

NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY

In India national sample surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) which comes under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Government of India, 2009) have produced data on different characteristics of population including employment, migration, health, fertility and poverty. They have produced data on vital events also which are more reliable than vital registration system, yet, unlike the vital registration scheme that can produce data on continuous basis, survey can produce data on discrete time points only (say at the gap of five years). They also suffer from various sampling and non-sampling errors.

Demographers and social scientists are now using data collected in many other national and sub-national surveys, such as national family health surveys, reproductive and child health surveys.

NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEYS

National family health surveys (NFHS) was initiated in 1991. This was an important component of the Project to Strengthen the Survey Research Capabilities of the Population Research Centres in India. NFHS was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) which designated International Institute of Population Sciences as the nodal agency. It was followed by two more national family health surveys, called NFHS-2 and NFHS-3. These surveys have produced national and state level estimates of fertility, infant and child mortality, the practice of family planning, maternal and child health care and the utilization of services provided for mothers and children. NFHS-3 has also provided data on reproductive and child health indicators including reproductive tract infection (RTI) and sexually transmitted infections (STI). NFHS-3, for the first time, made use of biomarkers and produced data on anemia and prevalence of HIV.