

Population Censuses and Migration Statistics

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Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

(g) Improve national data collection by **integrating migration-related topics into national censuses**, as early as practicable, such as on country of birth, country of birth of parents, country of citizenship, country of residence five years prior to the census, most recent arrival date and reason for migrating, to ensure timely analysis and dissemination of results, disaggregated and tabulated in accordance with international standards, for statistical purposes;

What will be covered

1. World Population and Housing Census Programme
2. Census topics relevant to immigration
3. Census topics relevant to emigration
4. Other considerations in administering census
5. Estimation of net international migration from censuses
6. The way forward



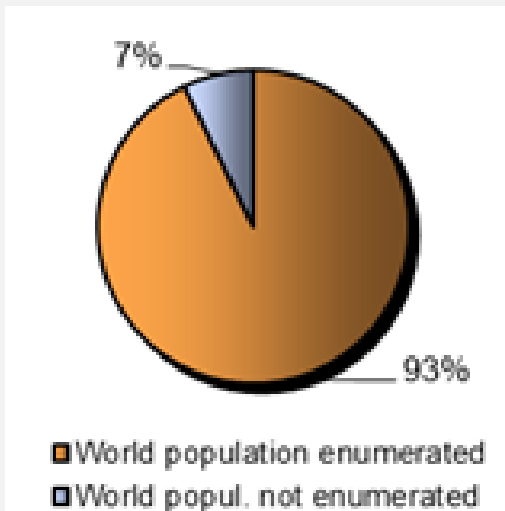
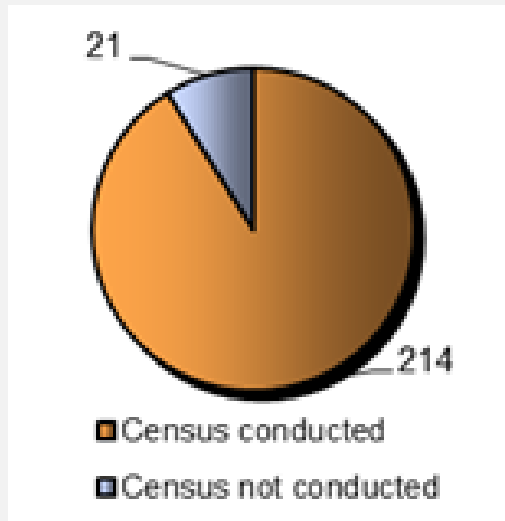
World Population and Housing Census Programme



World Population and Housing Census Programme

- The UN recognizes PH censuses as one of the main sources of data for development planning and objective decision-making
 - ➔ Counts every person in a country, including migrants
- The UN has encouraged countries in conducting census at least once in ten years (ex. 2005-2014), preferably in the year which ends with zero (ex. 2010).
 - ➔ Reference time of data is close
- The UN recommends a set of **core questions** to be included in a census
 - ➔ High comparability of information

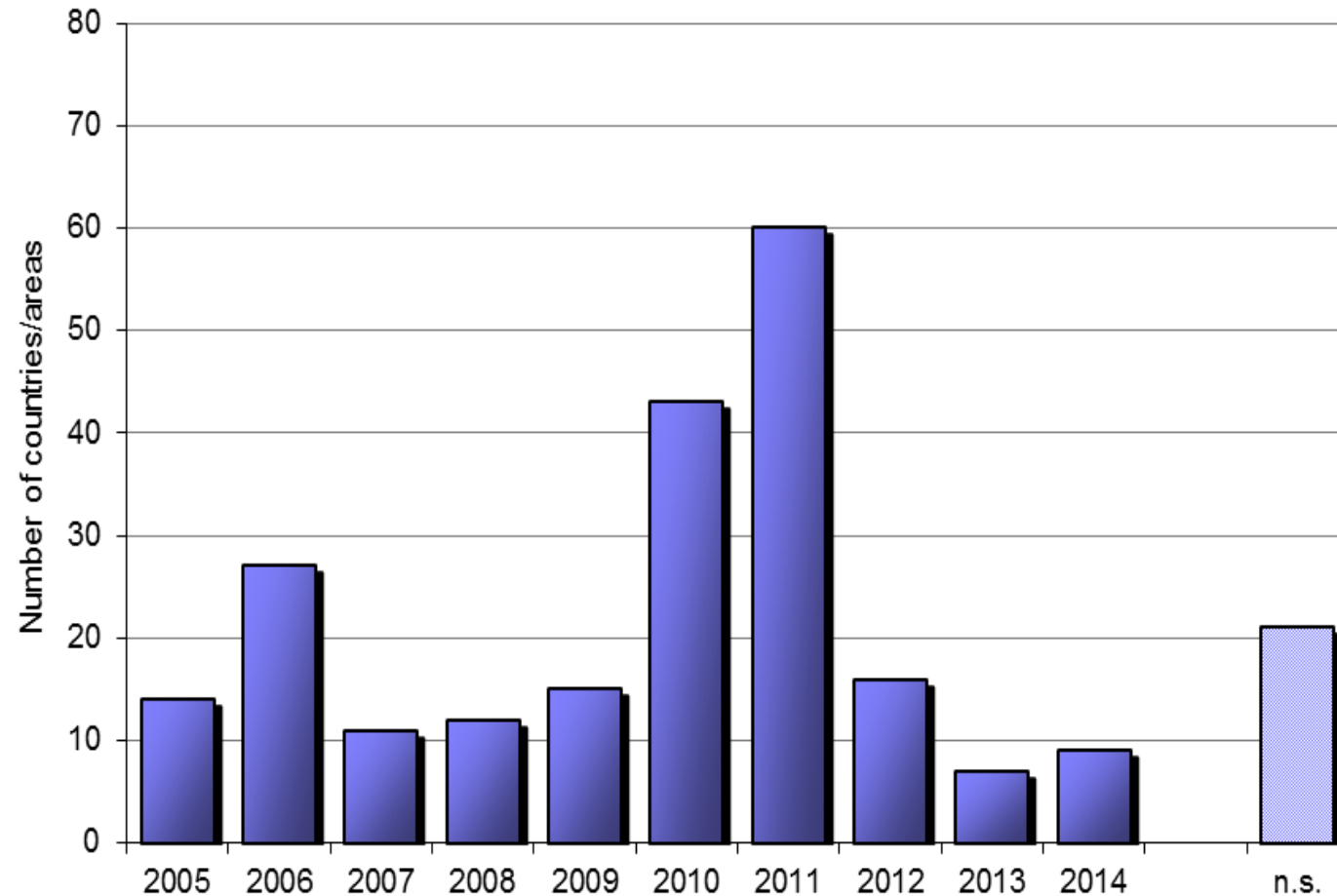
2010 Round of World Census Programme (2005-2014)



- 214 out of 235 countries or areas conducted a census
- Enumerating 6.4 billion people, or 93% of world population

2010 Round of World Census Programme

The majority of censuses carried out in 2010 or 2011



Census Topics Relevant to Immigration

Core topics relevant to immigration

❑ ***Country of birth***

❑ ***Country of citizenship***

- Citizenship acquisition as an additional topic

❑ ***Year or period of arrival in the country***

- First or most recent arrival
- Mainly for people born outside of the country; but could be relevant for native-born people when returned migrants are of interest

Note: ECE Recommendations include 1) ever-resided abroad and 2) reason for move

Source: UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev. 3.

Example: Question on Country of Birth

Where was (person) born?

- This country, specify province [or state, region] and municipality [or national-relevant second-level civil division]
 - Province: _____ province unknown
 - Municipality: _____ municipality unknown
- Another country, specify country according to present borders:
 - Country: _____
- Unknown
- Country of birth unknown



Example: Questions on Year or Period of Arrival

ASK OF PERSONS BORN IN ANOTHER COUNTRY

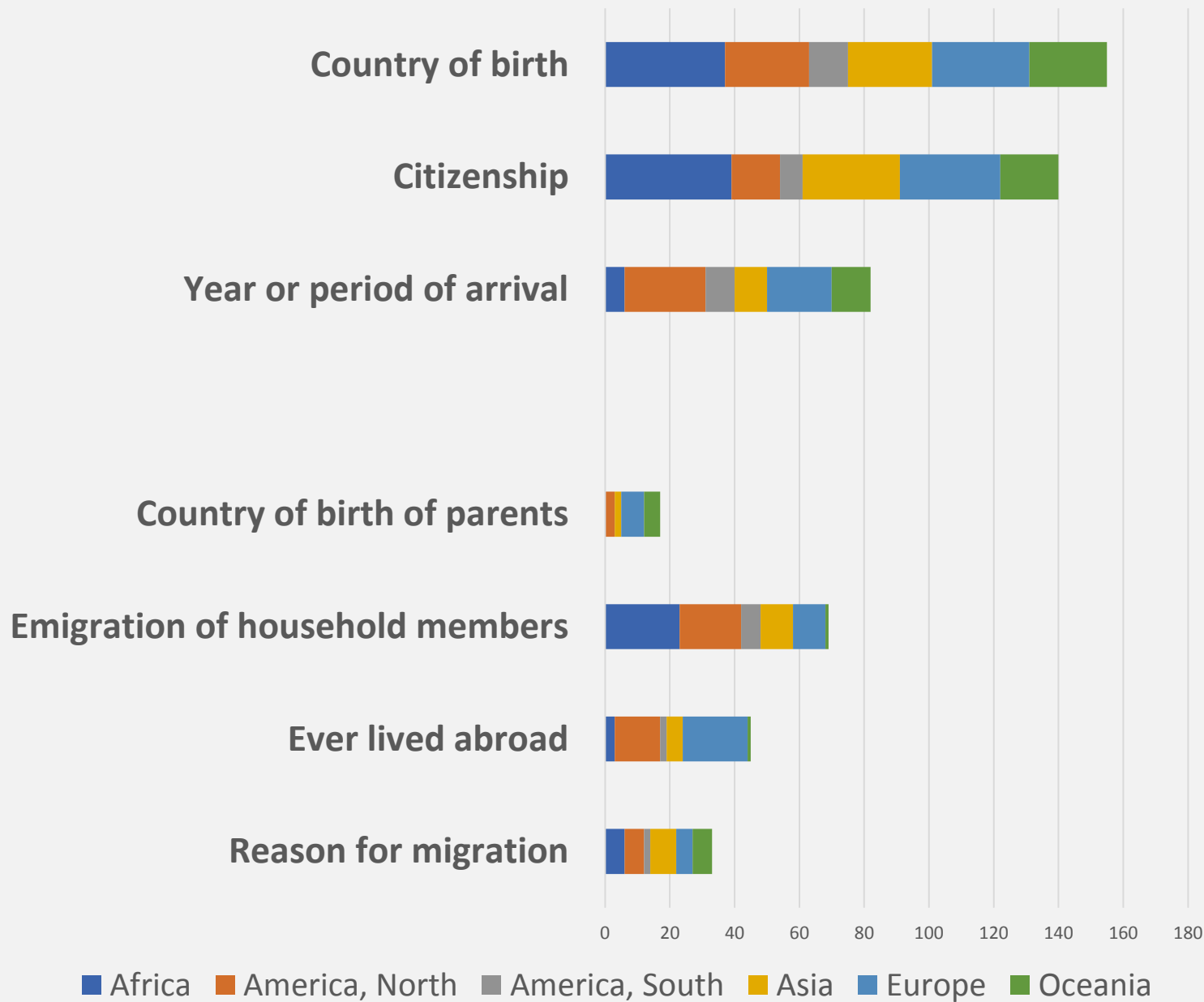
1. On which year and month did (person) first arrive in (this country) to live for a year or more?

Year _____ Month _____ Unknown

ASK OF PERSONS BORN IN ANOTHER COUNTRY OR OF RETURN MIGRANTS

1. On which year and month did (person) last arrive in (this country) to live for a year or more?

Year _____ Month _____ Unknown



Migrant relevant questions included in censuses by region

(2010 census round)

Source:
UNSD Census Knowledge Database

What Statistics Can Censuses Produce?

- ❑ Population stocks related to immigration:
 - ✓ Stock of foreign-born
 - ✓ Stock of foreigners
 - ✓ Stock of returned migrants
 - ✓ Stock of first (second) generation immigrants

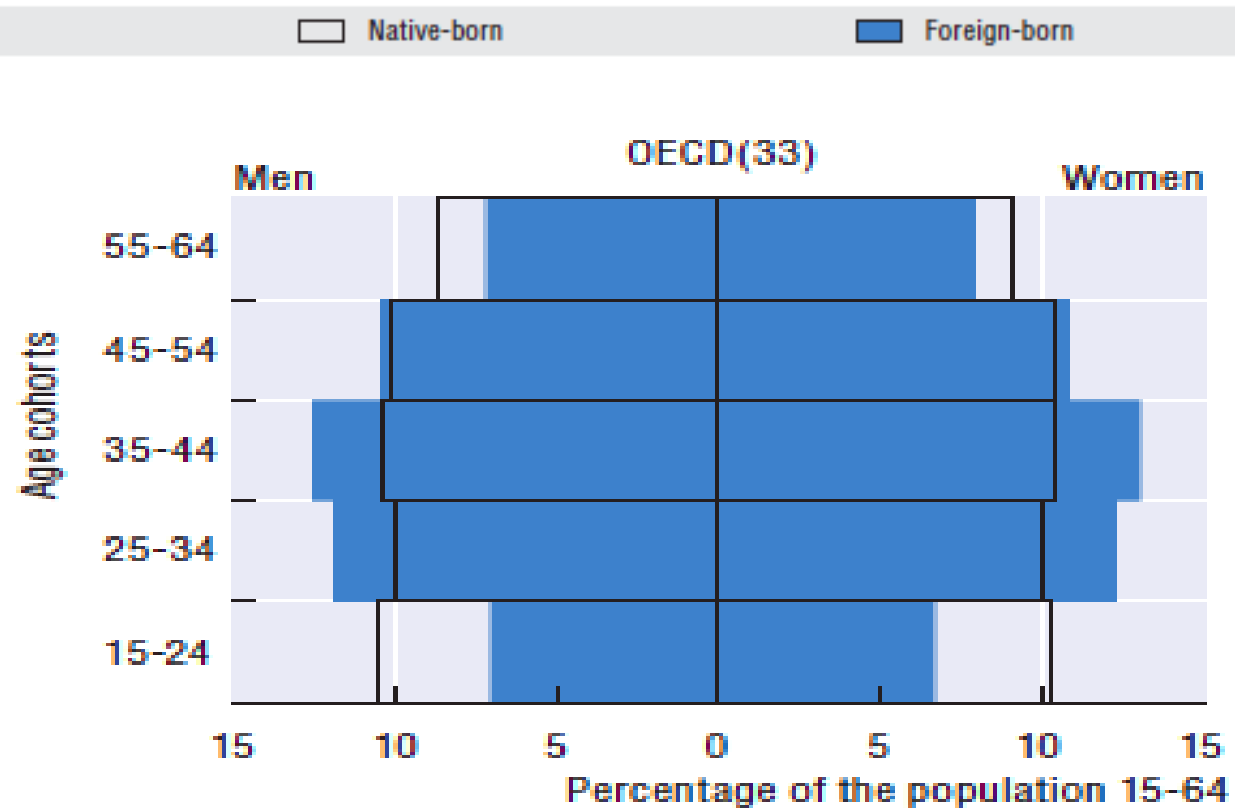
- ❑ Socioeconomic characteristics and geographic location of immigrants

- ❑ Recent migration flows (ex. last year, last 5 years, etc.)

Example

Figure 2.2. Age composition of the 15-64 population by place of birth and region of stay, 2010-11

Percentages of foreign- and native-born populations



Source: Settling in 2015 (OECD)

Collecting Data on Emigration through Censuses

Topics often included in an emigration module

- ❑ Person emigrated within the last XX (5 or 10) years
 - Left the country for at least 6 months (or 1 year)

- ❑ Characteristics of emigrants
 - Age, sex, Marital status
 - Age at emigration
 - Educational attainment (at time of migration or current)
 - Occupation (at time of migration or current)
 - Country of emigration
 - Reason for emigration

Examples of question on emigration

- In the last five years⁹, has any former member of this household left to live abroad for at least 12 months and is still living abroad now?
 - Yes → please list them by name and proceed with the next questions for each
 - No → end of emigration module

V - EMIGRATION					
E1	Y a-t-il des personnes qui ont émigré dans votre ménage au cours des cinq dernières années ? OUI = 1 NON = 2				
E2	Si oui, combien ? <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>				
N° d'ordre	Nom et prénoms	Age	Sexe	Date de départ	Lieu de destination
E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8
		<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	1. Masc. 2. Fem.	Mois.. <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
				Année <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

Capturing emigration through censuses

- Available studies show that emigration module can not provide an accurate count of the **total number of emigrants** residing abroad

But,

- The following groups can be relatively well-covered:
 - ✓ Emigrants who left the country in recent years (up to 5 years before the census)
 - ✓ Emigrants who are more likely to keep close ties with their country, mainly because of close family ties and/or geographic proximity
 - ✓ Emigrants who are still in the registration system of the country of origin, if registers exist

Other Considerations in Administering Census

To better serve as a source of migration data

- Communications and publicity campaign
- Questionnaire in different languages
- Training of interviewers (sensitivity/capturing the right person)
- Prioritize data analysis and dissemination



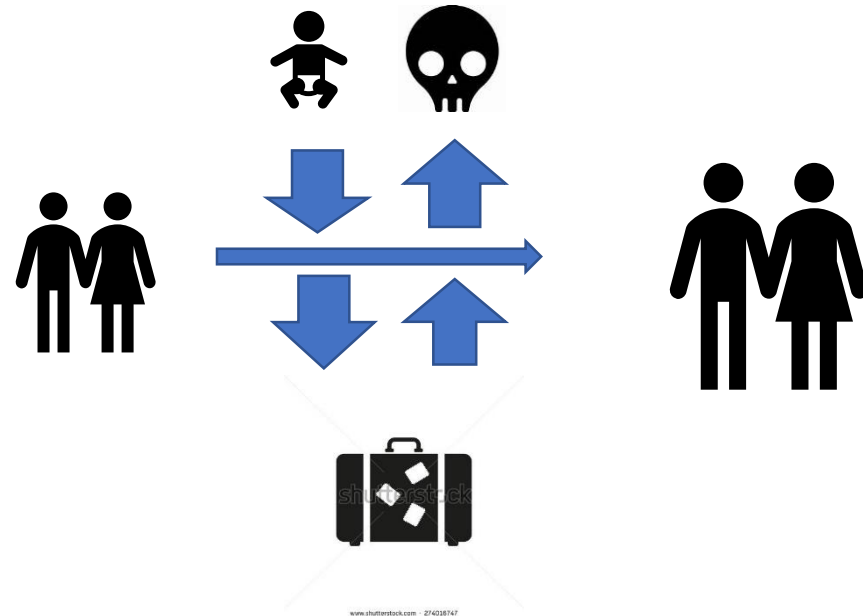
Estimating net international migration from censuses

Estimating net international migration from population censuses

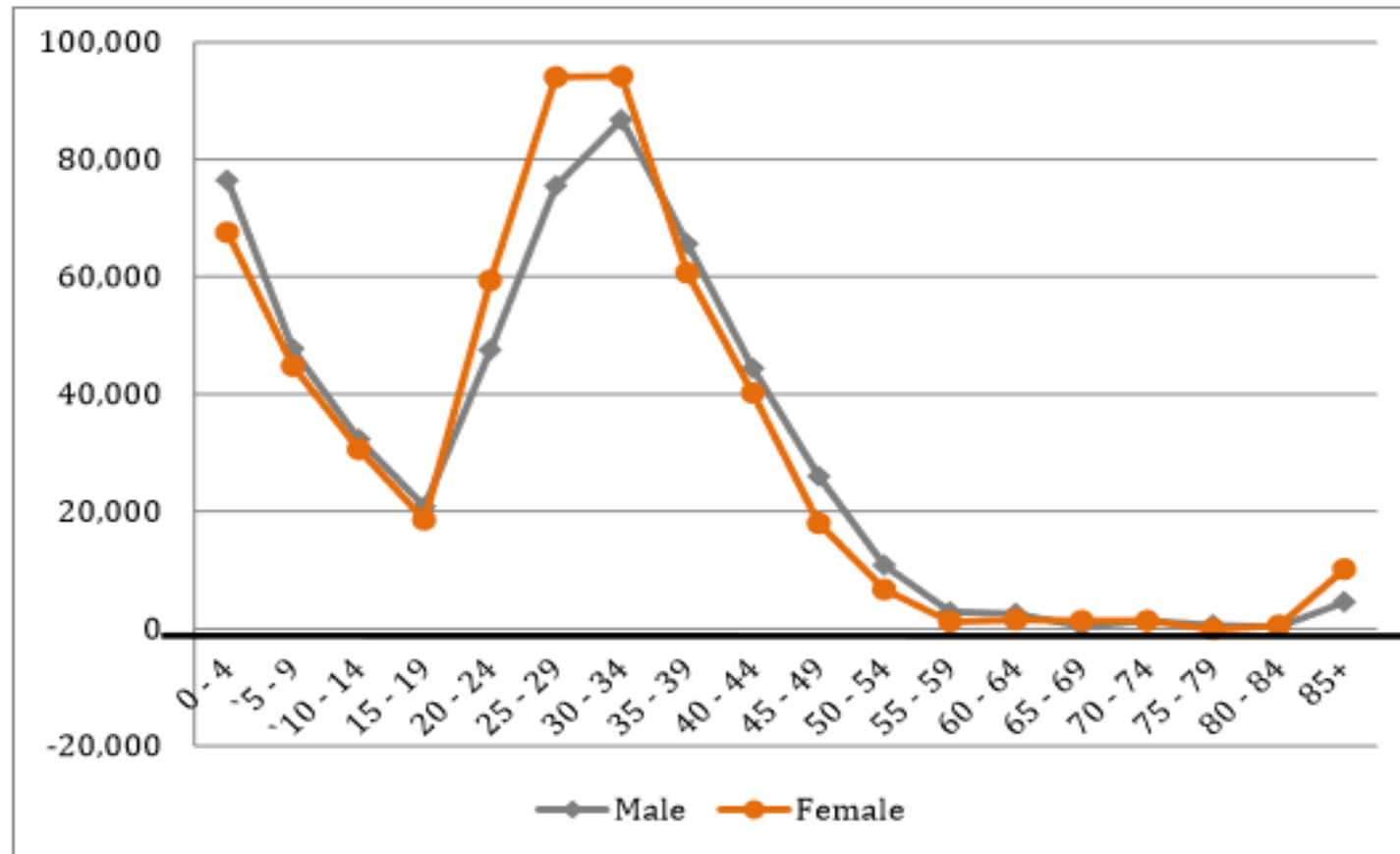
Net international migration can be estimated by consecutive censuses.

$$P_2 = P_1 + (B - D) + /- M$$

$$M_{\text{net}} = (P_2 - P_1) - (B - D)$$



Estimated net international migration, Australia, 2006-2011



Methods of estimation

- Inter-censal component method
- Inter-censal cohort component method

Estimating net international migration from population censuses

The Way Forward

To Maximize the Use of Census as a Source of Migration Statistics



- Ensure that topics relevant to migration be included in the questionnaire for the censuses of the 2020 Round.
- Ensure that the information collected are fully analyzed, evaluated and **disseminated**
- Seek a possibility of integrating a census with other sources

Useful Resources

- UN Principals and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses, Rev. 3
- UN Recommendations on Statistics on International Migration, rev. 1
- UN Handbook on the Use of Population Censuses for International Migration Statistics

Available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publications>



Depository of census micro data
from over 80 countries



Thank you !