**CHS 224**

**Sources of Demographic Data (1)**

**(1) Censuses**

**Censuses:**

Census—The total process of collecting, compiling, analyzing, and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic, and social data pertaining to all persons in a country or in a well-delineated part of a country at a specified time

* A census is usually conducted by a national government and attempts to enumerate every person in a country

**Essential Characteristics**

* Universality
* Simultaneity
* Individual enumeration

**Content**

A census contains: –

* Demographic data (at least age and sex)
* Economic data (e.g., occupation and income)
* Social (e.g., education and housing)

**Data Collection Procedures**

* Establish administrative tree (census officers, supervisors, enumerators)
* Develop questionnaire(s)
* Define enumeration areas
* Pretest enumeration processes
* Design data processing system
* Enumeration

**Cost**

Estimates

* $10 per head in the U.S.
* $1 per head in most developing countries

The cost is high, but not having the information may be more costly

**Types of censuses:**

**A census can be conducted:**

* De jure: Legal or customary attachment to an area (you are registered where you usually reside)
* De facto: Physical residence (you are registered where you are currently staying/residing at the time of the census)

**Advantages**

* Universal, hence small area data available
* National effort
* Provides frame for later sample surveys
* Provides population denominators

**Disadvantages**

* Size limits content and quality control efforts
* Cost limits frequency
* Delay between field work and results

Censuses typically occur only every 10 years or so, and thus are not usually the best source of data on births and deaths

**(2) Surveys**

**Purpose**

Obtain information from a sample representative of some population

**Content**

* Varies widely e.g., fertility, child mortality, migration

**Essential Characteristics**

* Representative sample of population
* Smaller size than census allows collection of more in-depth information that can then be generalized

**Advantages**

* Can be quick
* Surveys are less expensive than censuses and civil registration (smaller size allows for quick collection of more in-depth information than any of the other two systems)Flexible
* Can include detailed data

**Disadvantages**

Misses certain types of events