

Basic Demographic and Fertility Concepts and Definitions

Regional Training on Using Population Census Data for Planning and Decision Making; *Thematic Analysis on Youth*

e-Learning Phase: 22 July – 2 August 2013

Outlines

I. Age



II. Marital status



III. Fertility

- a. *Children ever born alive*
- b. *Children living*
- c. *Date of birth of last child born alive*
- d. *Age, date or duration of first marriage*
- e. *Age of mother at birth of first child born alive*



Age



- *Age* is the interval of time between the date of birth and the date of the census, *expressed in completed solar years*.
- Information on age may be secured either by obtaining the *date* (year, month and day) *of birth* or by asking directly for *age at the person's last birthday*
- The "*date of birth*" method yields more precise information and should be used whenever circumstances permit

Age



- Children under one year of age, must be given “*zero year of age*” rather than “one year”
- In spite of its drawbacks, the direct question on age is the only one to be used when people cannot provide even a birth year.
- Individuals aged 15 to 24 years are considered *youth*.



Marital status; concepts

- **Marital status** is the personal status of each individual in relation to the *marriage laws or customs of the country*. The categories of marital status to be identified are at least the following:
 - (a) *Single, in other words, never married;*
 - (b) *Married;*
 - (c) *Widowed and not remarried;*
 - (d) *Divorced and not remarried;*
 - (e) *Married but separated.*



Marital status; *concepts*

- In some countries, category (b) may require a subcategory of persons who are *contractually married* but not yet living as man and wife.
- In all countries, category (e) should comprise both the legally and the de facto separated, who may be shown as separate subcategories if desired.
- The concept of marital status should not be confused with the concept of *de facto union status* which describes extralegal unions (including some consensual unions) of varying degrees of stability common in some countries.



Marital status; *concepts*

- The information on *de facto union* which may exist outside marriage are important for fertility studies.

So,

- Countries which wish to use these information should collect separate data for each person on this type of union and duration



Fertility

- The investigation of *fertility* in population censuses is particularly important in countries lacking a timely and reliable system of vital statistics
- Census can provide data on some of the topics (“*children born alive*”, “*children living*”, and “*age at marriage or union*”) that are not easily available from registration data.



Fertility

- The *universe* for which data should be collected for each of the topics included in this section consists of *women 15 years of age and over* regardless of marital status.
- In countries that do not use the data for women 50 years of age and over, it may be appropriate to limit data collection to women under the age of 50.



Fertility

- IMPORTANT: The data in the basic census tabulations should not be used for the *direct calculation of fertility rates*. Reliable estimation of fertility levels using census data requires *adjustment* based on methods of demographic analysis.
- Among proposed items, only “*children ever born alive*” is recommended to be included in all population censuses and others have lower priority.



Fertility; Children ever born alive

- Information on number of children born alive (*lifetime fertility*) should include all children born alive (that is to say, *excluding foetal deaths*) during the life time of the woman concerned up to the census date
- The number recorded *should include all live-born children, by sex*, whether born in or out of marriage, whether born in the present or a prior marriage, or in a de facto union, or whether living or dead at the time of the census.



Fertility; *Children living*

- Data on *children living* , in conjunction with those on children ever born are used in indirect estimation of *infant and child mortality* in situations where there are no reliable data from a civil registration.
- It is expected that improved coverage and quality of data on the total number of children ever born will be achieved if *more detailed questions* about the current residence of children ever born are asked



Fertility; *Date of birth of last child born alive*

- Information on date of birth (day, month and year) of the last child born alive and on the sex of the child is used for estimating *current fertility*.
- For estimating current age-specific fertility rates and other fertility measures, the data provided by this approach are more accurate than information from questions on the number of births to a woman during the 12 months immediately preceding the census.



Fertility; *Date of birth of last child born alive*

- This information needs to be collected only for women between 15 and 50 years of age who have reported having at least one live birth during their lifetime.



Fertility; *Date of birth of last child born alive*

- This information needs to be collected only for women *between 15 and 50 years of age who have reported* having at least one live birth during their lifetime.
- Also, the information should be collected for all the marital or union status categories of women for whom data on children ever born by sex are collected.



Fertility; Age, date or duration of first marriage

- In countries where date of first marriage is difficult to obtain, it is advisable to collect information on *age at marriage* or on *how many years ago* the marriage took place
- Include not only contractual first marriages and de facto unions but also *customary marriages* and *religious marriages*.
- For women who are widowed, separated or divorced at the time of the census, “date of/age at/ *number of years since dissolution* of first marriage” should be secured.



Fertility;

Age of mother at birth of first child born alive

- Age of mother at the time of the birth of her first live-born child is used for the indirect estimation of fertility based on first births and to provide information on onset of childbearing and also for the indirect estimation of child mortality.
- If the topic is included in the census, information should be obtained for *each woman who has had at least one child born alive*.

Thank you