StatsTalk-Africa

Beyond Big Data: Modernizing administrative data for statistical)

Tuesday, 30 January 2024

Information note

Background

The road map for the transformation and modernisation of official statistics in Africa 2023-2030 stresses the need to enhance the use of administrative data to achieve the desired state of national statistical systems. However, challenges and problems associated with this source of data - which include differences in units, concepts and definitions of variables; differences in classifications; inadequate data quality; and lack of statistical know-how[1] – still hinder their use for statistical purposes. Nevertheless, many African countries are considering producing statistics or filling some data gaps using administrative data.

The Nordic countries have a long tradition of using administrative registers in the production of official statistics, linking data from three core registers -the population register, the housing and dwelling register and the business register- to which other registers are connected, including the education register, environment register, tax register, health register and employment register. The system makes producing most of the statistics from administrative data easy. For instance, around 90% of all the statistics in Norway are based on administrative data sources; surveys are used only to supplement information not available in administrative registers. Also, a census can be conducted daily with register-based statistics. Other advantages include cost-effectiveness, reduced response burden, timeliness and frequency, coverage and completeness, and relevance.

Objective

This StatsTalk session aims to give the National Statistics Offices in Africa an understanding of register-based statistics and an example of a process put in place to use administrative registers to produce socio-demographic and economic statistics. The webinar will be important for countries planning to produce official statistics based on administrative data sources and registers; it will discuss the steps to follow, challenges to address, available resources to exploit and lessons learned from advanced countries.

Data and time

Tuesday, 30 January 2024, from 11:00 to 12:30hr EAT (GMT+3).

Language

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[1] Handbook on management of statistical organisations

This webinar will be in English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

Registration

Register in advance for this meeting here:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5RueIXy-QDWzHWQDRYlykA

Upon registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Contact persons

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StatsTalk-Africa is a monthly webinar series launched by the Africa Centre for Statistics as a space for dialogue about data, statistics, and innovative tools with data experts and users. It serves as a knowledge-sharing and exchange platform. It demystifies and promotes a greater understanding of key statistical concepts and alternative data sources that could be harnessed in the African context.