

Types of demographic data: census (records of all individual data at one time), survey (specially collecting data of [usually a part of] population) and registration systems (records of events within particular period).

The purposes of data collection

- Most demographic data are by-product of other purposes like administrative exercises, including vital registration systems, censuses, migration controls, public health campaigns, population control programs and special surveys.
- Vital registration systems: primarily for legal purposes like the production of birth and death certificates, but also for demographic analysis like mortality and fertility data.
- Censuses: mainly for aid-planning, provision of basic service needs, but also used for population distribution and structure.
- Surveys: designed with more strongly research-oriented objectives.

Censuses

- Enumerating all individuals in the nation.
- **"de facto" and "de jure" population**: the former is simply the population actually living at the moment of census. the latter is somewhat complicated.
- UN recommends that censuses should be held at least at ten-yearly intervals, preferably in years ending in 0.
- Each country take somewhat diversified method. Several kinds of "population" are enumerated: Whether military, diplomat, visitors are enumerated or not? Distinguishing migrants from visitors/travelers depends on how long they stay.
- Japan conducts national population censuses on October 1, every 5 years.
- **Chief characteristics**: Complete recording of entire population within a geographically well-defined area. No sampling. Each person must be enumerated separately. It must have legal basis. It must relate to a single point in time, not a period.
- Source of errors: poor response quality, missing answers, refusal, misclassification.
- **To collect reliable census data, properly training enumerator is essential.**
- **(Identification of individual is essential for longitudinal survey.)**

Vital registration

- Source of vital events
- In developing countries, the system is not effectively working

Sample surveys

- Taking a sample of the population, generating complex data by conducting object-oriented questions.
- Sampling error is main possible disadvantage.
- Prospective survey costs much.
- Retrospective survey may be more biased. To avoid bias, demographers use some sophisticated techniques.