

## Use of Administrative Records for Producing Official Statistics in Japan

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Japanese official bodies have been maintaining a number of different kinds of administrative records, from which a number of statistics are produced and disseminated. On the other hand, statistical surveys including censuses have served as major sources for producing various official statistics that are not obtained by administrative records directly. However, recent changes in the survey environment such as increased difficulty in gaining the cooperation of the public for statistical surveys has resulted in the deterioration of the quality of statistics that were produced by such means. In this context, it becomes more and more important and effective to utilize administrative records for official statistics produced by statistical surveys, especially in light of maintaining and improving their quality as well as reducing the burden on respondents, though statistical surveys cannot simply be replaced by administrative records. This presentation will describe recent movements with regard to the use of administrative records in official statistics in Japan. It first introduces the stance on the use of administrative records in the re-engineering of the Japanese statistical system including the revision of the Statistics Act and the decision of the Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics. Following this, it describes an overview of the present situation in using administrative records for official statistics with a few concrete examples. This will be followed by concluding remarks along with some lessons learned. Please note that all portions on opinions in the paper attribute to personal views of the authors.

Key Words: Master Plan, quality of statistics, response burden, Statistics Act