## Demographic and other recent statistical sources for India

### Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Census (1871-2001)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Civil registration (from the 19th Century)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample registration system (1970-)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Family and Health Surveys (NFHS)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>India Human Development Survey (IHDS)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reproductive and Child Health Project (DLHS)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SRS surveys (1980s)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multiple Indicator Survey 2000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LSMS Survey of Uttar pradesh and Bihar</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See also: A comprehensive paper on health information in India*

### Other sources

*back to demographie.net site*
## Census of India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objectives</strong></th>
<th>Exhaustive survey of population and housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dates</strong></td>
<td>Started in 1871-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last census: 1 March 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frequency: decennial (no interruption), usually conducted in March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization and management</strong></td>
<td>Office of Registrar General of India, Delhi and regional offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enumeration conducted by temporary employees (including local officials)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sampling</strong></td>
<td>Operations: house numbering, house listing, population enumeration (Census), post-enumeration survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conducted at individual, household (and village) level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exhaustive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publication scale</strong></td>
<td>Data now published at village/tehsil/district/town/ state level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volume: more than one thousand volumes published every ten years (from district to country level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Census newsletter (PDF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publication</strong></td>
<td>Paper format: volumes of the Census of India (tables, analysis, special analyses)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old census volumes on microfiches (from 1871 to 1971)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electronic format: many tables on CD, some tables and reports on web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raw data: not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topics covered</strong></td>
<td>Socioeconomic and demographic characteristics (individual level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Housing amenities, household goods (household level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Infrastructure and land use data from other sources (village level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Web resources</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.censusindia.gov.in/">http://www.censusindia.gov.in/</a> (new reorganized website with tables, maps, publication list, some reports-including old ones-, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other sites</strong></td>
<td>More and more states have now their own Census websites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Check on google for &quot;Census + Andhra Pradesh&quot;, Himachal, Kerala, Orissa, Gujarat, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment</strong></td>
<td>Indispensable as the only exhaustive source on Indian population.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Limitations         | No raw data available  
|                    | Limited village data available  
|                    | Publication delays vary from one month to ten years  
| New features       | Tables immediately available from the web  
|                    | Census maps from the web  
|                    | New information included in 2001 Census (agriculture, mobility, etc.)  
|                    | Permanent location number  
|                    | La Trobe University has already scanned reports from 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901 censuses  

## Civil registration

### Objectives
- Exhaustive registration of vital events (births, deaths) with additional particulars

### Dates
- Started in the 19th century (1850s in some cities)  
- Currently running

### Organization and management
- Office of Registrar General of India, Delhi, and various state-level bodies (department of public health, statistics, etc.)  
- Enumeration conducted by local officials in rural areas  
- Voluntary registration in urban areas (taluk office, etc.)

### Sampling
- Registration of all births and deaths

### Publication scale
- Data published at district/town/ state level.  
- Data may also be published at lower level (urban wards, taluk, etc.) in specific states  
- Volume: one volume per year for India.  
- Information at state level may be included in State reports.

### Publication
- Paper format: *Civil registration in India* series  
- Electronic format: some tables may be available on various web site  
- Raw data: not available
**Topics covered**
- Births: sex, age of mother, etc.
- Deaths: sex, age, cause of death, etc.
- No data available on migration, marriage, divorce, etc.

**Web resources**
- [www.censusindia.net](http://www.censusindia.net) (very limited information available)
- More and more information available on specific State website. See for example for Delhi or Gujarat, but on the whole, it is a matter of luck.

**Assessment**
- Indispensable as the only potentially exhaustive source on births and deaths

**Limitations**
- Coverage and registration level vary from somewhat reliable to very poor
- Publication delays vary from five years to ten years
- Detailed cross tabulations not available

**New features**
- Major improvements in the CR system are now under way with the launching of the 2003 campaign on birth certificates (see information)
- Unpublished district-wise data may be available at the ORG in Delhi if you meet the right people at the right moment (avoid tea time)

---

**Sample Registration System (SRS)**

**Objectives**
- Sample registration of vital events (births, deaths) with additional particulars
- Provides estimated vital rates to supplement defective civil registration

**Dates**
- Started in 1964-65 (pilot surveys), operational since 1970
- Currently running
- Frequency: annual reports based on continuous enumeration of vital events

**Organization and management**
- Office of Registrar General of India, Delhi, and regional offices
- Enumeration conducted by temporary employees (including local officials)

**Sampling**
- Conducted at individual, household (and village) level.
- Sample (state level and rural/urban): 6671 units in 2000 (2235 urban units) covering 6.3 million people (1.4 in urban areas)

**Publication scale**
- Data published at state level (with rural/urban differentials)
- Volume: one volume per year.
- SRS bulletin (annual)
- Additional volumes: special studies (life tables, compendia, etc.)

**Publication**
- Paper format: annual volume (tables, analysis) and special analyses
- Electronic format: some more tables on the web
| **Topics covered** | *Births:* sex, age of mother, rank, etc.  
*Deaths:* sex, age, cause of death, etc.  
*Medical attendance at delivery, death*  
*special studies on SRS data (life tables, etc.)*  
*No data available on economic status, marriage, divorce, etc.* |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.censusindia.net">www.censusindia.net</a> (latest information available for 2004)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Assessment** | *Indispensable as the only dependable estimates on regional birth and deaths rates (including infant, child and maternal mortality)*  
*Good quality of estimates (with regional and temporal variation though)*  
*Special reports available (but alas not on the web)* |
| **Limitations** | *Data published only at state level*  
*No raw data available* |
| **New features** | *Samples renewed*  
*Data more regularly published on the Census website* |

### National and Family Health Surveys (NFHS)

| **Objectives** | *Large-scale survey on reproductive health*  
*Provides estimates on health and demographic behaviour at state level* |
| **Dates** | *NFHS 1 in 1992-93*  
*NFHS 2 in 1998-99*  
*NFHS 3 in 2005-06* |
| **Organization and management** | *IIPS, Mumbai, is the coordinating agency (with USAID, ORC Macro, East-West Center)*  
*State surveys conducted by Population Research Centres, private organizations etc.*  
*Enumeration conducted by temporary employees after intensive training* |
### Sampling
- Conducted at individual, household (and community) level.
- Sample size for NFHS 2: 89199 women, 91196 households in all states

### Publication scale
- Data published at state level (with rural/urban differentials)
- Volume: one volume per state. Additional studies also available

### Publication
- Paper format: regional and national volumes (tables, analysis) and special analyses
- Electronic format: most reports available on the web (PDF format)
- Raw data: available on CD (can also be downloaded from the web)

### Topics covered
- Reproductive health: nuptiality, fertility, family planning, maternal and natal care, aids awareness, nutrition, etc.

### Website
- [www.nfhsindia.org/](http://www.nfhsindia.org/) (all published reports)
- [www.measuredhs.com/](http://www.measuredhs.com/) (access to raw data)

### Assessment
- The major source on health and demographic behaviour at the individual and regional level. Provides more information than any other demographic survey
- State reports published and available for download
- Raw data available for further research

### Limitations
- Data published only at state level (or substate units), but not available for districts or cities
- Data quality varies
- Geographical information is still sparse

### New features
- NFHS 2 made available in less than 2 years
- NFHS 3 covers quite a lot of new ground (including aids)

---

### India Human Development Survey (IHDS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Household survey on demography, education, economic status and social capital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Dates            | HDS/HDPI (1994)  
### Organization and management
- University of Maryland
- Fieldwork conducted by NCAER, New Delhi, is the supervising agency

### Sampling
- 33,330 households (1994 survey)
- 41,554 representative households in 33 States and UTs (2005 sample)
- Includes a resurvey of half the 1994 household during the 2005 survey

### Publication scale
- Data published at national level with district estimates
- India volume published and additional (state or district) volumes scheduled

### Publication
- *Human Development in India: Challenges for a Society in Transition*, descriptive report to be published by Oxford University Press in 2009
- Working papers and technical reports also available
- Raw data: available from the IHDS site

### Topics covered
- Income and Poverty, Agriculture, Employment, Assets and Amenities
- Education and Human Capital, Health Care,
- Gender, Village Development, Social Safety Nets

### Website
- [http://ihds.umd.edu/](http://ihds.umd.edu/) (rich website that includes reports, questionnaires, publications, etc.).

### Assessment
- A rich and innovative survey on socioeconomic and demographic change in India
- Raw data available

### Limitations
- Limited number of demographic indicators

### New features
- 2005 Round includes further dimensions and a larger sample

---

### Reproductive and Child Health - District Level Household Survey (Rapid Household Survey)

#### Objectives
- District-level survey on reproductive and child health and on government services

#### Dates
- RHS 1 (DLHS 1) in 1998-99 (in two phases)
### DLHS 2 in 2002-03 (in two phases)
- DHLS 3 in (2007-08)

### Organization and management
- IIPS, Mumbai, is the coordinating agency
- State surveys conducted by Population Research Centres, private organizations etc.
- Enumeration conducted by temporary employees after intensive training

### Sampling
- Conducted at individual and household level.
- 1000 to 1500 households per district with 474 463 women and 257 245 men interviewed

### Publication scale
- Data published at national level with district estimates
- India volume published and additional (state or district) volumes scheduled

### Publication
- Paper format: regional and national volumes (tables, analysis)
- Electronic format: a few reports are available on the web (PDF format)
- Raw data: available on CD from IIPS

### Topics covered
- Ante Natal Care (ANC) and other health services, demographic behaviour, family planning, awareness about RTI/STI and HIV/AIDS, user's satisfaction
- Health Infrastructure (trained staff, equipment, etc.)

### Website
- [http://www.rchiips.org/](http://www.rchiips.org/) (new quality website that includes national reports from DLHS 1, 2 and 3 as well as regional reports).
- see also: [http://mohfw.nic.in/dofw%20website/dofw.htm](http://mohfw.nic.in/dofw%20website/dofw.htm) which includes some of the results as well as other statistics from the department of Family Welfare.

### Assessment
- An unique source to assess the quality of government health services
- One of the largest data source on demographic change in India
- Data available at district level (raw data available on request)

### Limitations
- Quality unknown

### New features
- Round 2 includes further dimensions (nutritional status, attitude of husbands)
### SRS surveys (in brief)

| Name and managing agency | SRS surveys on mortality and fertility  
|                          | Surveys conducted from the SRS sample by the ORG (see above for details on SRS) |
| Year and place           | 1972 and 1979 for all states |
| Sampling                 | Conducted on the SRS sample at state level (with urban/rural differentials) |
| Publication              | Paper format: national volumes (tables, analysis)  
|                          | No electronic format  
|                          | Raw data not available |
| Topics covered           | Mortality (1979)  
|                          | Fertility (1972, 1979) |
| Observations             | The first reliable all-India surveys before the NFHS)  
|                          | Limited data available |

### MICS-2000 (in brief)

| Name and managing agency | Multiple Indicator Survey 2000  
|                         | Surveys designed by Unicef to assess the situation of children at the end of the century  
|                          | Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resources Development |
| Year and place           | 2000 for all states |
| Sampling                 | 119305 households for India  
|                          | Stratified by state and urban/rural |
| Publication              | Summary report published in November 2001  
|                          | No raw data available so far  
| Topics covered | • Household characteristics  
|               | • School attendance, health status, nutrition, education, family planning, morbidity, registration of births |

### Uttar Pradesh and Bihar: Survey of Living Conditions

| Name and managing agency | • Uttar Pradesh and Bihar 1997-98: Survey of Living Conditions  
|                         | • This study utilized both qualitative methods – rapid rural appraisal (RRA) & participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methodologies, and semi-structured interviews – as well as quantitative methods drawing on data collected from household and community surveys modeled after the World Bank’s Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) surveys. |
| **Year and place**      | • 1997-1998 in Bihar and UP |
| **Sampling**            | • 25 districts 120 villages 2,250 households  
|                         | • South and eastern Uttar Pradesh and north and central Bihar. |
| **Publication**         | • No report available  
|                         | • For work derived from it, see [http://www.worldbank.org/lsms/research/country3.html](http://www.worldbank.org/lsms/research/country3.html)  
| **Topics covered**      | • Household characteristics: composition, income, agricultural production, expenses, food vulnerability, reproductive health  
|                         | • Village characteristics (infrastructures, migration, accessibility). |