ILC Friday three - 4 August 2023

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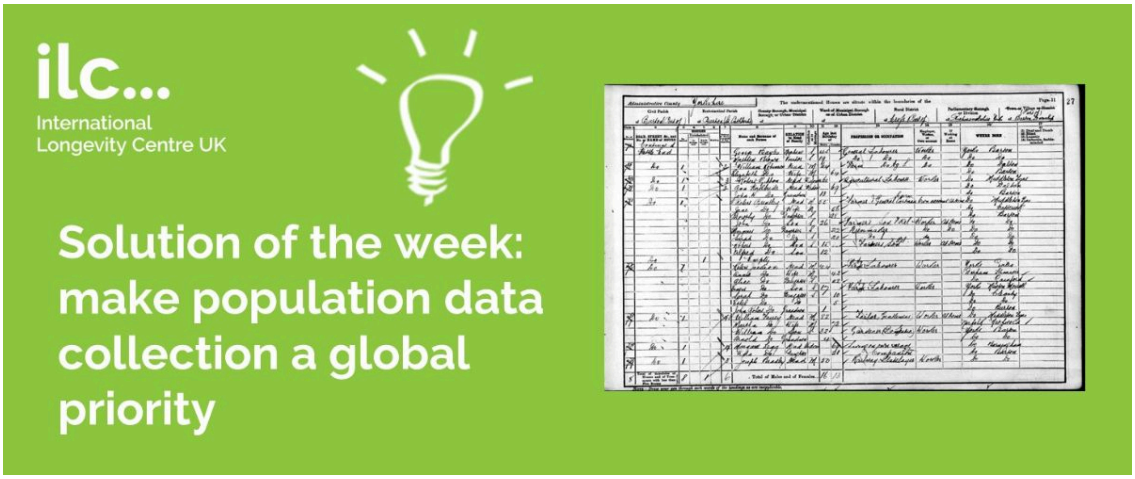
International Longevity Centre UK

Latest news

ILC Friday three

- Solution of the week - ensure population data collection for all
- G20 event in India - how much healthier could the largest economies be?
- Summer reading - a small selection of ILC blogs published in 2023

Solution of the week - ensure population data collection for all



As an organisation obsessed with population data and demographic change, the ILC is reliant on good data. Of all sources, census data remains a fundamental reference, and not just for organisations like ours, but importantly for governments and policymakers. The efforts made to ensure its reliability, along with the comprehensive and detailed nature of the data, make it a crucial tool for understanding and addressing the needs of the population and guiding decision-making processes.

However, not all countries use the same methods of data collection and some have advantages over others. The majority of countries use a traditional census approach, conducting a full enumeration of the population at a defined time point, often every ten years but every five years in Japan and Ireland. Scandinavian countries have long used a less expensive register-based census method utilising existing

In France, the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) has implemented a rolling census since 2004. The census is conducted continuously over a certain period, surveying a small, representative sample of the population each year. Over a five-year cycle, these provide a complete count of the population ensuring more up-to-date information and reducing the burden on respondents.

The UN recommends that all countries conduct a population-wide census at least every ten years. Yet any census is an enormous undertaking, and economic or humanitarian crises can easily throw data collection off course. While the pandemic delayed censuses across the world, Somalia has not conducted a full population census since 1987 and Afghanistan's last attempt in 1979 was scuppered as a result of the Soviet invasion. Governments also might delay or avoid collecting data that is religiously or politically sensitive, for example, Lebanon's last census was in 1932.

In addition, millions of people are born, married, and/or divorced and die without leaving any trace in official legal records. The World Bank estimates over one billion people are currently unable to prove their identity and so are without access to vital services. Many women and girls remain systematically excluded from civil registration and as such are rendered invisible, without civil rights and protections.

Addressing such catch-22 situations by supporting better data collection systems everywhere should be a priority for international aid donors. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) states that its Population Data Thematic Fund needs around $75 million a year from now until 2030 to address long-standing shortfalls in population data and related human capacity. Global humanitarian need is ever-increasing, and so is the demand for timely, accurate population data to inform emergency response, prevention, and better policy decisions. So $75 million a year seems a reasonable price to pay to ensure everybody counts.

What do you think? We've been highlighting examples of policy and practice which could help us adapt to increased longevity. And we've had a great response, with many of you sending us their solutions - thank you. We are collating ideas into a plan for the next Government to launch at our Future of Ageing Conference on 7 December 2023. Do you have better ideas? Let us know via the button below.

LET US KNOW

G20 in India - how much healthier could the largest economies be?



In under two weeks, Health Ministers from across the G20 will be meeting in Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat in India. According to ILC's Healthy Ageing and Prevention Index, the G20 is ranked eighth out of nine political and economic blocs, performing better than the African Union, but worse than the EU, OECD and G7 among others.

But the G20 countries could, and should, do better. The economic benefits of harnessing this longevity dividend could be enormous as populations continue to increase and grow older. Across the G20, just a 0.1 percentage point increase in preventative health spend can unlock an additional 9% of spending. Investing in preventative interventions like life-course immunisation is estimated to bring a four-fold return.

Alongside these meetings, on 16 August 2023, ILC-India and ILC-UK will be holding a joint high-level side event to amplify the importance of healthy ageing and prevention. This high-level debate will set out how the G20 during India's presidency can maximise the economic benefits that come with living longer and hear from experts on the opportunities and barriers to healthy ageing in India and across the globe. Speakers so far include:

- Stephen Hickling, Deputy High Commissioner to Gujarat and Rajasthan, British Deputy High Commission
- Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Director, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)
- Dr Surjit Singh, Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Paediatric Immunology
- Shri Jayant Umranikar, Chair, ILC-India

If you would be interested in attending, please let us know via the button below.

REGISTER

Summer reading - a small selection of ILC blogs published in 2023

International Longevity Centre UK

Three blogs

We're hoping you might have a little more time during August and so we've selected three blogs the ILC has published so far this year for some Summer reading:

Guest Blog: As easy as 1,2,3? What maths we should be teaching to help people make better financial decisions
Zoe Burdo, Senior Consultant at Lane, Clark and Peacock LLP reflects on the Prime Minister's proposal to extend formal maths education to 18. Will this really help people with the financial decisions – both big and small – that they'll be making throughout their lifetime? January 2023

READ MORE

Guest blog: The lifelong benefits of a sure start
Ben Cooper, Senior Researcher at the Fabian Society argues that our failure to invest in early years today will create significant problems for decades. As disadvantaged babies and children grow up, they will fall behind their richer peers, and the evidence suggests that early childhood development has an impact on mid-life economic and social outcomes. March 2023

READ MORE

Does the UK still lead the world in immunisation?
Patrick Swain, ILC's Research and Development Manager responds to the Health and Social Care Committee report on vaccination. On the ILC's Healthy Ageing and Prevention Index the UK ranks 16th globally overall, but ranks 28th for "health span" – the number of years an individual can expect to spend in good health. Declining vaccination rates will only worsen the ranking if growing numbers of the population remain unvaccinated and exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases. July 2023

READ MORE

These are only three of the very many excellent blog posts from a wide range of perspectives that you could lose yourself in for a while. To disappear down this particular rabbit hole please go via the button below.

MORE BLOGS

To keep up-to-date with ILC events throughout the year, please continue to check our website on a regular basis.

Future of Ageing 2023 takes place on Thursday 7 December. If you haven't got your ticket yet, please register here.

Please follow us on social media via the links below for our latest news and event updates.

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