

Session 1 Introduction to Data Integration:

Country Presentation

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DATA INTEGRATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Hong Kong, China

- Population size (mid-2020): 7.51 millions (provisional figure)
- Statistical office – the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD)
  - ➢ As at 1 April 2020, the establishment of C&SD was 1 403 and the number of statistical posts in other government bureaux and departments was 257.
- Fun fact: 2021 Population Census

2021人口普查 Population Census

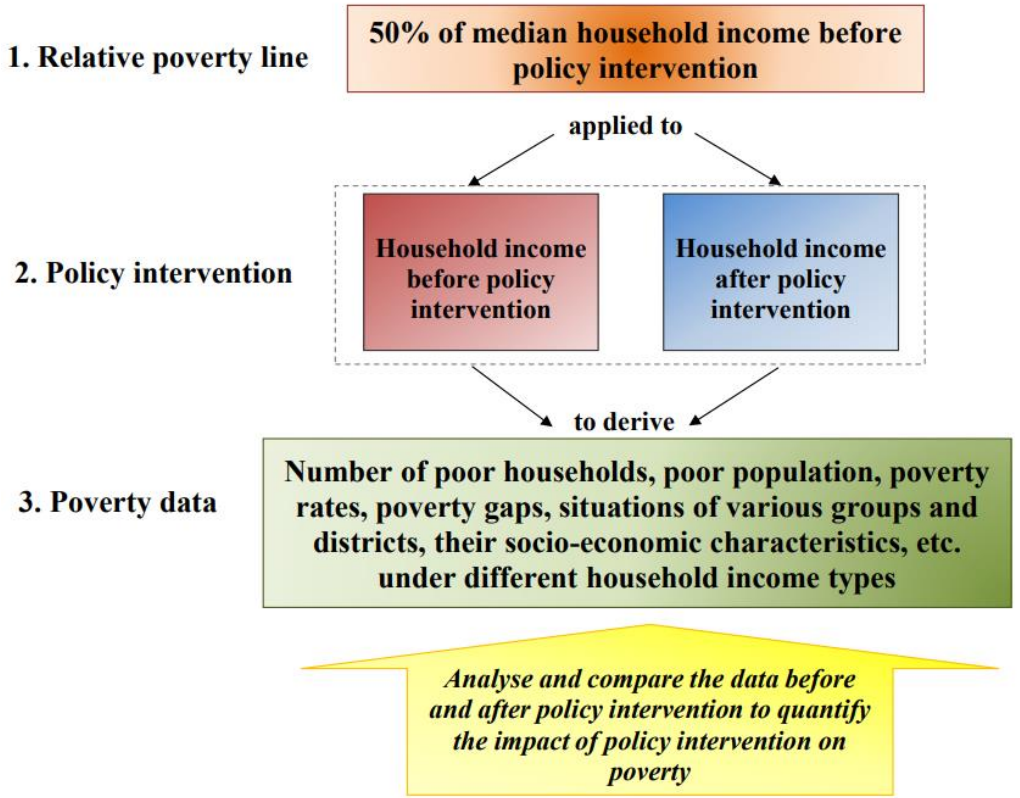


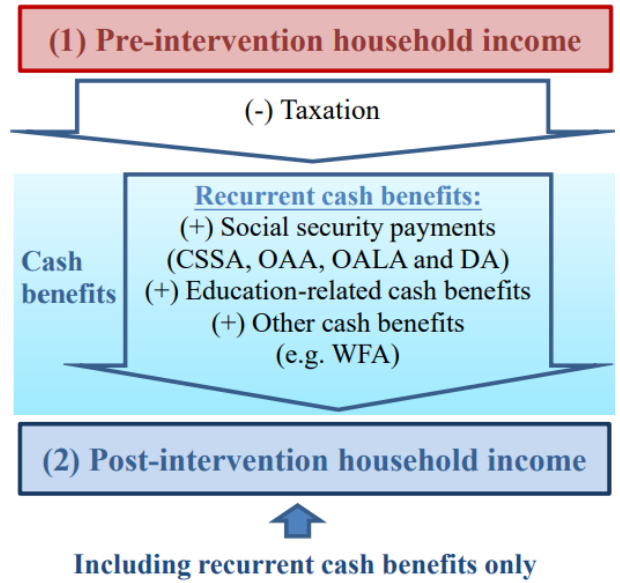
Census and Statistics Department
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Poverty line and its analytical framework

A few important concepts

- Relative poverty
  - The poverty line has been set at 50% of the median household income (before policy intervention) by household size
- Household income
  - Pre-intervention (hypothetical scenario)
  - Post-intervention (recurrent cash)
- Three primary functions
  - To analyse the poverty situation
  - To assist in policy formulation
  - To assess policy effectiveness





Data integration in poverty statistics

- Primary data source - General Household Survey (GHS)
  - **Main objective of GHS**: a continuous survey to collect information on the labour force, employment, unemployment and underemployment. Information on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population is also collected.
  - **Limitation of GHS for poverty analysis**:
    - some GHS respondents were unwilling to reveal whether they were receiving certain type(s) of social security payments.
    - poverty alleviation impact may be subject to under-estimation, as the social security payments were counted in post-intervention (recurrent cash) income -> distort the assessment of policy effectiveness.
- Data integration - **reconciliation exercise between GHS database and administrative records**
  - Compare the distribution of beneficiaries in the survey results and the administrative records of specific benefits (e.g. by case nature, type of housing and district of residence).
  - Impute the payment to the relevant income data of some sampled households selected on a random basis in the groups with discrepancies, so that the imputed database could reflect the actual distribution more precisely.

Challenges and solutions

- Challenges
  - Legal and privacy concerns
  - Cooperation between the statistical office and other authorities
  - Lack of professional knowledge of administrative sources
- Solutions
  - Aggregated statistics without personal identifier for reconciliation exercise
  - Administrative records are all processed by subject authorities and C&SD has no direct access to the records to preserve the privacy
  - Frequent discussions with owners of the administrative records are important, e.g. our data need

Conclusion

- Poverty line and its analytical framework in Hong Kong have been briefly introduced (**the few important concepts**).
- Data integration in poverty statistics – limitation of existing survey results and way to improve (**reconciliation exercise between survey results and administrative records available**) have also been discussed.
- We believe that **similar challenges** are faced by NSOs, particularly on legal and privacy concerns.
- We are looking forward to exchanging ideas of data integration with other NSOs, with a view to further improving or exploring possible alternatives of the treatment of survey results limitations in poverty analysis.