The Role of Metadata in Census Data Dissemination

Presented

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Introduction

In discussing the Role of Metadata the following are significant:

- There is a growing need for comprehensive and easily accessible metadata to better understand the statistical data being presented.

- With the introduction of Websites and the increasing use of this medium to disseminate data a properly structured metadata system is required

- Need for standardization in the preparation of metadata as is done in the preparation of statistics.

Definition of Metadata

- Metadata is any information that is needed by people or systems to make proper and correct use of the real statistical data, in terms of capturing, reading, processing, interpreting, analysing and presenting the information (or any other use). In other words, statistical metadata is anything that might influence or control the way in which the core information is used by people or software.

- http://www.sasc.co.uk/

Data Dissemination

- Definition: Dissemination is the release to users of information obtained through a statistical activity. Context: Data dissemination consists of distributing or transmitting statistical data to users. Various release media are possible; for example: electronic format including the internet, CD-ROM, paper publications, files available to authorised users or for public use; fax response to a special request, public speeches, press releases.

Data Dissemination (Cont'd)

- Dissemination formats. Under the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), the concept of dissemination formats is divided into two categories: "hardcopy" and "electronic" publications, which detail the reference documents through which users may access the data described in the metadata and, where relevant, detailed components beyond the minimum prescribed.

The Case for Trinidad and Tobago

Overview

- The census is defined as the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analyzing and publishing demographic, social and statistical data at a specified time of all persons and living quarters in the country of Trinidad and Tobago

Overview

- The CSO has adhered to the principle of conducting decennial censuses since 1851.

- The legal authority to take a census is enshrined in the Statistics Act Chapter 19:02 (1982)

Primary Objective

- The primary objective of the census is to collect and disseminate detailed social and economic information for evidence-based planning.

Key Strength

- A key strength of the census is that it is the only data source that can provide important characteristics of small geographical areas and sub-populations

Project scope

- The project to conduct the census can be divided into three phases:
  - The pre enumeration phase
  - The enumeration phase
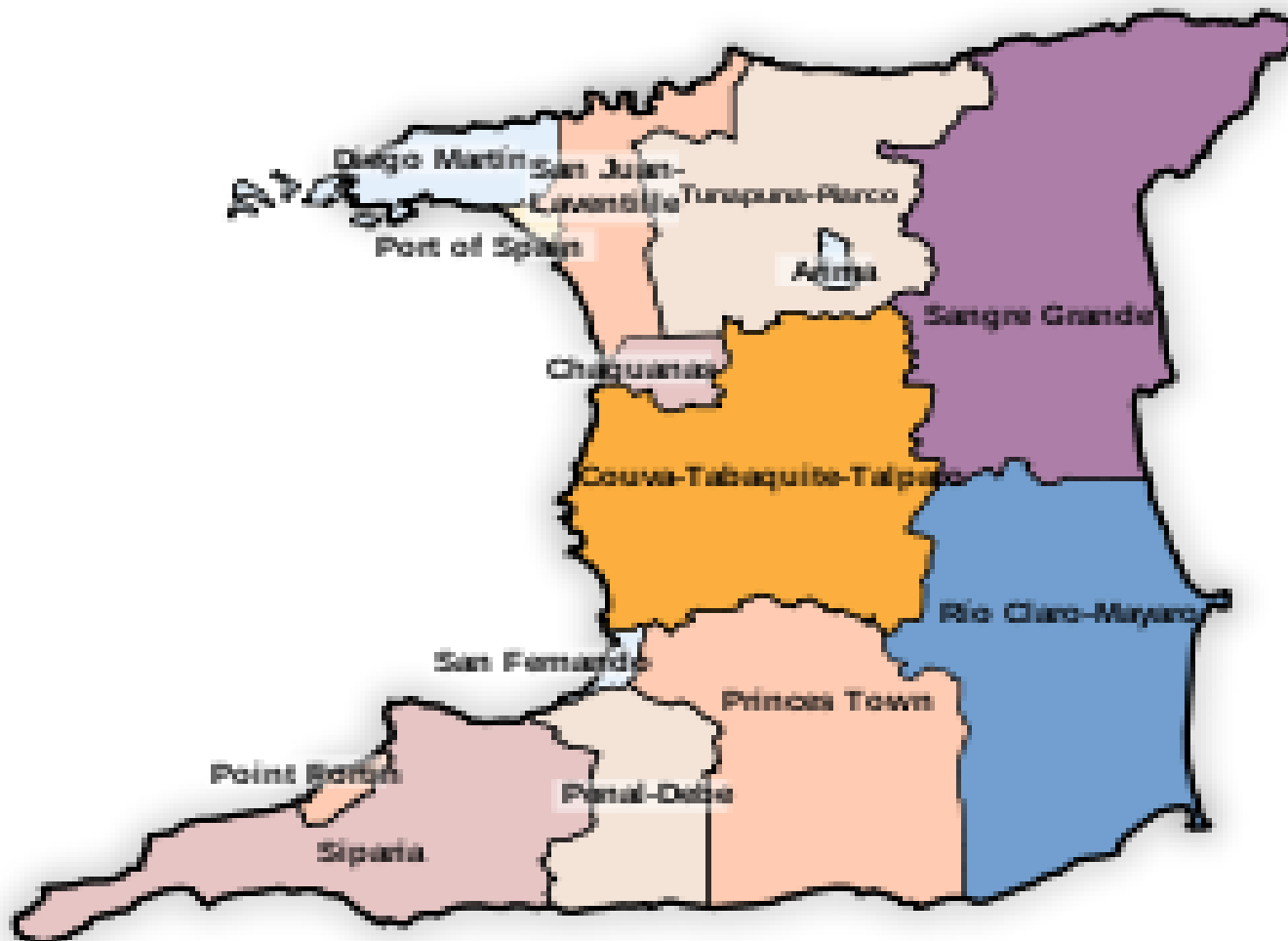 - The post enumeration phase

Pre Enumeration Phase

- Improvement of maps and listing exercises
- Preparation of a tabulation plan
- Questionnaire Design in collaboration with stakeholders
- Securing legal authority for the census
- Recruitment and training of staff
- Formulation of a Communications Strategy
- Printing of documents
- Formulation of strategies for data processing and dissemination

Enumeration Phase

- Trinidad ad Tobago is divided into fifteen (15) Regional Corporations and Municipalities.

- The estimated Number of Households to be enumerated was Three Hundred and Sixty-Three Thousand, Two Hundred and Four (363,204)

- Trained interviewers visited each household and was administered the census questionnaire. Members of households are referred to as the non institutional population

- An institutional questionnaire was administered to Institutions.

Regional Corporations and Municipalities

Post Enumeration Phase

- Data will be processed
- Data will be disseminated
- Seminars & Conferences will be held to discuss results

About the 2011 Census Questionnaire

- The content of the questionnaire was influenced by the decisions taken by the members of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee of the CARICOM Secretariat so that member countries will include certain common core questions. At the same time we have maintained certain traditional questions which would be important for analyzing changes over time. We have also included a few new topic areas such as Information and Communication Technology and the Environment.

About the 2011 Census Questionnaire (Cont'd)

- Consultations were also held with the Technical Advisory Committee which represents most of Line Ministries.

Topics on Census Questionnaire

- DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS
- MIGRATION
- DISABILITY
- HEALTH
- EDUCATION
- ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
- MARITAL STATUS

- FERTILITY
- CENSUS NIGHT
- INDIVIDUAL USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
- HOUSING
- ENVIRONMENT
- INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Census Data and the use of Metadata

❑ When Census data is disseminated an Administrative and Methodology Report is produced. This report deals extensively with Concepts and Definitions used in the Census and Details of Classifications for Occupation, Industry, Religion, Ethnicity and Geographic Areas. Copies of the Questionnaire and other important documents and manuals are also included in the Report.

Census Data and the use of Metadata (Cont'd)

❑ The National Socio-Economic database known as cTTinfo (DEVINFO based) is a database of statistical socio – economic indicators which is used to measure the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).It is also used to prepare our National Strategic Plan . cTTinfo is published on the CSO website and users can 'right-click' on any indicator and view metadata such as source, periodicity, unit measure etc. This database will be updated with Statistics and Indicators computed using data from the 2011 Census.

Methods to be used for Data Dissemination

- The results of the Census are released to the main stakeholders including the Media in a Data Dissemination Seminar.
- Press releases
- Via the CSO's website www.cso.gov.tt
- Printed Publications
- National Demographic Reports (produced by all CARICOM member states)
- Gender Bulletins
- Printed Maps
- Interactive Digital Maps
- Other Geographic Information Systems media

Software To Be Used For Data Processing and Dissemination

- Microsoft SQL
- Microsoft Excel
- SPSS
- REDATAM: From a large database such as the Census, Redatam enables you to retrieve sub-sets e.g. the number of Hindus in the country. It also allows you to disseminate data by villages and communities
- ARC GIS :The GIS Unit uses Census data and generates maps on Population Distribution, Household Distribution, Economic Activity ,Chronic illness and any other topic collected by the Census. Community maps are also produced using Census data and other data such as Social Infrastructure for planning purposes.

Conclusion

- It is anticipated that this seminar would initiate the groundwork for standardization of Census metadata

- Users of Census data should become more aware of the role of metadata in their interpretation of such data