Joint UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Registers and Administrative Records for Social and Demographic Statistics

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service and the Quality of Administrative Sources

Structure of the Presentation

➢ background on the Neighbourhood Statistics Service;

➢ sources of information;

➢ quality issues and the use of administrative data;

➢ a specific example.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service

Key Objectives:

➢ systematic programme of data collection on a continuous basis;

➢ a range of statistical estimates where better sources are not available;

➢ a common geographic referencing framework; and

➢ a high quality, high performance IT infrastructure.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service

Scope:

➤ to work with central and local government and other data owners in the public sector;

➤ to bring together statistics collected routinely for administrative purposes;

➤ to provide information on a consistent basis at small area level; and

➤ to ensure that a range of users can make effective use of the information for policy and other purposes.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service

Main Benefits:

➢ easy and ready access to a comprehensive and up-to-date information base;

➢ better design and targeting of policies;

➢ improved monitoring and evaluation of programmes; and

➢ a wider public user base for official statistics.

Sources of Information

Information will include:

➢ statistics collated by central government departments;

➢ local government administrative data;

➢ results from the 2001 Census; and

➢ small area estimates based on modelled survey and other sources.

Information will cover nine domains:

- access to services;
- community well being/social environment;
- crime;
- economic deprivation;
- education, skills and training;
- health;
- housing;
- physical environment; and
- work deprivation.

Quality Issues and the Use of Administrative Data

Characteristics of Administrative Data:

➢ designed to meet specific operational requirements;

➢ information is often a by-product rather than a planned output;

➢ created and managed by a range of independent organisations; and

➢ subject to change.

Quality issues affecting administrative data:

➢ registration and recording practices;

➢ continuity;

➢ data definitions and classifications; and

➢ validation and quality assurance.

Key Quality Attributes:

➢ relevance;

➢ accuracy;

➢ timeliness;

➢ accessibility;

➢ comparability;

➢ coherence; and

➢ completeness.

Key Quality Measures:

➢ Accuracy - measurement of error

      - coverage

      - processing error

➢ Relevance - meeting users' requirements

➢ Timeliness - is information up-to-date

      - frequency of updates

      - time lags or delays

➢ Accessibility - guidance on use of the data

      - provision of comprehensive metadata

An Example: Vital Statistics

Advantages

➤ statutory requirement;

➤ comprehensive checks;

➤ effective query resolution;

➤ 100% coverage;

➤ well established timetable for outputs;

➤ comprehensive advice and support.

Disadvantages

➤ data subject to individual variation;

➤ time lags;

➤ third party information;

➤ periodic fluctuations;

➤ confidentiality issues.

Conclusion

Current and future plans:

- ➢ existing data sets 27
- ➢ data sets under development 143
- ➢ potential data from local authorities 182
- ➢ priority data from local authorities 72