Necessary Conditions for the Use of Administrative Registers for Population and Housing Censuses

Statistical Centre of Iran

2021, November 15
Maryam Pourreza Anvar
Hessam Khodamoradi
Introduction:
Population and Housing Censuses in I. R. of Iran
Prerequisites & Preconditions for Transition

• Iran has been conducting national population and housing censuses for more than six decades (from 1956 to 2016).
Prerequisites & Preconditions for Transition

• All these censuses were conducted by using traditional methods through paper questionnaire and face-to-face interviews.

• In the 2016 Census, electronic devices such as tablet device and online questionnaire were widely used to collect data.

• The rate of response through online questionnaire was 48.5 percent in this census.
Introduction:
Transition to Register-Based Census

Transition to register-based census is important because of:

• High costs of population census in traditional method
• Reduced participation of population and lower response rate
• Optimal use of available data resources
• Quick and continuous access to accurate data and more statistics
Prerequisites & Preconditions for Transition to RBC in I. R. of Iran

Pilot & Tested topics

- The pilot register-based census is going to be conducted this year. In this pilot census, variables such as the address of residence place, age, sex, citizenship, education status and level of education, and some other variables will be obtained from administrative records and registers, and they are compared with the same information obtained from the field operations to determine the accuracy and integrity of the registered data.

2021, November 15
Prerequisites & Preconditions for Transition in I.R of Iran

- The 2026 Census is expected to be conducted via a combined method (administrative register and other sources).

- This method will be tested several times, the first pilot of which will be in 2021.
Legal Base in I.R of Iran

• The law of "Obligation to Assign a National ID Number and a Postal Code to every person or place", 1997: all Iranian nationals are required to report their new address and postal code to the National Organization for Civil Registration in case of changing their place of residence.

• Ratification of Council of Ministers, 2020: all administrative organizations are obliged to provide all the micro data required for the production of statistics by the SCI free of charge and in a one–way traffic while observing the requirements of data confidentiality.
Registers being used in I.R of Iran

• Until now, there has not been an integrated and centralized population register in Iran. National Organization for Civil Registration is responsible for registering and maintaining the Iranian population, birth, death, marriage, and divorce. These registers are constantly updated at short intervals. The Ministry of the Interior is also responsible for registering and keeping data of foreign nationals.

Statistical Centre of Iran is going to combine the two registered data of Iranian and foreign nationals to create a comprehensive and centralized register of the entire population. This registered data will be updated annually, but its successful operation requires the production of Register of International Migration.
Unique Identifier

- National Identification Number
- Foreign Identification Number
Basic Statistical Registers

- Iran's Statistical Registers System (IRANSTARS) includes four basic statistical registers as follows:
  - Population register
  - Activity register
  - Business register
  - Real estate register
Census Topics
Topics not Available from Registers

- At present, it seems that the topics such as **activity status, and international migration**, **relation to the head of household, handicap and disability**, and some information on the **housing** cannot be measured according to the register data/ administrative data or their measuring by using this method would be difficult or lead to error. Accordingly, this information will be measured through face-to-face interviews with respondents in the next combined census.
• At the early stages among some Iranian government organizations, there was a kind of distrust in the new census method, and it was assumed that providing data to the Statistical Centre of Iran would somehow interfere with their tasks in producing statistics. There were also some concerns about safeguarding the confidentiality of the individuals’ information for which they were responsible.
Public & Stakeholder Approval

• In order to remove these obstacles and cope with the challenges, the Statistical Centre of Iran has conducted extensive negotiations with the line organizations/government agencies to explain the features and functions of the National Statistical Registers system and clarify the important role of the government agencies in doing this task as well as the duty of the Statistical Centre of Iran in data stewardship.
Key Challenges

The major challenges facing the register-based census in the I.R. Iran are as follows and we need to receive technical and professional consultations as well as best practices of other countries in these cases:

• Creation of address register for all people and its regularly precise updating
• Creation of international and internal migration register,
• Creation of activity register and its regularly updating,
• Measuring and improving the administrative data quality,
• Matching the concepts and definitions of the register data with those of census data,
• Matching of variables of household and household compositions in the traditional census with the register-based census.
Thanks for Your Attention!

For any question, comment or suggestion please contact us at:

int@sci.org.ir