RECOVERY PROCESS OF THE 1976 POPULATION CENSUS MicroDATA

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Censuses – history

- 1881 - 1921: Every 10 years
- 1936 – 2006: Every 10 years
- 2007: latest to be conducted
The 1976 Census

• First to be conducted by the National Statistical Office

• First when the Government Statistician was appointed the Census Commissioner

• Considered most comprehensive in Fiji in terms of questions and operation.

• Census night: 13th September

• 588,068 persons living in Fiji
1976 Census Microdata

• Early 2000 it was discovered that the 1976 microdata could not be located

• Several attempts were made to locate the microdata

• The Bureau of Statistics finally accepted that the only solution to retrieving the microdata was to enter the records again
The 1976 MicroData Recovery Process

• Preparatory work: Kyoto Conference in Japan in 2003 followed by the Seattle Conference in 2005

• Letter of Understanding signed between the University of Minnesota and the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics in March 2005

• 1976 Documents: 2006 a request was made to the Government Archivist for the release of the 1976 documents

Cont..
The 1976 MicroData Recovery Process cont.....

• Funding: US$15,000 from the University of Minnesota Population Center (IPUMS) being incidental costs for the 1966, 1986 and 1996 Census data got earmarked for the 1976 data recovery.

• 2007: Recruitment of Data Entry Operators and purchase of computers

• 2007-2008: Data Entry- strict control; performance assessed

Cont..
The 1976 MicroData Recovery Process cont…..

• New Codes: relationship codes were not assigned and therefore not coded during the 1976 data processing so assigning new codes caused some delay

• March 2009: All microdata entered was edited and corrected

• A dataset [574,130] was taken to Dr Levin in Harvard to run some edits. He has also tested the data by running Whipple indices and the microdata are ok.
Variable availability, 1976 microdata:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Geography</th>
<th>Province, Tikina, urban/rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>Type, total persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Variables</td>
<td>Relationship, sex, age, year of birth, ethnicity, marital status, religion, father, mother, mother person number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>Birthplace, residence 5 years ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Attending school, years completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Economic activity, occupation, industry, employment status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertility</td>
<td>Live births and presently alive by sex, mother's age at first birth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion

• 13,938 short of the original count of 588,068

Acknowledgement

• Commitment given by IPUMS (Dr Mc Caa) for the recovery of the 1976 Census microdata