

Evaluation and adjustment of demographic data using Nigerian-selected censuses and surveys

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Abstract

Robust policymaking and programme implementation in low-, middle- and high-income countries require timely and reliable demographic data. Also, implementation of evidence-based socioeconomic and public health planning relies heavily on complete and accurate data. In Africa, censuses, civil registration and vital statistics, and specialized surveys are the major sources of demographic data. The quality of demographic data in Nigeria – the most populous African country, cannot be taken at face value – they need interrogation, evaluation, and possibly some adjustment to ascertain their quality and sensible use. Thus, this study assessed the quality of selected Nigeria demographic data. Data for the study came from available censuses (1991 and 2006 censuses) and surveys (Demographic and Health Surveys of 1999, 2003, 2013, and 2018). The implications of emerging results in terms of data quality for the socio-economic planning and development of Nigeria's critical sectors are discussed.

Extended abstract

Reliable and timely demographic data are a critical sine qua non for achieving a nation's socioeconomic and developmental goals. Without appropriate and timely use of demographic data for national planning, a country's aspiration for a high level of socioeconomic development will remain a mirage. Thus, effective policymaking and programme implementation require high-quality demographic data (Adedini *et al.*, 2021; United Nations, 2022). Developmental planning and governance in the 21st century must be data-driven, as none of the Sustainable Development Goals and other national and international agendas can be achieved without the use of relevant data to monitor the country's progress and performance. Hence, the implementation of evidence-based socioeconomic and public health planning relies heavily on complete and accurate data. In Africa, censuses, civil registration, and vital statistics (CRVSs) as well as specialized surveys are the major sources of demographic data. In Nigeria – the most populous African country, the quality of demographic data cannot be taken at face value, they need interrogation, evaluation, and possibly some adjustment to ascertain their quality and sensible use. Thus, this study assessed the quality of selected Nigerian demographic data and undertook some data adjustments, where necessary. Data for this study came from available censuses (1991 and 2006 censuses) and surveys (Demographic and Health Surveys of 1999, 2003, 2013, and 2018). The implications of emerging

results (in terms of data quality) for the socio-economic planning and development of Nigeria's critical sectors are discussed.

Keywords: Demographic data; evaluation; adjustment; census; surveys; socioeconomic planning

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