

Growth, Development and Demography – Data Sources

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Data Sources

How does one find data on fertility, contraceptive use, divorce rates, education by sex, age at first marriage and so on? This hand-out gives an overview of data sources that have some demographic content. Most data is available for free.

1. United States

(a) US Census Data

Detailed micro data available every decade between 1850 and 2000. This is cross-section data, not a panel! Easily accessible through the Minnesota Population Center:

www.ipums.org

Can download ascii files, together with SAS, SPSS, or STATA code that reads in the data and applies labels.

(b) Current Population Survey (CPS)

Detailed micro data available monthly between 1962 and 2003. Basic monthly survey, plus topic supplements. Entire data sets and code books available from NBER's webpage:

<http://www.nber.org/data/cps.html>

A subset of the data is also available through IPUMS in a *much* nicer format (data is made compatible across time!):

<http://cps.ipums.org/cps/>

Note: this is a beta-version, so some errors are possible.

(c) Panel of Income Dynamics (PSID)

Longitudinal survey 1968-present, with focus on income dynam-

ics. Panel of roughly 5,000 to 7,000 families (has grown over time). Collected by the University of Michigan. Data is free, can download here:

<http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/>

(d) Consumer Expenditure Survey (CEX)

Quarterly data on 7,500 US households focusing on expenditures (in contrast to PSID, which focuses on income), 1984-2002. This is *not* a panel!

Basic tabulations available from the BLS:

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>

There is also a public use sample of the actual micro data.

(e) US Statistical Abstracts

Anything and everything you want to know about Americans. This is *not* in a format that can be easily downloaded. But it is a good source to look up unusual data and find out who collects them. <http://www.census.gov/library/publications/2011/compendia/statab/131ed.html>

(f) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>

Includes the National Survey of Family Growth (see below for details) and many other interesting surveys.

(g) National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY)

<http://www.bls.gov/nls/home.htm>

(h) National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)

The NSFG gathers information on family life, marriage and divorce, pregnancy, infertility, use of contraception, and men's and women's health. This data has been collected in irregular inter-

vals since 1973. Note that the NSFG is not a panel and the scope of the survey has expanded considerably since then.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/NSFG.htm>

(i) American Time Use Survey (ATUS)

<http://www.bls.gov/tus/>

Detailed data on how Americans spend their time, annual survey since 2003. This is a repeated cross-section, not a panel. Unfortunately, it is a survey of individuals, not households, which makes the analysis of household dynamics somewhat difficult. Older time use surveys are available for selected years, but not directly comparable to the ATUS.

2. Micro Data for other Countries

(a) A special issue of the *Review of Economic Dynamics* was devoted to analyzing consumption and income inequality in a variety of countries. The data is available from the RED webpage: <https://www.economicdynamics.org/si-cross-facts/>

(b) Census data (roughly second half of 20th century) is available through IPUMS for the following countries: China, Columbia, France, Kenya, Mexico, and Vietnam.

<https://international.ipums.org/international/>

(c) Most countries have their own national statistical offices, so if you do have a specific interest for a particular country, check out the official government website.

(d) Check this out for an overview of time use surveys in other countries (and note that some countries have in fact collected time use data for households, not just individuals):

<http://www.timeuse.org/information/studies/>

- (e) An interesting micro data set from Italy is the “Survey on Household Income and Wealth (SHIW). The SHIW began in the 1960s with the aim of gathering data on the incomes and savings of Italian households. Over the years, the scope of the survey has grown and now includes wealth and other aspects of households’ economic and financial behavior such as, for example, which payment methods are used. Information on expenditure is also available, similar to the CEX in the U.S. The sample used in the most recent surveys comprises about 8,000 households (24,000 individuals), distributed over about 300 Italian municipalities. <http://www.eui.eu/Research/Library/ResearchGuides/Economics/Statistics/DataPortal/SHIW.aspx>

3. Data for Developing Countries

- (a) Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) are available for a variety of African countries. DHS surveys are micro data sets for many countries and many years. A good starting point is the following webpage: <http://www.measuredhs.com/accesssurveys/search/start.cfm>
- (b) Panel data on HIV/AIDS in Malawi. Four waves are available by now: 1998, 2001, 2004, and 2006. Note that while the data is not representative of the entire country, it is (supposedly) representative of rural Malawi. <https://malawi.pop.upenn.edu/>

4. Cross Country Data

- (a) World Development Indicators (World Bank)
Cross-country data on many different topics, including basic economic variables, population related variables and some social indicators. Check it out, easy to use, you can either look at a specific

variable of interest very easily, or download an entire data extract as excel or ascii file.

Access from <http://data.worldbank.org/> or through the Stanford library.

- (b) OECD Gender, Institutions, and Development (GID) data base
Cross-country data on gender issues, such as education by gender, and index of property rights for women, violence against women, and more. <http://www.oecd.org/dev/poverty/genderinstitutionsanddevelopmentdatabase.htm>

- (c) Data on marriage, fertility, gender, etc. is available through the Population Reference Bureau (PRB):

<http://www.prb.org/>

lots of interesting data that is not available through other sources, for example on abortion policy. Good as a reference, but not available in a format that can be read into any other program.

- (d) The United Nations publish a lot of interesting data through its various subdivisions. There is a lot of duplication, and most of is also available through the WDI, but if there is something you can't find elsewhere, you may want to check those sources out:

- i. UN – Population division

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm>

- ii. UNDP - Human development indicators

Human Development Report available on-line:

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/>

Can download the data from here (pdf or excel):

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>

- iii. UNSD – Social Indicators <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/default.htm>

good reference, but not available to download, as far as I know. Most of the data is also available on a CD-ROM called “WiStat - Women Indicator Statistics,” but not for free, I believe.

iv. UN hard copies

3 interesting UN publications that are available only as hard copies:

Data sheet on “World Marriage Patterns 2000.”

“First Marriage: Patterns and Determinants,” 1988.

“Patterns of First Marriage: Timing and Prevalence,” 1990.

5. I am very interested in learning more about German data sets.