About the Census

Conducted once in ten years, the Census of Population is the largest national survey undertaken in Singapore. Census of Population 2020 (C2020) will be the sixth Census after Singapore’s Independence and the 15<sup>th</sup> since the first Census taken in 1871.

Objective

The Census collects information on key characteristics of the population and households. The information is used by government agencies for policy formulation and review, and planning of programmes and services for the community. It is also used for research and understanding of the Singapore population by members of the public, academia and the international community.

Conduct of C2020

C2020 will adopt a register–based approach, similar to the Censuses conducted in 2000 and 2010, where the basic population count and characteristics such as age, sex and ethnicity will be compiled from administrative sources.

To collect the data on detailed socio-economic and household characteristics, a large-scale sample survey will be conducted. An improved sampling design has been adopted, which reduces sample size by 25%, from 200,000 household addresses in C2010 to 150,000 in C2020.

Survey information required from households relate to housing, socio-economic characteristics (including occupation, industry, income), education, language and literacy, transport, religion and difficulty in performing basic activities. Households can submit their survey returns through various modes viz. Internet, telephone or face-to-face interview.

Improvements

With the increased usage of mobile devices and growing demand from respondents to enumerate online, the C2020 will provide a mobile-friendly interface for online submission of survey returns. Respondents will use SingPass for login, and undergo two-factor authentication for added security.

Field interviewers will be using tablets in face-to-face interviews. Information collected from the online survey, telephone and face-to-face interviews can thus be updated directly in the backend server to allow a consistent set of the information provided through the different modes of submission.