

PROGRAM: Demographic and Health Survey - Continuous DHS

INSTITUTION: National Statistics and Informatics Institute (INEI), Peru



The objective of Peru's Demographic and Health Survey (Continuous DHS) is to provide annual information on demographics and the health status of women and their children under five years of age to facilitate the formulation, monitoring, and evaluation of Peru's public policies on population and family health.



Innovation

The Continuous DHS includes many innovative features, such as: (i) multi-thematic content that allows the application of flexible modules; (ii) use of Personal Data Assistants (PDA); (iii) institutionalization of the DHS surveys with permanent qualified staff; and, (iv) a fixed yet flexible budget to be able to satisfy data gathering requirements.

Furthermore, since 2003 the DHS has been established as a panel of conglomerates based on the 2000 sample. These panels are based on five annual sub-samples that are independent and cumulative. Each sub-sample allows for representative information at the national, urban/rural and regional levels for most health indicators, excluding fertility and mortality rates that are only representative in five year periods.



Usefulness of the Data

The Ministry of Health, one of the most important users of the DHS results, uses the data in the formulation of indicators for its Strategic Programs (Consolidated Nutritional Program - Programa Articulado Nutricional-, Maternal-Neonatal Health, and Access of the Population to Identity -Acceso de la Población a la Identidad).

DHS information is key for the implementation of results-based budgeting, under the leadership of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Social researchers and non-governmental organizations are other important users of ENDES data.

Reports on the results and databases of the Continuous DHS are made available through printed publications and the Internet during the first trimester of the year following the conclusion of the survey.



Lessons Learned

Among the lessons learned are: (i) the importance of adequate oversight, training, and monitoring, based on standards established through the demographic surveys for ensuring data quality and consistency; (ii) the need for design flexibility to allow for the incorporation of modules and questions that may improve the establishment of indicators; and (iii) the importance of having the capacity to develop procedures and strategies that will improve these processes based on the experience acquired through the Continuous DHS.

