

## BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS AND RESEARCH NOTES

### Intensive Population Study in Mindanao

FRANCIS C. MADIGAN

The Mindanao Center for Population Studies (MCPS), a division of the Research Institute for Mindanao Culture (RIMCU) of Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City, in cooperation with the University of North Carolina, has begun work on an intensive vital-registration study in Mindanao. The prime purpose of this study is to determine the feasibility of applying a dual-records approach to the gathering of vital-statistics records in an underdeveloped country like the Philippines. Though their primary interest is in the methodological problems involved in such an application, the investigators also look forward to the gathering of hard data on birth and death rates for at least one urban and one rural location. This latter interest springs from the magnitude of the Philippine population problem, and of the family-planning efforts made in recent years to come to grips with it.

The data systems are two, aside from the preliminary baseline survey and accompanying mapping operation. These are an on-going reporting system in which part-time resident recorders report back to the central office those births, deaths, and migrations which take place within their area of responsibility. The other system consists, at least initially, of two surveys per year, at six-month intervals, in which interviewers inquire about births, deaths, and migra-

tions which took place during a previous time interval, covering at least the interval also covered by reports of the recorders. Overlapping recall periods of various durations are a feature of retrospective surveys. The MCPS calls these operations the Star System (recorders) and the Rover System (interviewers). An urban and a Rural Zone Office feed the data back from their workers into the data-processing system of the Central Office. Matching of vital events takes place in the Central Office, and doubtful matches are brought back to the field by Central-Office staff for solution.

The initial planning of the dual records system and its development have taken place within the RIMCU, assisted by consultation with experts from the University of North Carolina, some of whom made site visits to the Philippines.

Since the MCPS is more concerned with methodology than substantive data, the areas for application of the dual-records system were picked purposively rather than by probability sampling. Within the Cagayan de Oro City Poblacion, however, enumeration districts were picked from the poblacion by probability sampling. The probability of selection of each district was proportional to the number of its inhabitants.

The population studied is a modified resident, non-institutional population. A resident has been defined as a person who has lived or intends to live for three months within the reference area. Persons leaving the area for reasons other than study, who remain away more than three months or intend to do so, are no longer considered residents. The recording system will attempt to pick up vital events of all the population within the reference areas, whether or not all events pertain to members of the residential population. Only residential vital events will enter into MCPS birth and death rates however.

In the Cagayan Poblacion, where probability sampling was carried out, the primary sampling unit was the 1970 Census enumeration district. These districts were identical with the electoral districts used in recent elections, and were for the most part clearly bounded on all sides. Several districts lacked clearcut boundaries, however. MCPS mapped such boundaries for itself

as closely as it could to the electoral division lines. There were 19 such districts in the Poblacion, with a total de facto population enumerated in the May 6, 1970, Census of 26,355 persons. Eleven of these districts were drawn into the sample, whose de facto population on the same Census data had been 19,819 persons. The residential population in these 11 districts, enumerated during July and August, 1971 (median date was August 11), was 23,102 persons.

Matching will take place in the Central Office and is to be done manually. At present, the following variables have been selected as matching criteria: Christian name and surname of person experiencing the event, name of parents and/or of spouse, the MCPS and household number related to the event, date of the event, and date of birth (if event is a non-birth). Though one-way matching from the Star to the Rover System seems attractive, no decision has been made on this as of now (November 24, 1971).