

Use of administrative data as a contingency plan to support the 2021 Census of Population

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The field operations of the next Canadian Census of Population will start in May 2021. Statistics Canada recognizes that the 2021 Census will likely occur before the impacts of COVID-19 have dissipated. Given the potential negative impacts of the pandemic on the 2021 Census collection, efforts are currently being deployed in developing contingency plans. One component of the contingency strategy is an increased use of administrative data to replace traditional enumeration for some dwellings. To do this, a Statistical Demographic Database (SDD) will be created using administrative sources such as various tax files, immigration files, and vital statistics files. The SDD will consist of a list of individuals living in Canada in May 2021 along with qualifying attributes like name, date of birth, sex and address. Quality indicators will be developed and dwellings with administrative data of high quality will be flagged in the frame as eligible for administrative data replacement. During the non-response follow-up operation (NRFU), if there is high non-response or low capacity to collect the data, NRFU could be stopped for some eligible dwellings – enumerators would no longer make any attempts for these dwellings, allowing resources to be reassigned to other non-responding dwellings. At the end of collection, if no Census response is obtained for these selected dwellings, then the associated SDD attributes would be used as responses. Several evaluations are underway to assess the impacts of this contingency plan. This presentation will focus on the quality indicators that are currently being developed to assess the quality of the administrative information associated to each dwelling and how to integrate these quality indicators in the decision process of the contingency plan.