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Demographic and Social Statistics in the United Nations Demographic Yearbook*

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Demographic and Social Statistics in the United Nations Demographic Yearbook

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) is responsible for the collection and dissemination of national population and vital statistics on the international level. This paper provides a brief overview over the main data collection and dissemination vehicles followed by a more detailed description of the data on demographic and social phenomena that is collected and disseminated by the *Demographic Yearbook*.

Demographic Yearbook data collection and dissemination: general remarks

The main means of data collection remain questionnaires. The questionnaires are excel files based on xml-maps and comprise the following:

- Questionnaire on Population Estimates [annually]
- Questionnaire on Vital Statistics [annually]¹
- Questionnaire on International Travel and Migration Statistics [annually, but currently suspended for further revision of questionnaire]
- Questionnaire on Human Functioning and Disability Statistics [ad hoc]
- Population Census Questionnaire: General Characteristics*
- Population Census Questionnaire: Economic Characteristics*
- Population Census Questionnaire: Household Characteristics*
- Housing Census Questionnaire (under development)*

In addition, data are collected and processed from national publications and online sources. In order to reduce response burden, data are also exchanged between international organizations, such as WHO and UNESCO.

Data are generally disseminated in print and online, via the *Demographic Yearbook* and the Population and Vital Statistics Report. The latter is issued bi-weekly online and twice a year in print. The regular issue of the *Demographic Yearbook* is published annually online and in print.² In addition, there are Special Topic issues on various demographic and social concerns that are issued irregularly. Since early 2008, selected demographic and social data collected through the *Demographic Yearbook* have been made available through UN Data (<http://data.un.org/>), a web-based data dissemination tool recently developed by UNSD.

Size and structure of the population, births, deaths and migration

- Size and structure of the population

¹ The tables from this questionnaire as they are mentioned in this document are based on a revised version of the questionnaire. Final decision on this revision is, however, pending.

* Census questionnaires are dispatched to a national statistical office after a census has taken place. The questionnaires are then sent annually until all data has been collected.

² The 2006 Demographic Yearbook was made available online in July/August 2008.

UNSD is the primary agency responsible at the international level for collecting official national statistics related to population size and structure. These data are collected in the annual *Questionnaire on Population Estimates* and the *Population Census Questionnaire: General Characteristics* as follows:

- *Population by sex and urban/rural residence as of midyear*
- *Population by age (single years and five-year age groups), sex and urban/rural residence as of midyear*
- *Population of the capital city and cities of 100 000 or more inhabitants as of midyear by sex*
- Population by marital status, age, sex and urban/rural residence as of midyear

All of these data are collected as estimates in the annual questionnaire as well as from censuses.

Data for table titles that are set in italics are published annually in the regular issue of the *Demographic Yearbook*. Other tables together with calculated rates are published in a special census issue of the *Demographic Yearbook*. The latest issue is available online at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybcens.htm>, presenting data for the 1990 and 2000 round.

- Population density and urbanization

UNSD collects, compiles and disseminates data from national statistical offices on population density and urbanization. Basic tables on population estimates and vitals statistics include an urban/rural breakdown and consequently these tables are presented in the *Demographic Yearbook* disaggregated by urban and rural breakdown. In addition, data on *population of capital cities and cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants* are published annually in the *Demographic Yearbook*.

National surface area as well as the surface area of capital cities and cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants are collected annually in the *Questionnaire on Population Estimates* as well as in the *Population Census Questionnaire: General Characteristics*. Based on these data densities are calculated and published annually in the regular issue of the *Demographic Yearbook*.

- Natality

UNSD is the primary agency responsible at an international level for collecting official national data on natality i.e. on fertility, and foetal deaths. These data are collected from the national statistical offices on an annual basis through the *Questionnaire on Vital Statistics* as follows:

- *Live births by sex and urban/rural residence*
- Live births by month of birth
- Live births by marital status of mother
- Live births by birth order and sex of child
- Live births – born in wedlock – by duration of marriage
- *Live births by age of mother and sex of child*
- Live births by age of father
- Live births by age of mother and live birth order
- Live births by birth weight
- Live births by gestational age

- Live births by type of birth (plurality)
- Total Fertility Rate

- *Late foetal deaths by sex and urban/rural residence*
- Late foetal deaths by age of mother
- Foetal deaths by period of gestation

- *Legally induced abortions by urban/rural residence*
- *Legally induced abortions by age and number of previous live births of mother*

Data for table titles that are set in italics are published annually in the regular issue of the *Demographic Yearbook*. Other tables together with calculated rates are published in a special issue on *Fertility*, the last of which was issued in 1999 in CD format.

- Mortality

UNSD is the primary agency responsible, at an international level, for collecting official statistics on mortality primarily from vital statistics systems. These data are collected from the national statistical offices on an annual basis through the *Questionnaire on Vital Statistics* as follows:

- *Complete life table and abridged life table*
- Deaths by month of death
- *Deaths by age and sex*

- Infant deaths by age and sex

The World Health Organisation (WHO) collects deaths by cause data, which are shared with the United Nations Statistics Division and disseminated through the *Demographic Yearbook*.

Data for table titles that are set in italics are published annually in the regular issue of the *Demographic Yearbook*. Other tables together with calculated rates are published in a special issue on *Mortality*, the last of which was issued in 1996.

- International migration

The collection of international migration data is shared among different institutions. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) collects and compiles international labour migration statistics. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) collects and compiles data on asylum seekers and refugees more specifically on asylum applications, refugee status determination, recognition rates, refugee populations and movements, demographic characteristics (age and sex) as well as major refugee locations (camps, centers, urban areas, etc.). The United Nations Population Division (UNPD) prepares estimates of migrant stock for each country using the data provided by the United Nations Statistics Division; undertakes regular studies on national policies on international migration and assesses the impact of international migration on development.

UNSD collects statistics on international migration flows and on the stock of migrant population. Stock data are collected by UNSD in the *Population Census Questionnaire: General characteristics* as follows:

- Population by citizenship status, age and sex
- Native and foreign-born population by age, sex and urban/rural residence
- Foreign-born population by country/area of birth, age and sex
- Population by citizenship status, age and sex
- Foreign population (non-citizens) by continent/country of citizenship, age and sex
- Economically active foreign-born population by occupation, sex, age and urban/rural residence

Flow data are collected in a separate questionnaire, the *Questionnaire on International Travel and Migration Statistics*, which is currently under revision.

UNSD disseminates stock data in a special census issue of the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook*. The latest issue is available online at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybcens.htm>, presenting data for the 1990 and 2000 census round.

Data on migration flows that have been collected before the revision process were published periodically through the *Demographic Yearbook*. The latest issue of the Yearbook that covered the tables on migration flows is the *Demographic Yearbook* 1996.

- Ethnocultural characteristics

UNSD is the primary agency responsible at the international level for collecting official national census data on ethnocultural characteristics of the population, i.e. national and/or ethnic group, religion and language. These data are collected by UNSD in the *Population Census Questionnaire: General characteristics* as follows:

- Population by national and/or ethnic group and sex
- Population by language and sex
- Population by religion and sex

UNSD disseminates these data in a special census issue of the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook*. The latest issue is available online at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybcens.htm>, presenting data for the 1990 and 2000 census round.

Family formation, families and households

- Marriage and divorce

UNSD is the primary agency responsible, at an international level, for collecting official statistics on marriage and divorce primarily from vital statistics system. These data are collected from the national statistical offices on an annual basis through the *Questionnaire on Vital Statistics* as follows:

- *Marriages by urban/rural residence*
- *Marriages cross-classified by age of groom and bride*
- *Marriages cross-classified by marital status of groom and bride*
- *First marriages by age of groom and bride*

- *Divorces by urban/rural residence*
- Divorces cross-classified by age of husband and age of wife
- Divorces by duration of marriage
- Divorces by number of dependent children

Data for table titles that are set in italics are published annually in the regular issue of the *Demographic Yearbook*. Other tables together with calculated rates are published in a special issue on *Marriage and Divorce Statistics*, the last of which was issued in 1990.

- Households and families

UNSD is responsible at an international level for collecting data on families and households from population and housing censuses. These data are collected by UNSD in the *Population Census Questionnaire: Household characteristics* as follows³:

- Population by age, sex and living arrangements (in household/in institution/shelterless)
- Household population by household composition (household size and relationship to reference person) and by age and sex of reference person
- Household population by relation to reference person, sex of the reference person and age
- Household population by sex, size of household and presence of elderly persons
- Household population by sex, living arrangements, presence elderly persons and by sex of reference person
- Households by number of family nuclei present and by size of household
- Households by age and sex of reference person and by size of household
- Households by age, sex and marital status of reference person
- Households by household composition (household size and relationship of members to reference person) and by age and sex of reference person
- Households by household composition (household size, type of family and presence of spouse) by age and sex of reference person
- Households by size of household and presence of elderly persons
- Households by living arrangements, presence of elderly persons and sex of reference person

UNSD disseminates these data in special census issues of the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* entitled *Household and Family Statistics*, the last of which was published in 1995.

Health, human functioning and disability

- Health

UNSD collects official national statistics on births, deaths and life expectancy through the *Questionnaire on Vital Statistics*. A more detailed description of these statistics can be found under natality and mortality above.

³ This questionnaire is currently being revised in content and form. The new questionnaire with a reduced number of tables/complexity is expected to be sent in the 2009 data collection round.

UNSD receives data on deaths by cause from the World Health Organization, who collects statistics on a broad range of topics including: diseases and conditions, health personnel, immunization, reproductive health, etc. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) collects data on the prevalence and incidence of HIV/AIDS.

Data on deaths by cause of death and sex is currently published every two years in the regular issue of the *Demographic Yearbook*.

- Human functioning and disability

In March 2006 the United Nations Statistics Division initiated a collection of basic statistics on disability through the *Questionnaire on Human Functioning and Disability Statistics*, which was developed based on recommendations and decisions by expert group meetings and the United Nations Statistical Commission.

These data, collected on an ad hoc basis, are:

- Population with disabilities by age, sex and urban/rural residence
- Population 5 - 29 years of age with disabilities by school attendance, age, sex and urban/rural residence
- Population with and without disabilities by activity status, age, sex and urban/rural residence

Housing and its environment

Until recently official statistics on housing were collected by UNSD on a quinquennial basis through the Human Settlement Statistics Questionnaire in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). The most recent questionnaires were sent to countries and areas in 1992 and 1999. The results of this data collection were published in the *1995 Compendium of Human Settlement Statistics* and *2001 Compendium of Human Settlement Statistics*.

UNSD is currently developing a Housing Census Questionnaire, which will regularly collect data from housing censuses starting in 2008/2009.

Learning and education

UNSD collects data on literacy, educational attainment and school attendance from national statistical offices around the world, which usually derive such data from population censuses. These data are collected by UNSD in the *Population Census Questionnaire: General characteristics* as follows:

- Population by literacy, age and sex
- Population 15 years of age and over, by educational attainment (ISCED), age and sex
- Population 5 to 24 years of age by school attendance and sex

As similar data is collected by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) these data are exchanged every three months between the two offices to lessen response burden on the national data providers.

UNSD disseminates data on *literacy, educational attainment and school attendance* in a special census issue of the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook*. The latest issue is available online at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybcens.htm>, presenting data for the 1990 and 2000 census round.

Economic activity

UNSD collects statistics on economic characteristics of the population from national statistical offices around the world. However, data collection is limited to data that are derived from population censuses. International statistics on economic activity derived from sample surveys and administrative systems are collected by the ILO Bureau of Statistics from national labour ministries. UNSD collects data in the *Population Census Questionnaire: Economic Characteristics* as follows⁴:

- Population by type of activity, age, sex and urban/rural residence
- Economically active population by industry, sex, age and urban/rural residence
- Economically active population by status, industry, sex and urban/rural residence
- Economically active population by occupation, sex, age and urban/rural residence
- Economically active population by status, occupation, sex and urban/rural residence
- Economically active population by status, sex, age and urban/rural residence
- Economically active population by type of activity, marital status and age
- Population not economically active by functional category, sex, age and urban/rural residence

UNSD disseminates these data in special census issues of the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* entitled *Economic Characteristics*, the last of which was published in 1994.

Social security and welfare

UNSD does not collect data on this topic. The organization engaged in the collection and dissemination of social security statistics is the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Distribution of income and consumption; wealth and poverty

UNSD does not collect data on this topic but maintains the Millennium Indicators Database, which includes three indicators on poverty, which are supplied by the World Bank. Another organization engaged in the collection and dissemination of official statistics in this area is the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Public order and safety, offenders and their victims

UNSD does not collect data on public order and safety and offenders and their victims. At the international level, statistics related to this topic are collected and disseminated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Allocation of time and time use

UNSD does not collect statistics on this topic but a methodological overview is available.

⁴ This questionnaire is currently being revised in content and form. The new questionnaire with a reduced number of tables/complexity is expected to be sent in the 2009 data collection round.