



Changing census by combining administrative sources and sample surveys

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The increased use of administrative data for statistical purposes can generate a range of benefits. A decennial census is a too big and no more sustainable “one shoot” survey. The challenge is to move towards a new approach joining a more intensive use of administrative sources together with sample surveys rotating through a multi-year period of time census in order to produce census outputs every year.

In the new Italian census, the *censimento permanente*, the waves of two different sample surveys (the C-sample and the D-sample survey) will be combined with administrative data to achieve the two main objectives of census operations:

- counting usual residents and producing key data on demographic structure of population and households (C objective);
- producing socio economic census data (D objective).

The two surveys are very different for scope and features. The most serious issues to face over the next years will be aging population and migrants. The quality of population counts in its different components, will have huge consequences for our societies — in particular, the funding of pensions, social structures. The C-sample survey is specifically designed to estimate yearly, the population counts, referring, to demographic structure (sex, age, marital status, citizenship).

The D-sample survey is designed to estimate socio economic data of households and individuals, in order to accomplish national and international requirements. The main aim is to collect core topics variables which need to be collected in compliance with U.E Regulations and are not available in population registers. Besides, the D-sample survey would meet user needs and would provide more frequent updates, removing the decline in accuracy over the decade. Most notably, individuals, businesses, and institutions will benefit through statistical offices' use of existing information that would otherwise need to be collected from them again through costly and duplicative surveys. Statistical offices will benefit from relying on more consistent tools to more efficiently employ administrative data in their statistical programs. Administrative data and big data can help also in increasing the amount of small area data and allow the construction of new measures for policies. Finally, the increased use of administrative data will enhance statistical offices' ability to build evidence on which to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs and policies.

Efforts will be put into place to identify areas which will be more fruitful to cover with new information.

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