

# UNECE Task Force on Measuring Older Populations in Institutions

Fiona Willis-Núñez  
UNECE Statistical Division

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STATISTICS





# What's the issue?

- Most statistics on ageing-related topics come from household surveys
  - These focus on private households and exclude those living in institutions, by design
- Populations of older persons living in institutions can be significant
  - And even if small, bias can still be large if there is strong correlation between a particular characteristics and likelihood of living in an institution

→ **systematic bias in statistics**



# Aims of the Task Force

- Review current practice
  - Definitions and classifications of institutions (as they pertain to older people)
  - Assess alignment with Census Recommendations
  - Review countries' approaches to identification & sampling, access, use of proxy respondents
  - Identify good practices
- Assess bias
  - To see how far it matters (statistically speaking) to omit institutional populations



# Work undertaken

- ✓ Info from TF countries on current situation, practices & challenges
- ✓ Survey for all UNECE countries: 36 additional responses
- ✓ Distilled 5 work packages from survey responses



# Work packages

1. Definitions
2. Assessing bias
3. Methods for using administrative data
4. Instrument design and survey methods
5. Ethical issues



Social



# Key findings & recommendations

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### Definitions

- Large proportion of countries follow the Census Recommendations' definition wholly or in part
- Fluidity and evolution of institutions makes them hard to define
- Currently: defined by what they are not! Recommend defining on basis of services provided
- Recommend publishing data disaggregated by type on institution

### Bias

- Extent of bias is a product of relative size of institutional population and size of institutional-private difference

### Methods

- Admin sources can't fill all gaps but can help reduce burden of surveys
- Sampling, selection and interviewing have to be adapted to specific needs

# Thank you for your attention!

[fiona.willis-nunez@un.org](mailto:fiona.willis-nunez@un.org)

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