

# Internet Survey Method in the 2010 Census and Challenges to the 2015 Census in Japan

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# Summary

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- ❑ The Population Census of Japan is conducted every five years --- Next Census will be conducted in 2015.
- ❑ At 2010 Census, we introduced internet method for the first time, all of Tokyo area --- internet response rate was 8.3% (very low).
- ❑ Problems: changing environments ---
  - Increasing One-person households,
  - Complicating survey method (handing over, mail and internet), --- data quality might be influenced such causes.
- ❑ Challenges to the Next Census ---
  - Introduce Step by Step method to increase internet response rate --- automatically checking will be done (23.7% in 1st exam survey)
  - Available to response by Smartphone --- for one-person households
  - Building Response Management System

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- History
- 2010 Census Methodology
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- Lessons Learned

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## □ History

□ 2010 Census Methodology

□ 1st Exam Survey of the 2015 Census

□ Lessons Learned

# History

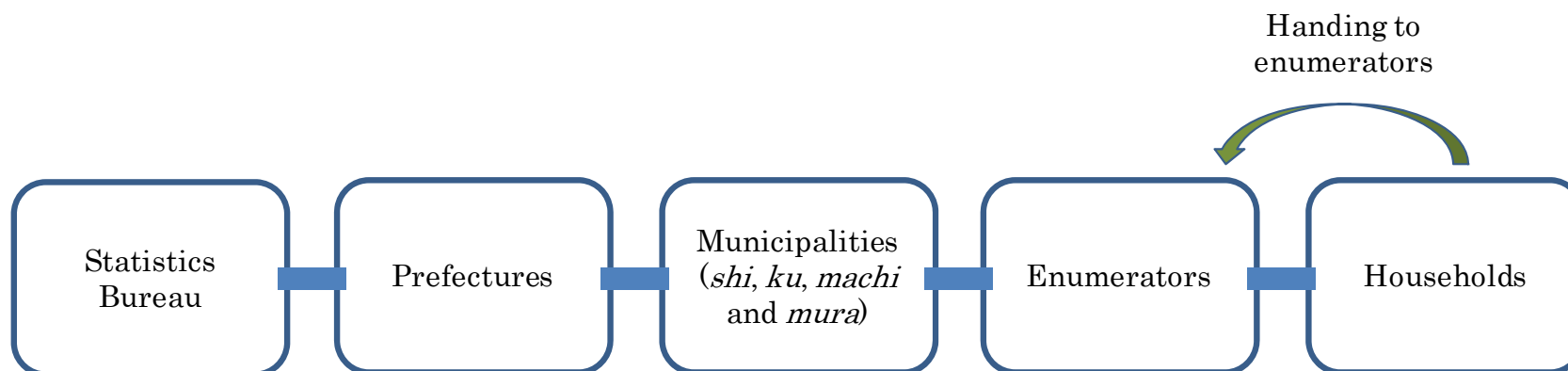
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- The Population Census of Japan is conducted every five years (excluding 1945 because of WW2).
- First: 1920, Latest: 2010(19th)
- Common feature through all Censuses before 2005 :
  - Taken as of 0:00 a.m., October 1.
  - Used One questionnaire form for simplicity (with about 20 items) --- no “long and short” etc.
  - Distributing and Collecting by enumerators
  - Self-enumeration (background: high literacy rate since 19th century)

# History

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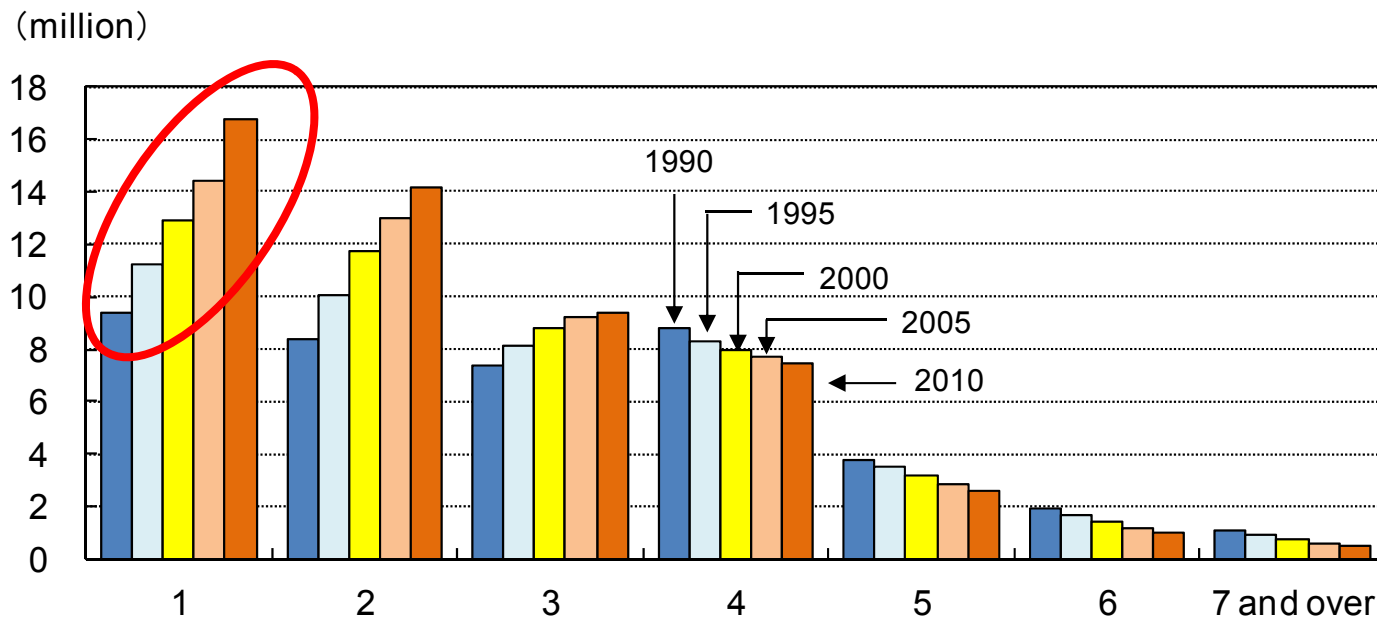
- Common feature through all Censuses before 2005(cont'd) :
  - Conducted through the channels:



# History

- But, changing environments ---“Increasing one-person households” indicates “Increasing households that they are not at home in daytime”.

Numbers of Households by Size (1990-2010)



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□ History

□ 2010 Census Methodology

□ 1st Exam Survey of the 2015 Census

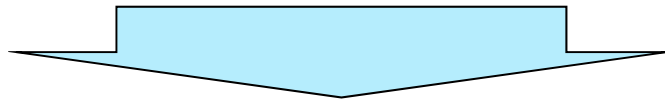
□ Lessons Learned



# 2010 Census Methodology

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- Dealing with Absence of household members, we introduced ---
  - Collecting by Mail (All area)
  - Internet response method (only Tokyo)



- 2010 Census Methodology:
  - Distributing questionnaire --- by Enumerators
  - Collecting --- Handing over, Mail and Internet (only Tokyo)

# 2010 Census Methodology

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## □ Survey items are the following 20 items:

[for household members(15)]

- (1) Name    (2) Sex    (3) Year and month of birth
- (4) Relationship to the household head    (5) Marital status    (6) Nationality
- (7) Duration of residency at the current domicile
- (8) Place of 5 years previous residence    (9) Education    (10) Type of activity
- (11) Name of establishment and kind of business(Industry)
- (12) Kind of work(Occupation)    (13) Employments status
- (14) Place of work or location of school
- (15) Transportation to the place of work or the location of school

[for households(5)]

- (1) Type of household    (2) Number of household members
- (3) Type and tenure of dwelling    (4) Area of floor space of dwelling
- (5) Type of building and number of stories

# 2010 Census Methodology

- Questionnaire form (size: A4 paper)
- For 4 persons (at most)
- OCR - Recognized

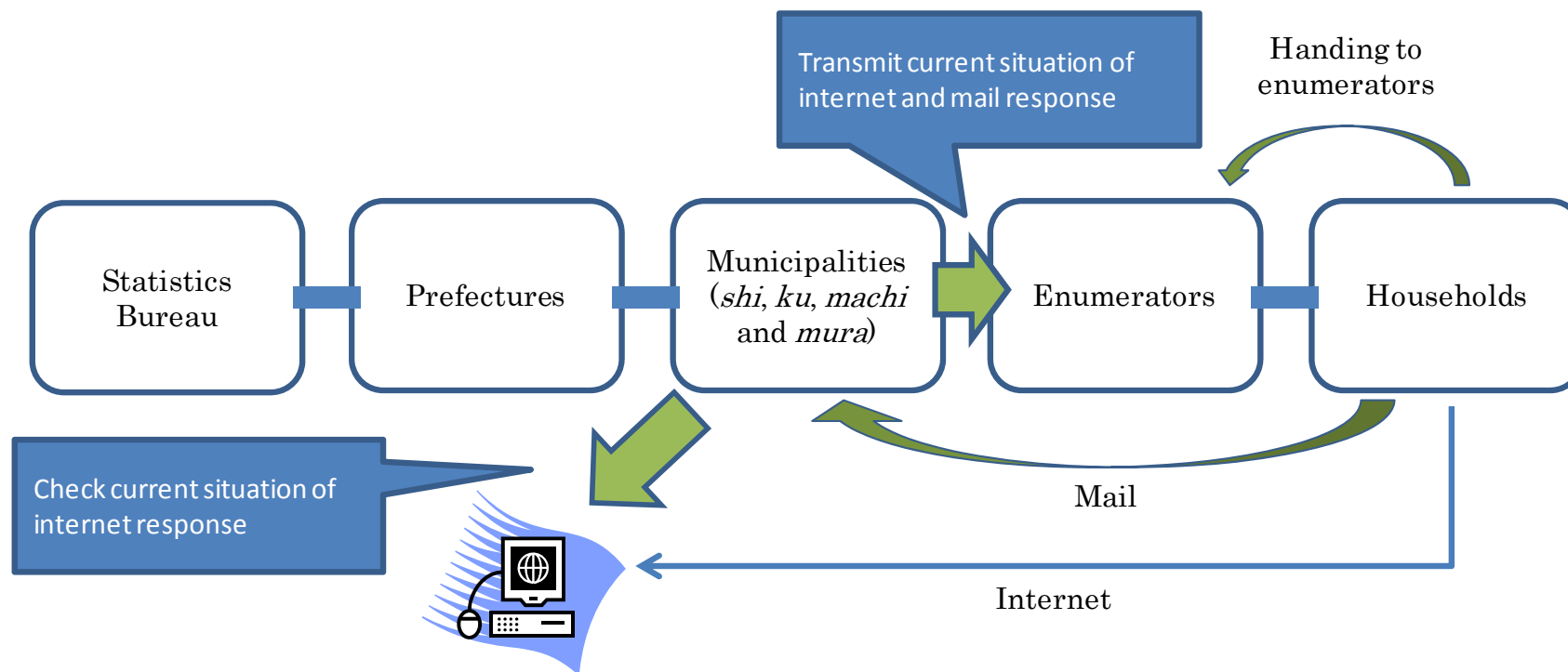
The image shows the '国勢調査調査票' (National Census Questionnaire) for October 1, 2010. It is a form for recording household information for up to four persons. The form is divided into several sections:

- 1 氏名及び男女の別** (Name and Sex): Fields for name and sex (male/female) for up to four persons.
- 2 世帯主との続柄** (Relationship to Head of Household): Radio buttons for various relationships like spouse, child, parent, etc.
- 3 出生の年月** (Date of Birth): Fields for year, month, and day.
- 4 配偶者の有無** (Marital Status): Radio buttons for married, divorced, widowed, or never married.
- 5 国籍** (Nationality): Radio buttons for Japanese or foreign.
- 6 現在の場所に住んでいる期間** (Period of Residence): Radio buttons for different duration ranges.
- 7 5年前(平成17年10月1日)はどこに住んでいたか** (Where did you live 5 years ago): Radio buttons for different residence types and locations.
- (1) 世帯員の数** (Number of Household Members): Radio buttons for the number of people in the household.
- (2) 住居の種類** (Type of Dwelling): Radio buttons for different types of housing.
- (3) 住宅の建て方** (Construction of Dwelling): Radio buttons for different construction types.
- (4) 住宅の床面積の合計** (Total Floor Area of Dwelling): Radio buttons for different floor area ranges.

The form also includes fields for telephone numbers, postal codes, and a section for '世帯では下の欄には記入しないでください' (Do not enter in the following sections for households). A note at the bottom right says 'ウラ側(第2面)にも記入してください' (Please also enter on the reverse side (page 2)).

# 2010 Census Methodology

## □ Flowchart



# 2010 Census Methodology

## □ Picture of form of internet (1)

[Number of household members]  
Keying Male number and Female number, then total number is automatically entered.

The screenshot shows the '2010 国勢調査オンライン' (2010 Census Online) form. The section is titled '世帯員について' (About Household Members). The first sub-section is '1 世帯員の数及び調査票情報' (Number of Household Members and Questionnaire Information). A red box highlights the input fields for '男性の人数' (Number of Males), '女性の人数' (Number of Females), and '世帯員の総数' (Total Number of Household Members). The 'Total Number of Household Members' field is currently set to '0'. Below this, there is a table for '世帯の種類' (Type of Household) with radio buttons for different categories: '一般の世帯 (一人世帯 会社等の独身者の入居者を含む)', '学校の学生寮・寄宿舎の学生・生徒', '病院・療養所の入院者', '老人ホーム等の社会施設の入所者', and 'その他'. At the bottom, there is a navigation bar with '1項目め(全18項目)' and a list of items from 1 to 18, with '世帯員' (Household Members) selected as item 1.

# 2010 Census Methodology

## Picture of form of internet (2)

[Year and month of birth]  
If keying by mistake,  
error message  
appears.  
(this example is the  
case of range error.)

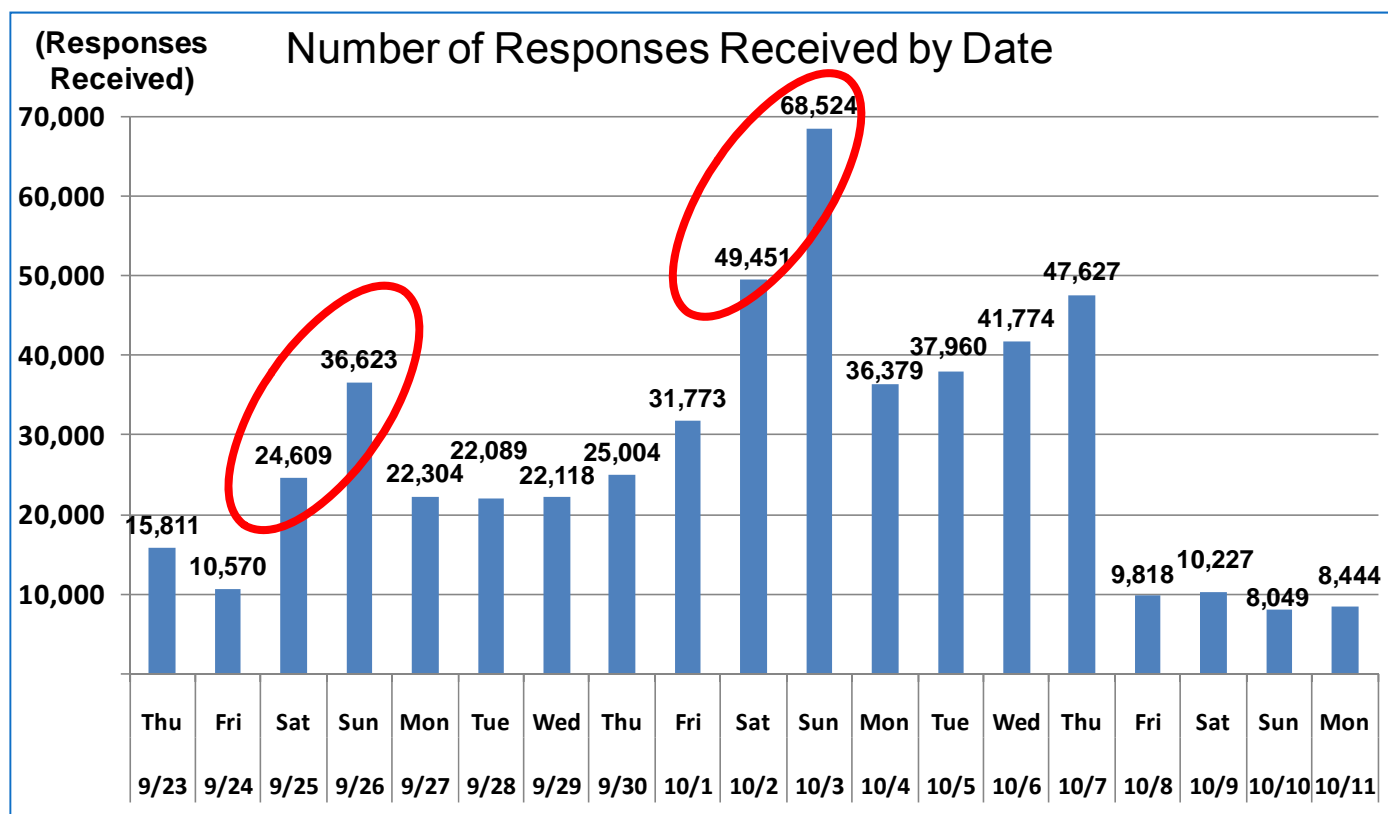
The screenshot shows the '2010 国勢調査オンライン' (2010 Census Online) form in Internet Explorer. The page title is '国勢調査オンライン (回答入力画面) - Windows Internet Explorer'. The browser address bar shows the URL: 'D:\User\007175\Desktop\東京都用★HTML電子調査票デモ(20090821)\kaiito\_input\_after\_jissi\_ok.htm'. The page content includes a header with the 2010 logo and a navigation bar. The main section is titled '世帯員について' (About Household Members). Under the heading '4 出生の年月' (4 Year and Month of Birth), there is a sub-heading '解説を表示する' (Show explanation) and a button to toggle the explanation. A blue bullet point explains that users should enter the year and month in either the Japanese or Western calendar. A red-bordered box highlights an error message: '昭和を選択した場合、出生の年月(年)を正しい範囲(1~64)で入力してください。' (If you select the Japanese calendar, please enter the year and month (year) within the correct range (1~64)). Below this is a table with columns for the calendar type (Meiji, Taisho, Showa, Heisei, West) and the year and month. The first row, '統計 秋代さん' (Statistics Akiyoshi), has '75年' (75 years) entered in the '年' (Year) column, which is highlighted in red. The other rows are: '統計 太郎さん' (50 years, 4 months), '統計 花子さん' (53 years, 12 months), and '統計 大介さん' (20 years, 6 months). Navigation buttons for '前に戻る' (Previous) and '次へ進む' (Next) are at the bottom.

	明治	大正	昭和	平成	西暦	年	月
統計 秋代さん	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	75年	4月
統計 太郎さん	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	50年	4月
統計 花子さん	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	53年	12月
統計 大介さん	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	20年	6月

# 2010 Census Methodology

## □ Response by Internet

--- Finally, 529,154 responses (8.3% of Tokyo).



# 2010 Census Methodology

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- Internet response rate was lower than other countries.  
(mail: about 60%, enumerators: about 40% in Japan).  
--- for the Next 2015 Census, and for the cost effective, we have to increase internet response rate more than 2010.
- It appears “Starting Day Effect”, “Ending Day Effect” and “Holiday Effect”.  
--- These effects are positive, but in some other countries, “Holiday Effect” is negative.
- To increase number of holidays in internet period is important for us, and also we have to try other methods.



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□ History

□ 2010 Census Methodology

□ 1st Exam Survey of the 2015 Census

□ Lessons Learned

# 1st Exam Survey of the 2015 Census

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- The First Examination Survey of the 2015 Population Census was conducted in June 2012:
  - Voluntary survey (approved survey from statistical standards section, but no obligation)
  - Sample survey (sample size was about 19,000 households in 14 cities)
  - With two internet methods (differences: internet response period)

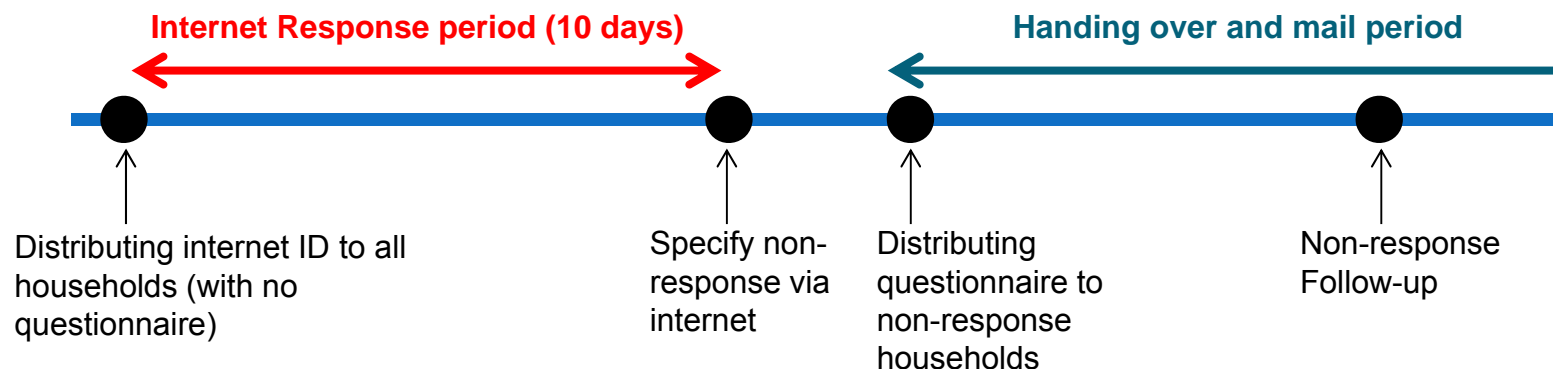
# 1st Exam Survey of the 2015 Census

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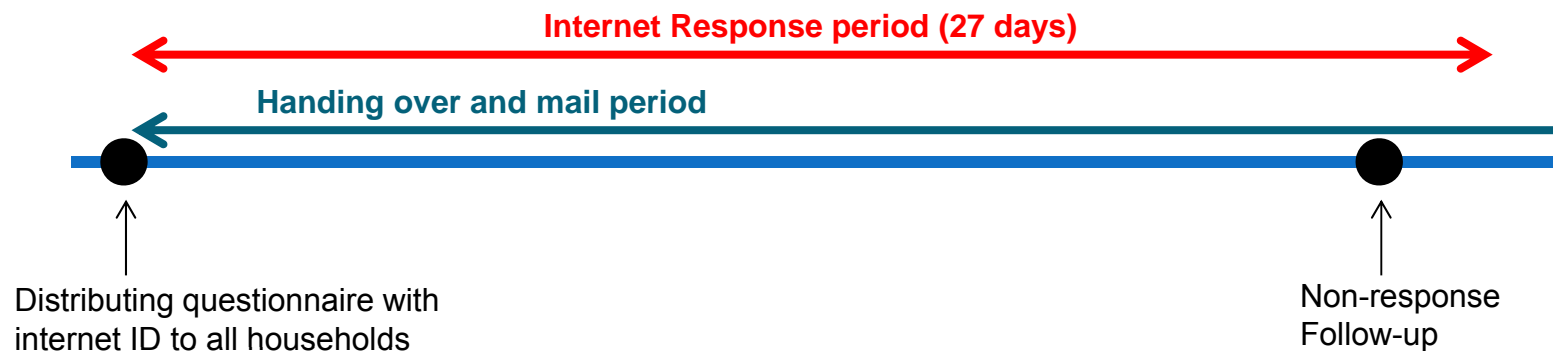
- Two methods were following:
  - Step by Step method (similar to Korean method)
    - Former internet response period with no questionnaire and after other response(handling over and mail) period
  - Parallel method (same as 2010 Census)
    - Distributing questionnaire with internet ID, and households can choose three methods (handling over, mail and internet) in the same period.

# 1st Exam Survey of the 2015 Census

## □ Step by Step method



## □ Parallel method



# 1st Exam Survey of the 2015 Census

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- 1st exam survey's internet response rates (preliminary results) were:
  - Step by Step method : 23.7% (in spite of only 10 days)
    - Automatically lockable apartments : 33.8%
    - Efficiency apartments : 13.3%
    - Houses : 27.8%
    - Other apartments, etc. : 19.8%
  - Parallel method : 6.0%

# 1st Exam Survey of the 2015 Census

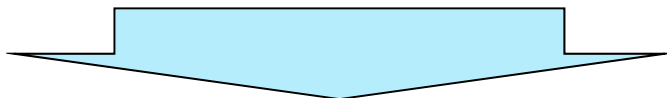
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- Step by Step method's rate was 4 times Parallel method's rate.
  - We guess many households can answer both "internet" and "mail".
- To make the period which households are restricted their response method, we can lead these households to response by internet.
- "Starting Day Effect", "Ending Day Effect" and "Holiday Effect" were appeared as well as 2010 Census.

# 1st Exam Survey of the 2015 Census

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- Why rate of Efficiency apartments was low?
  - We think “One-person household with no desktop or laptop computer” is increasing because Smartphone has a role of computer and efficiency apartments in Japan are very small (maybe not afford to put computers).



- We think “Available to response by Smartphone” can increase internet response rate of Efficiency apartments.

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- History
  - 2010 Census Methodology
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  - Lessons Learned



# Lessons Learned

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## □ Introducing internet method has ---

### [Advantages]

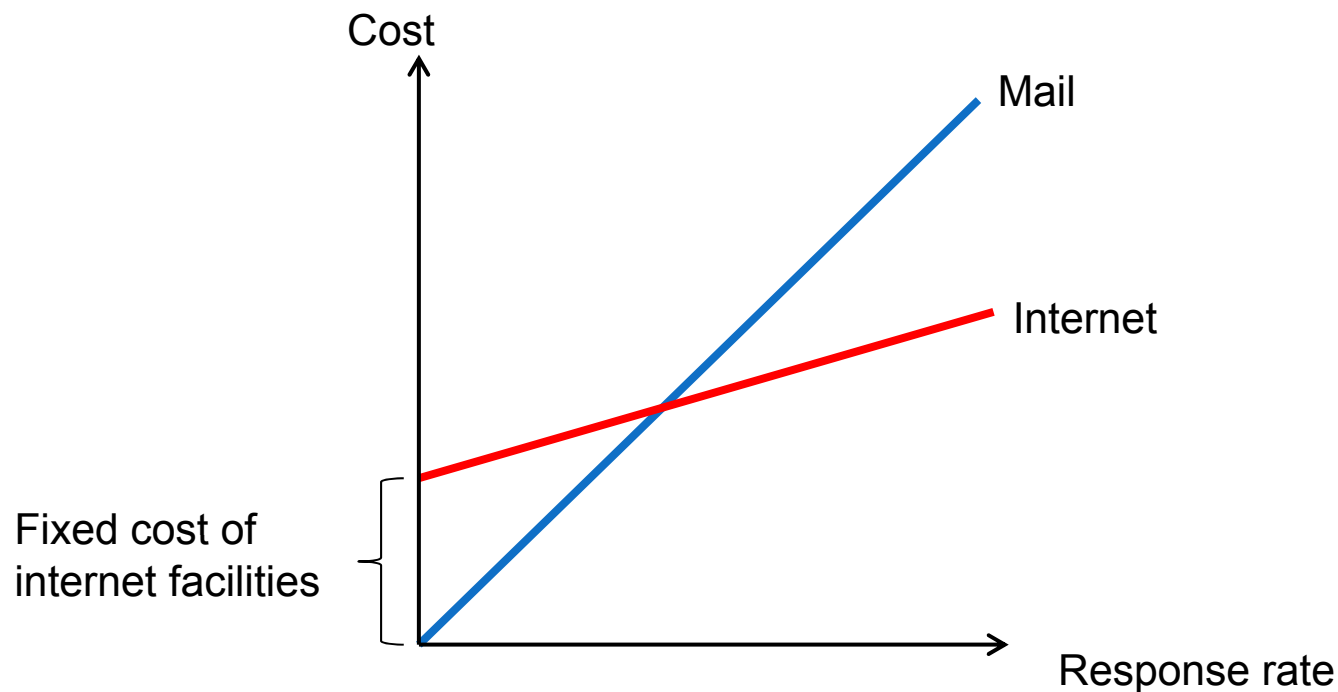
- Reducing respondent burden
- Data quality is high --- automatically checking
- Reducing period of processing data (data entry, data check and so on)

### [Disadvantages]

- Complicating survey method --- Increasing burden for clerks and enumerators
- Increasing duplication

# Lessons Learned

- “Cost Effective” is both Advantage and Disadvantage.  
--- If response rate is high, then it becomes advantage.



# Lessons Learned

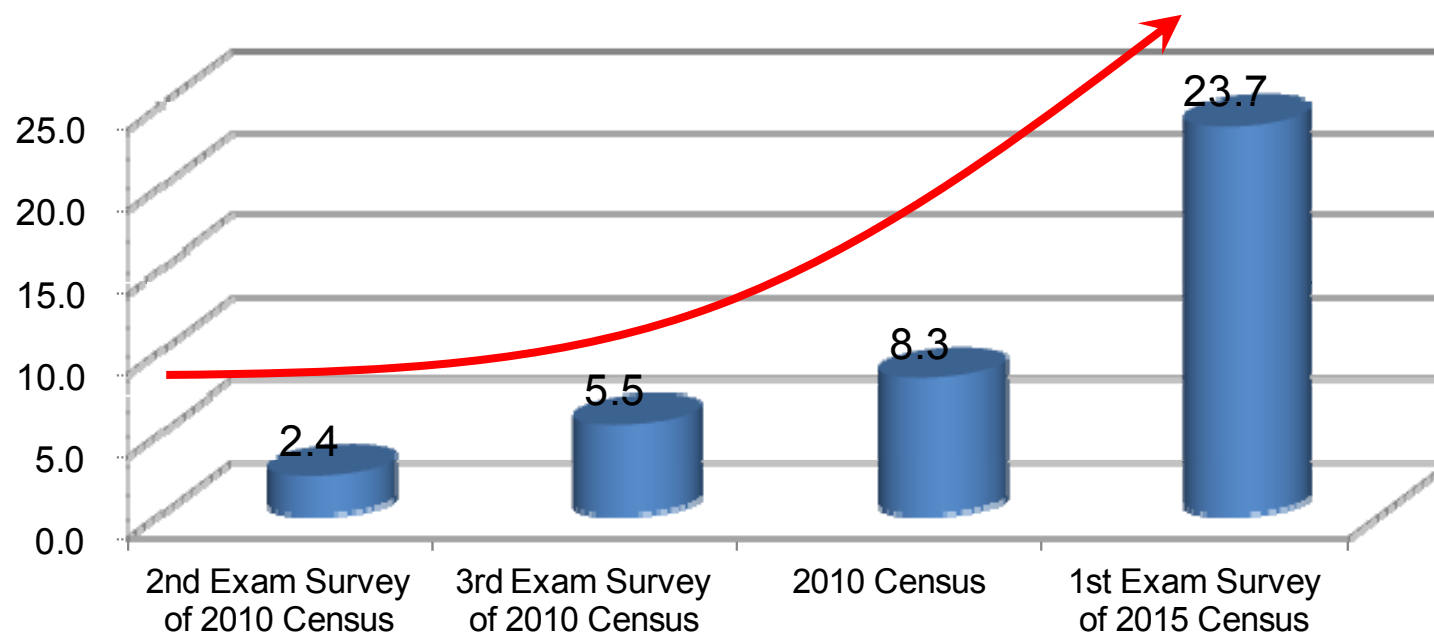
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- There are risks :
  - Increasing One-person households,
  - Complicating survey method (handing over, mail and internet),
  
- So, we are planning to increase internet response rate and to conduct survey more efficiency :
  - Available to response by Smartphone
  - Building Response Management System to specify non-response via internet more efficiency, and to know response situation precisely

# Lessons Learned

- For the Next 2015 Census, we are also planning 2nd Examination Survey of the 2015 Population Census.

Internet Response Rate by Survey



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Thank you for your attention!

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