

# International Migration Data Integration in South Africa

Diego Iturralde

Statistics SA

# State of Data Integration in South Africa

- Despite the strategic theme of “Improving Lives through Data Ecosystems” migration data remains very much un-integrated
- Migration data is collected in Census using all the recommended questions
- Household Surveys are based on a nationally representative sample for the household survey program wherein migration modules are inserted from time to time
- Administrative Data around migration are highly fragmented
- NPR only covers citizens and permanent residents

# Problems with Integration

- Administrative data does not have anonymised personal identification
- Data sharing is very cumbersome and subjected to MoU which are time consuming and often dysfunctional
- Data owners do not acknowledge that data can be used for statistical purposes and prefer to rely on data from NSO
- Household surveys and Census do not include personal identifiers for it to be integrated with other sources
- Macro integration for comparison across sources does take place but often data is not comparable. Eg. Census vs IEC
- Integration does take place within NSO by cooperation between divisions related to migration
- Private sector data sharing is not existent due to intellectual property concerns

# Available Data

- Census module (2011)
- Household Surveys (2012/2017)
- Documented migrants (Permits – up to 2015)
- “Tourism and Migration” series (Human movement records – Monthly)
- Mid-Year Population Estimates Migration Matrix

**Table 9: Estimated provincial migration streams 2016–2021**

Province in 2016	Province in 2021									Out-migrants	In-migrants	Net migration
	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NC	NW	WC			
EC	0	13 130	147 216	98 999	14 097	16 907	8 142	37 832	176 181	512 504	192 839	-319 665
FS	8 606	0	83 753	8 023	6 688	11 004	9 259	24 258	12 453	164 042	134 907	-29 135
GP	52 253	40 607	0	70 587	103 823	83 037	12 677	111 615	98 673	573 271	1 564 861	991 590
KZN	26 274	12 718	231 202	0	9 873	37 878	8 879	12 074	34 468	373 366	288 998	-84 367
LP	4 598	5 959	354 909	8 447	0	48 647	2 659	33 135	11 605	469 960	281 289	-188 671
MP	5 394	5 577	143 825	13 504	25 051	0	2 482	14 343	10 465	220 641	283 137	62 496
NC	4 598	9 245	17 413	5 898	2 763	4 681	0	13 244	18 994	76 837	88 433	11 596
NW	5 407	12 274	112 809	6 359	20 723	12 386	24 594	0	9 501	204 053	320 679	116 626
WC	53 745	8 473	65 819	13 882	6 132	7 700	13 528	8 858	0	178 136	470 657	292 521
<b>Outside SA (net migration)</b>	<b>31 965</b>	<b>26 925</b>	<b>407 915</b>	<b>63 299</b>	<b>92 140</b>	<b>60 896</b>	<b>6 214</b>	<b>65 320</b>	<b>98 317</b>			

# MYPE and possible integration

- Uses migration rates from preceding Census and applies to population of a given year
- If administrative sources of good quality were available this could assist in adjusting these rates
- Electoral data is available but these have limitation in terms of who it covers
- Education data is able to tell the place of birth of the student
- Municipal data can indicate consumers of services but it covers only formal housing
- Available data sources do not integrate with each other

# What is needed

- Data sharing – current practice of entering into agreements with separate departments is cumbersome, covered in red tape and ineffective
- Related to data sharing is the question of confidentiality which all claim to protect particularly now with POPI Act in force
- Administrative will – like political will but a need to understand that admin data collection is not only for internal purposes but for statistical reporting too
- Personal identifier for linking purposes – SA ID number is only for citizens and permanent residents but what about other persons?

# Looking forward

- Get basics right with macro integration before we can even consider linking individuals in a micro integration manner appropriately. Ensure that migrant disaggregation is built into all relevant administrative data sources and that such sources are not just designed around internal migration
- Provide or ensure the provision of legal identity particularly for mixed migrants in a vulnerable situation
- Address irregular migrants who don't qualify for SA ID but would be hesitant to register on a personal identifier for integration with department providing services to them
- Ensure that migration is integrated into other themes in population statistics of an NSO



**THANK YOU**