

TECHNICAL NOTES

Marital Status (2020 Census of Population and Housing)

I. Introduction

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) conducted the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH) in September 2020, with 01 May 2020 as the reference date.

The 2020 CPH was the 15th census of population and the 7th census of housing undertaken in the Philippines since the first census in 1903. It was designed to take an inventory of the country's total population and housing units and collect information about their characteristics.

The Philippine Standard Geographic Code (PSGC), as of March 2022 was used to disaggregate geographic levels of the 2020 CPH.

II. Data Collection

Information on marital status contained in this report is based on the responses of the household respondents in the 2020 CPH. Hence, these may be different from the figures in the 2020 Vital Statistics Report released by the PSA, wherein the number of registered marriages refers to the actual registration of marriage certificates, as recorded by the Local Civil Registrars (LCRs) and transmitted to the PSA.

The statistics presented in this report were based on the information provided by the respondent or any responsible household member who may provide accurate answers to the questions and give correct information about all the household members; hence, it should be used with caution.

III. Methodology

The population and housing censuses in the Philippines are conducted on a “de jure” basis, wherein a person is counted in the usual place of residence or the place where the person usually resides. The enumeration of the population and collection of pertinent data in the 2020 CPH referred to all living persons as of 01 May 2020.

For the 2020 CPH, data on the Marital Status of every household member 10 years old and over were collected by asking the respondents, “Is _____ *single, married, common-law/live-in, widowed, or divorced/separated/annulled?*”.

IV. Concepts and Definition of Terms

Household is a social unit consisting of a person or a group of persons who sleep in the same housing unit and have a common arrangement in the preparation and consumption of food.

Household population refers to all persons who are members of the household.

Household head is an adult member of the household, male or female, who is responsible for the organization and care of the household or who is regarded as such by the household members.

Sex is the biological and physiological reality of being a male or female.

Age refers to the interval between the person’s date of birth and his/her last birthday before the census reference date. It is expressed in completed years or whole numbers.

Marital status refers to the personal status of an individual in accordance with the marriage laws or customs of the country. It is the same as civil status, the term usually used in official and private records, documents, and transactions in the country. The person’s marital status shall be as of the date of visit.

The categories of marital status are as follows:

- a) Single – a person who has never been married;
- b) Married – a person married in a religious, civil ceremony or tribal rites, either living with his/her spouse at the time of visit or temporarily living apart because his/her spouse is employed elsewhere (as in the case of a person whose spouse is an overseas worker, or works in the Armed Forces and residing somewhere else);
- c) Common-law/Live-in – a person cohabiting or living consensually with another person as husband and wife without the benefit of a legal marriage;
- d) Divorced – a person who is permanently separated from his/her spouse, legally or through mutual consent; also applicable for a person whose marriage with another person has been annulled or dissolved and can, therefore, remarry; and
- e) Unknown – a person whose marital status is unknown to the respondent or whose marital status is being concealed by the respondent/person himself/herself.

V. Dissemination of Results

The 2020 CPH Press Release and statistical tables are publicly available at the PSA website, <https://psa.gov.ph/population-and-housing>

VI. Citation

Philippine Statistics Authority. Technical Notes, 2020 Census of Population and Housing, <https://psa.gov.ph/population-and-housing/technical-notes>

VII. Contact Information

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