composition of population to plan, implement, and evaluate social and economic development, as well as administrative activity and scientific research.
- Population census is a primary source of benchmark statistics, covering all population including settled population, homeless, and nomadic groups.

1a. Definition (2)



Housing census

- is the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or otherwise disseminating statistical data, at a specified time, to all living quarters and occupants thereof in a country or in a well-delimited part of a country.
- Have to provide information on the supply of housing units and information on the structural characteristics and facilities that have a bearing upon the maintenance of privacy and health and the development of normal family living conditions.

1b. Essential features (1)



1. Individual enumeration

- “Census” means each individual and each set of living quarters is enumerated separately and that the characteristics thereof are separately recorded.

2. Universality within a defined territory

- Census should cover a precisely defined territory (for instance the entire country or a well- delimited part of it).
- The population census should include every person present and/or residing within its scope.
- The housing census should include every set of living quarters irrespective of type.

3. Simultaneity

- Each person and each set of living quarters should be enumerated at the same well-defined point in time and should refer to a well-defined reference period.

1b. Essential features (2)



4. Defined periodicity

- should be taken at regular intervals to make comparable information in a fixed sequence.
- It is recommended to take a national census at least every 10 years. Some countries carry out the census more frequently because of the rapidity of changes in the population and housing circumstances.

5. Small area statistics

- produce data on the number and characteristics of the population and housing units to the lowest appropriate geographic level, compatible with national circumstance, and small population groups, with protecting individual confidentiality.

2. Uses of population and housing censuses



Uses of population and housing censuses

- provide a comprehensive source of statistical information for economic and social development planning, administration, assessing conditions in human settlements, research, commercial, and other uses.
- provide a statistical frame for other censuses or sample surveys.
- develop population estimates to calculate vital rates from civil registration data.

2. Uses of population and housing censuses (2)



Uses of population censuses

- Uses for policymaking, planning and administrative purposes.
- Uses for research purposes.
- Uses for business, industry and labour.
- Uses for boundary delimitation.
- Use as a sampling frame for surveys.

Uses of housing censuses

- Uses for development of benchmark housing statistics.
- Uses for the formulation of housing policy and programmes.
- Assessment of the quality of housing.

3. Relationship between the population census and the housing census



The two censuses may constitute one statistical operation or they may be two separate but well-coordinated activities, but in either case they should never be considered completely independently of each other because essential elements of each census are common to both.

- In many countries, the population and housing censuses are taken concurrently, often with the use of a single schedule.
- Relate the information on demographic and economic characteristics of each household member to the housing census data.

3. Relationship between the population census and the housing census (2)



The advantages of simultaneous investigation may be additional burden on respondent and enumerator resulting from the increased amount of information collected at one time.

- Some countries might consider to limit the topics in the population and housing census, with more complex data on a sample basis only, either concurrently with or immediately following the full enumeration. Or the housing census might be carried out as a part of the advance-listing operations of the population census.

The relationship between the population census and the housing census will affect the means by which data on homeless persons are obtained.

- In the case of simultaneous censuses of population and housing, data on homeless persons will be obtained as part of the population census.
- Where the housing census is carried out independently of the population census, it may be necessary to enumerate homeless persons in the housing census.

4. Census Methodology



Full field enumeration (traditional census) or full field enumeration and rolling surveys

- collected by census questionnaire directly from respondents using enumerators or other modes of data collection (e.g. telephone interview, mail out/mail back, Internet), or by applying a combination of different modes of data collection.

Rolling census

- Information on individuals and households is collected through a continuous cumulative survey covering the whole country over a period of time (generally years), rather than a particular day or short period of enumeration.

Combined methodology

- Information on individuals and households is collected by combining data collected from one or more surveys with administrative or statistical registers.
- Data from registers are employed as a frame or to support field operations, and as a data source for some census information.
- Register data might be used to prefill questionnaire to be verified or corrected during the interview.

4. Census Methodology (2)



Population register and existing sample surveys or integrated administrative sources and existing samples survey

- Information on individuals and households are collected from existing administrative sources, namely different kinds of registers, of which the following are of primary importance: individuals, households and dwellings.
- The information are linked at the individual level with information from existing sample surveys.
- No field data collection will take place.

Fully register based

- Information on individuals and households are collected from existing administrative sources, namely different types of registers, of which the following are of primary importance: individuals, households and dwellings.
- The information are linked at the individual level with information taken from other administrative or statistical sources, such as business, tax, education, employment and other relevant registers.

Reference



Adopted from:

1. Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3. United Nations, 2015.



Thank you