

Rolling Census: scoping study for Brazil

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The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics - IBGE has embarked on efforts to study and evaluate alternative methods of census to better meet the increasing demand for updated information at the local level. The study focuses on methods that allow to provide more frequent information to support the development and monitoring of local public policies and to serve as inputs for the regular municipal population estimates. Different methodologies debated on the international stage, such as methods based on administrative registers, on household surveys and the combination of sources were considered. However in the present context the methodology based on periodic samples, also called Rolling Census, was identified as the most appropriate for Brazil. The scoping study started in 2004 and includes the assessment of methodological, technical and operational aspects. The period 2004-2007 was characterized by discussions involving Latin American countries and other countries such as France and the United States. In addition, experts from different directorates of IBGE conducted thematic studies on different dimensions such as cartography and address file; conceptual design; sampling and estimation; logistic; and integration of census and surveys. From the year 2008 IBGE started a pilot test of the rolling census in four municipalities. The implementation of a rolling census in Brazil should produce every year information on characteristics of the population and households at municipal level, while having the advantage of diluting the cost of the census along the decade to avoid massive concentration of investments in a single year. Besides, better use of knowledge and experience for subsequent years is expected. The assessment of the feasibility of conducting a rolling census in Brazil will support the planning of the 2020 Brazilian census.

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