

Summary of the question and answer session

WEBINAR 2 - 12 AUGUST 2020

WEBINAR SERIES ON UTILIZATION OF REGISTERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA IN CENSUS PROGRAMMES OF PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

Theme: 2020+ the era of Administrative data; looking into the role of registers and administrative data in Census programmes of Pacific Island countries

Questions	Answers
Statistics Netherlands	
Was there a time that registers didn't meet your needs and you had to go for primary data collection?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, after abandoning questionnaires in 1971, the education register didn't provide good quality data i.e. wasn't universally inclusive and missed qualifications obtained abroad. • Opted to draw information from a survey. • The register has been improving and will be used for the 2021 census. • In the 1990s Statistics Netherlands were using a number of surveys – over time they have been able to work with register owners to improve the quality of the data so that it can be used in the census results – as a consequence the LFS is the only survey source still used for census outputs.
Could you please provide more information about your input Division?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The System of Social Statistics Datasets (SSD) was introduced in advance of the 2001 Census. • Input division: Runs surveys and gets registers in right format and makes them available to the relevant divisions. Also derive statistics (e.g. age from Date of Birth). • "Processing division": Prepares tables and publications. • Output division: Dissemination.
How do you think about quality in a register-based census compared to a traditional census?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netherland's experience is that the completeness of the register based census is much better than of the traditional approach. • The quality of output depends on the quality of the registers maintained. • Important to remember that a census is never perfect • Important to maintain a lot of contact with register owners to ensure that good relationships are establish. Statistics Netherlands holds yearly meetings with senior staff from the

	register owners, plus frequent meetings at the account manager level.
What are the techniques used in deriving estimates from existing surveys?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grossing up from survey (LFS) responses – take the LFS results at the census date; weight up using survey weights; and then adjust to make consistent with population totals. • Not able to produce small area data – so there are gaps in the detailed local dataset for this employment data
What was the non-response rate in 1971 that made it necessary to abandon face to face population censuses?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-response rate was about 2% nationally, but 10% in Amsterdam (mostly students). • Government decided that it couldn't fine so many people and decided to find another methodology.
How did Statistics Netherlands go about changing the Statistics Act to be able to access other stakeholder's data and how did it come out in the end?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stats Netherlands used to have a statistics Act without these powers, however after the 2001 census, there was a need to be sure that they could reliably get data from other government departments. The Ministry responsible for Statistics Netherlands offered to support the office in re-drafting of the Statistics Act and the Minister went to parliament to defend the points. The Statistics Act was updated in 2004 and has been critical in assuring access to data.
Syntheses of key lessons from register census countries	
For remote local population estimates, would voter or electoral registers be useful?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This could be useful in case there is nothing else in place. In the UK voting isn't a legal requirement hence the voter register isn't complete (and, of course, only covers adults). This is a source that is worth exploring (e.g. as an input to an address register) but its usefulness would depend on the quality and coverage in your particular country.
In many Pacific countries Address registers are non-existent. Which Ministry should be taking lead in this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a difference between producing an address register for statistical purposes and one for (say) postal purposes. • Within a statistical address register you need to be able to identify individual living units that align to the household concept used in the census or household surveys. A postal provider is primarily interested in being about to post mail (so wouldn't necessarily capture when a property had been subdivided). NSOs need high quality classification of properties between residential and business, for instance. This is less of an issue to the postal service provider. • If there is a government department that is able to produce an address registers that meets the needs of the NSO (and others) then that would be preferable. However, if not, NSO would have to do it (as the UK Office for National Statistics did for their 2011 Census, and as Statistics Canada has done for its census and household survey programmes).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Netherlands has an address register as one of the base registers. This took time to develop and improve its quality.
Does a NPR provide a De Jure type of count?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. In the Netherlands the population register is considered the backbone of the census (on a de jure, or usual residence, basis). It enables a count of all persons registered, which is most of the legal people on the country but is not everybody. Similarly, the UK traditional census is a de jure (usual residence) census. The use of registers/administrative data essentially force the move to a de jure (usual residents) census – as that is what is captured in the register/admin database.
What variables are you referring to when you talk of National Population Registers (NPR)? Is it a combination of all the other registers e.g. employment and business registers? Are there specific variables to be included in a NPR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In countries with a National ID system/register, the Statistical population register will be derived from that base register and kept up to date. In countries without a national ID system (such as the UK, Canada and New Zealand) it is possible to create a statistical population register by combining registers with the best coverage of the population. In the UK this was a register of benefits (which included benefits paid to children as well as pensions – so covered the very young and very old); a register from the tax authority (covering working age people); and a register from the health authority (National Health Service) which had good coverage but included many people who had not deregistered). But combining these sources and looking for recent engagement with the administrative systems (“signs of life”) it has been possible to produce reliable population estimates at small areas (as compared to the 2011 Census). We found that we were missing children aged 0-4 and had to impute them from civil registration data.
Addressees are critical in the move towards linkages of systems. Usually in developing countries NSOs compile addresses for censuses, which is not necessarily the same as that of Civil Registration agencies. What is your advice to countries, to prepare today for future linkages of systems for statistical purposes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In some countries, mapping agencies maintain an address register, as do the postal service provider. However, this may not fully meet the needs of the NSO for census. Stats Canada has, over the last 20 years or so, developed its own statistical address register. They started with addresses from the census and then added information from the postal provider, from electricity companies (addresses on meters) etc. These days when running face to face interviews for the census using mobile devices it is possible to capture geo-coded address information, which can be an ideal opportunity to create an address register.