

Cities and the Population Census

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Cities and Hinterlands

- Cities are places for people to live, but they are much more than this
- They are centers of economic development, social and political integration, and sources of innovation
- They provide *goods and services* to their *hinterlands*; the effective unit for many purposes is *city plus hinterland*

Cities and Administrative Units

- Cities tend to overflow their formal administrative boundaries, creating spatial entities larger than the 'official' city
- These entities are often not captured by administrative geography
- The population census provides a tool for defining more realistic and useful socio-economic spatial units

Cities vs 'Urban-Rural'

- Most censuses classify population by *urban-rural residence* and some classify population by *size of city*
- The population census can provide data on *individual cities*, however; indeed, it can provide data on *every city*
- Data on individual cities is rarely produced, yet it is very valuable, for city planning, for studies of urban pollution, for marketing

Census Data on Cities

- The importance of cities, as engines of economic growth and sources of social problems, creates a *major opportunity* for utilization of the 2000 round census data
- This in combination with developments in *information technology*, which allow archiving and distribution of vastly larger quantities of data than was practical in the 1990 round

Statistical Delineation of Cities

- Data for cities should embody the social and economic reality of cities; should not be limited to formal administrative boundaries
- The census itself will provide data that will tell us how particular cities should be defined, how far they extend beyond political boundaries
- To realize the potential we need the *small area tabulation data base*

Cities and Their Hinterlands

- The city is not a self-contained unit, it is a center of human activity in a broader surrounding region
- Every city serves numerous *functions* for a larger surrounding area, it's *hinterland*
- Hinterlands may be specific to particular functions

The 'Central Place' Hierarchy

- Some central place functions (barber shops) are provided in every city, even the smallest
- Other functions (stock exchanges) are provided only in very large cities
- Cities may be *ordered* on the basis of the number of functions they serve
- Tendency to hierarchy of cities of a small number of discrete levels

‘Central place theory’

- Is out of fashion in academic geography; though it was once regarded as a crowning achievement of the field
- Is nonetheless of great practical importance in planning, administration, marketing, and in many other areas

Review of Key Points

- The importance of cities
- Cities *vs* 'urban-rural'
- Census data for cities
- Statistical delineation of cities
- The *small area tabulation data base*
- Cities and their hinterlands
- The central place hierarchy

Questions?
Comments?
Discussion?