

Session 2: Data Collection and Processing in the Demographic Yearbook System

Monday, 9 November 2020
from 7:25am to 9:40am (NY Time/ EST/UTC-5)

Background of the session

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) collects national population estimates, vital statistics, international migration and population and housing censuses data from national statistical offices (NSOs). Built on the global data collection, the United Nations Demographic Yearbook (DYB) and its database constitute a system of disseminating demographic data. Celebrating its 70th edition in 2020, the DYB continues to evolve for better usability and international comparison by introducing new technologies and statistical concepts. **This session is to take stock of NSOs' recommendations to improve the process of collecting, validating and processing demographic data in the DYB system.**

Every year, UNSD requests NSOs to report demographic data through **the Demographic Yearbook Annual Questionnaires** in Excel, consisting of (a) population estimates and metadata, (b) vital statistics and metadata and (c) international migration flows. In addition, UNSD requests NSOs which have conducted census in the year or before to report the result of their census through **the Demographic Yearbook Census Questionnaires** in Excel, consisting of (a) general characteristics and metadata, (b) economic characteristics, (c) household characteristics and (d) housing census for national wide and selected cities. All the questionnaires are posted in [UNSD webpage](#).

The received data are processed and validated within the Demographic Statistics Database (DYB database), based on metadata information, historical trends and international principles and recommendations. When any inconsistencies are found in the course of validation process, UNSD contacts a data reporter for revisions and clarifications. Finally, the validated data are released to the DYB database for digital dissemination in [UNdata](#) and producing [the DYB](#). (Data dissemination in the DYB system will be discussed in Session 4 on 11 November 2020.)

Expected outcome of the session

The expected outcome of this session is a set of recommendations for more efficient and modernized data reporting, collection and processing in the DYB system. The list will feed into a conclusions and recommendations document at the end of the meeting, which will be further submitted to the Statistical Commission in March 2021 as part of a background document.

In this light, NSOs are invited to present their feedback and recommendations on the DYB collection and processing process through answering the following guiding questions:

1. How do you find data reporting for the DYB, especially DYB questionnaires, data collection process, follow-ups and timeline?
2. How can we streamline and improve data reporting, collection and processing in the DYB system?