

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What do you mean by vital statistics?

Answer: Vital statistics is defined as the branch of biometry, which deals with data, and the laws of human mortality, morbidity and demography. The term vital statistics refers to the numerical data or the techniques used in the analysis of vital statistical data.

2. What do you mean by vital events?

Answer: Vital events means events of human life such as fertility and mortality (deaths & births), marriage, divorce, separation, adoptions, legitimating, etc.

3. What does the term demography mean?

Answer: Demography is the statistical study of human populations and sub-populations. It can be a very general science that can be applied to any kind of dynamic human population, that is, one that changes over time or space.

4. Where can we apply the demographic analysis?

Answer: Demographic analysis can be applied to whole societies or to groups defined by criteria such as education, nationality, religion and ethnicity. Institutionally, demography is usually considered a field of sociology, though there are a number of independent demography departments.

5. What is the object of formal demography study?

Answer: Formal demography limits its object of study to the measurement of populations processes, while the broader field of social demography population studies also analyze the relationships between economic, social, cultural and biological processes influencing a population.

6. What are the three main sources of demographic and social statistics?

Answer: The three main sources of demographic and social statistics are censuses, surveys and administrative records.

7. What is a direct data?

Answer: Direct data come from vital statistics registries that track all births and deaths as well as certain changes in legal status such as marriage, divorce, and migration (registration of place of residence). In developed countries with good registration systems (such as the United States and much of Europe), registry statistics are the best method for estimating the number of births and deaths.

8. What is census method?

Answer: A census is the other common direct method of collecting demographic data. A census is usually conducted by a national government and attempts to enumerate every person in a country. Censuses typically occur every 10 years or so. Thus, they are not usually the best source of data on births and deaths.

9. What type of information is collected through census?

Answer: Censuses do more than just counting people. They typically collect information about families or households in addition to individual characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, literacy/education, employment status, and occupation, and geographical location.

10. What are the different types of modeling population process?

Answer: There are varieties of demographic methods for modeling population processes. They include models of mortality (including the life table, Gompertz models, hazards models, Cox proportional hazards models, multiple decrement life tables, Brass relational logits), fertility (Hernes model, Coale-Trussell models, parity progression ratios), marriage (Singulate Mean at Marriage, Page model), disability (Sullivan's method, multistate life tables), population projections (Lee Carter, the Leslie Matrix), and population momentum (Keyfitz).

11. What is the reason for conducting census?

Answer: The main reason censuses are carried out by so many countries is because a population census is the only data source which collects information from each individual and each set of living quarters, normally for the entire country or a well-defined territory of the country.

12. What are administrative records?

Answer: Important data source that is commonly used in many countries is administrative records. The statistics compiled from various administrative processes can be very valuable to the overall national statistical system. Many social statistics are produced as a by-product of these administrative processes.

13. What is civil registration system?

Answer: Countries that have established a civil registration and vital statistics system with reasonable completeness should be able to produce vital statistics reports from the system periodically, such as number of live births by sex, date and place of births, complete with the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the mother and father.

14. What is the advantage of having a comprehensive civil registration system?

Answer: Advantage for countries having a comprehensive civil registration is the sense of awareness and appreciation that the general population tends to have on the importance of legal document, vital statistics, and administrative disciplines.

15. What does a population register maintain?

Answer: A population register system maintains central databases of every individual in the country that are continuously updated when there are changes in the characteristics of the individual.