

Future developments on the Canadian Census of Population

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The Census of Population Program in Canada has seen the introduction of several innovative approaches over time. The most recent censuses were no exception with the introduction of new methodologies and technologies. More than 54% of households completed their 2011 census form online, making Canada a world leader in internet collection. Canada, like many countries around the world, faces a number of challenges in preparing for its next census in 2016. Statistics Canada will need to continue to innovate as it faces fiscal pressures and as concerns around privacy and response burden continue to rise. This paper will briefly describe options that have been considered for the methodology of the 2016 Census and beyond. It will also describe current methodological and operational plans, including new innovations being developed. These include fully integrated e-questionnaire and collection systems with other survey programs at Statistics Canada, a transformation of the dwelling register, and an expanded use of administrative data sources.

Key words – Census of Population, innovation, internet data collection, census methodology