

The Analysis of Population Census Data on Migration

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Perspectives on Migration

- **Internal vs international** migration
- Migration as a **component of population growth**
- **Migration flows** between specified places of origin and destination
- **Numbers and 'rates'** of migration

Migration as a Component of Population Growth

- Focus on ‘one population at a time’
- Count numbers of *in-migrants* and *out-migrants*, difference for *net migration*
- Calculate *rates* of migration (problematic)
- Look at these numbers *specific* for various characteristics, such as age and sex

Migration Flows

- Migration ‘flows’ are numbers of persons who move from a specified place of origin to a specified place of destination
- Most often obtained by tabulating place of previous residence (defined in various ways) by place of current residence
- For many subdivisions, number of possible migration flows is very large

Two of Ravenstein's 'Laws'

- For every migration flow there is a reverse flow
- The magnitude of a migration flow varies inversely with the distance between origin and destination

The Concept of 'Cost-Distance'

- The relevant measure of 'distance' in connection with migration is generally *not* distance 'as the crow flies'
- The relevant measure is usually the amount of effort required to move from one place to another, which reflects topography, transport network, weather, hazards, etc.

Census Questions on Migration

- Place of birth; place of residence n years ago; place of previous residence; duration of residence
- But what is ‘place’? How specifically does it locate origin?
- What ‘migrant’ means is highly variable, depending on what ‘place’ means

Previous Residence Questions

- Residence n years ago or previous residence? Which is better? Why?
- Previous residence, even if combined with duration of residence, does not imply residence n years ago, because of return migration and multiple migrations
- Specificity of time period reference is useful, but previous residence captures ‘ever migrants’

Duration of Residence

- If available, can be combined with age to distinguish “life time migrants” from “return migrants”
- A “life time migrant” is a person whose current residence is different from their place of birth
- A “return migrant” is a person whose current residence is the same as the place of birth, but whose duration of residence is less than their age

Review Questions

- Which migration questions? Rationale?
- What geographic specificity of place of birth or previous residence?
- What migration tabulations? Rationale?
- Who uses census data on migration? For what? What is the value?
- Should we tabulate data on specific sets of flows?

Questions?
Comments?
Discussion?