The Household Registration System:
Computer Software for the Rapid Dissemination of Demographic Surveillance Systems

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Abstract:
Although longitudinal experimental community health research is crucial to testing hypotheses about the demographic impact of health technologies, longitudinal demographic research field stations are rare, owing to the complexity and high cost of developing requisite computer software systems. This paper describes the Household Registration System (HRS), a software package that has been used for the rapid development of eleven surveillance systems in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Features of the HRS automate software generation for a family of surveillance applications, obviating the need for new and complex computer software systems for each new longitudinal demographic study.

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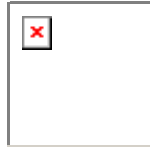is Data Analyst, Policy Research Division, Population Council, One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017

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