

CENSUS

- collected.
- * The census contains a mine of information ~~collected~~ on subjects not only demographic, but also social and economic characteristics of the people, the conditions under which they live, how they work, their income and other basic information.
 - * These data provide a frame of reference and base line for planning, action and research not only in the field of medicine, human ecology and social sciences but in the entire governmental system.
 - * Population census provides basic data (such as population by age and sex) needed to compute vital statistical rates and other health, demographic and socio-economic indicators.
 - * Without census data, it is not possible to obtain quantified health, demographic and socio-economic indicators.

CENSUS

- * Important source of health information
- * It is taken in most countries of the world at regular intervals, usually of 10 years.
- * defined by the United Nations as the ~~total~~ "the total process of collecting, compiling and publishing demographic, economic and social data pertaining at a specified period of time, to all persons in a country or delimited territory".
- * Census is a massive undertaking to contact every member of the population in a given time and collect a variety of information.
- * It needs considerable organization, a vast population and several years to analyse the results. This is the main drawback is the full results are usually not available quickly.
- * The first regular census in India was taken in 1868, and others took place at 10 year intervals. The last census was held in March 2011.
- * The census is usually conducted at the end of the first quarter of the first year in each decade, the reason being, most people are usually resident in their own homes during that period.
- * The legal basis of the census is provided by the Census Act of 1948. The supreme officer who directs, guides and operates the census is the Census Commissioner for India.
- * Although the primary function of census is to provide demographic information such as total count of population and its breakdown into groups and subgroups such as age and sex distribution, it represents only a small part of the total information.