**TECHNICAL NOTES**

**Literacy and Educational Attainment in the Philippines**

**(2020 Census of Population and Housing)**

1. **Introduction**

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) conducted the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH) in September 2020, with 01 May 2020 as reference date.

The 2020 CPH was the 15th census of population and 7th census of housing that was undertaken in the Philippines since the first census in 1903. It was designed to take an inventory of the total population and housing units in the country and collect information about their characteristics.

The Philippine Standard Geographic Codes as of April 2022 was used for the disaggregation of geographic levels of the 2020 CPH.

1. **Data Collection**

II.1 Literacy

Data on literacy provide an important indicator that will serve as guide to planners in formulating policies and programs for the development of the country’s educational system.

II.2 Highest Grade/Year Completed

Data on highest grade/year completed furnish information on the educational skills and qualifications of the population. The data will be used to compare with the future requirements of manpower for various types of economic activities.

II.3 Data Limitations

The statistics presented in this report were based on the information provided by the respondent or any responsible household member who may provide accurate answers to the questions and give correct information about all the household members; hence, it should be used with caution.

1. **Methodology**

The population and housing censuses in the Philippines are conducted on a “de jure” basis, wherein a person is counted in the usual place of residence or the place where the person usually resides. The enumeration of the population and collection of pertinent data in the 2020 CPH referred to all living persons as of 01 May 2020.

Literacy and Highest Grade/Year Completed were asked for household members five years and over. To identify if the household members is literate or illiterate, the respondents were asked,   
***“Can \_\_\_\_\_ read and write a simple message in any language or dialect?”***

For Highest Grade/Year Completed, the respondents were asked ***“What is the highest grade/year completed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?”***

1. **Concepts and Definition of Terms**

**Household** is a social unit consisting of a person or a group of persons who sleep in the same housing unit and have a common arrangement in the preparation and consumption of food.

**Household population** refers to all persons who are members of the household.

**Sex** is the biological and physiological reality of being a male or female.

**Age** refers to interval of time between the person’s date of birth and his/her last birthday prior to the census reference date. It is expressed in completed years or whole number.

**Simple literacy** is *the ability of a person to read and write a simple message*. As such, a person is said to be literate if he/she can both read and write a simple message in any language or dialect. A person who cannot read and write a simple message, such as “I CAN READ” is considered illiterate. Moreover, a person is still considered illiterate if he/she is capable of reading and writing only his/her own name or numbers. Similarly, a person is illiterate if he/she can read but not write or he/she can write but not read.

A person who knows how to read and write but at the time of the census can no longer read and/or write due to some physical defect or illness is still considered literate. Example of this is an aged person who knows how to read and write but can no longer perform these activities due to poor eyesight or hand injury. Persons with disability who can read and write through other means such as the use of Braille are considered literate.

**Highest grade/year completed** refers to *the highest grade or year completed in school, college, or university as of 01 May 2020.* This may be any one of the specific grades or years in elementary, high school, K to 12 Program, and college. It may also be special needs education program, second-chance education program, or any of the post-secondary, short-cycle tertiary, college, and post baccalaureate courses.

In 2011, the Department of Education (DepEd) implemented the K to 12 Program. Under this program, the education of a person starts in kindergarten, followed by an elementary education of six years from Grade 1 to Grade 6, junior high school education of four years from Grade 7 to Grade 10, and senior high school education of two years from Grade 11 to Grade 12.

Below are the career tracks for Senior High School (Grades 11 and 12) and their corresponding strands:

| **Track** | **Strand** | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Academic Track | * Accountancy, Business,   and Management Strand (ABM);   * Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) Strand; * Science, Technology, Engineering,   and Mathematics (STEM) Strand;   * General Academic Strand (GAS); and * Pre-Baccalaureate Maritime | |
| Arts and Design Track | * Music * Theater * Visual Arts | * Media Arts * Dance |
| Sports Track | N/A | |
| Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) and Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL) Track | * Agri-Fishery Arts Strand * Home Economics Strand * Industrial Arts Strand * Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strand * TVL Maritime (Maritime and Prebac Maritime) | |

The **Old Curriculum** covers preschool, six to seven years in elementary from Grade 1 to Grade 6 or Grade 7, and four years in high school from 1st year to 4th year.

**Inclusive/Special Needs Education (SPED) Program** is designed to facilitate learning by individuals who, for a wide variety of reasons, require additional support and adaptive pedagogical methods in order to participate and meet learning objectives in an education program. Reasons may include (but are not limited to) disadvantages in physical, behavioral, intellectual, emotional and social capacities. For purposes of the 2020 CPH, this includes gifted or talented individuals.

* **Special Needs Education Program in Primary Level (elementary)** includes programs suited to individuals with special needs that are designed to provide systematic teaching and learning in the fundamental skills of reading, writing, and mathematics, irrespective of the age of the participant.
* **Special Needs Education Program in Secondary Level (high school)**includes programs suited to individuals with special needs that are designed to build on the fundamental teaching and learning processes that begin at elementary level and/or provide skills relevant to employment.

**Second-Chance Education Programs in Primary Level** refers to the program that usually targets individuals who: (1) left school before completing primary education, allowing them to re-enter the education system and complete primary education or (2) completed primary education but wish to enter an education program or occupation for which they are not yet qualified.

**Second-Chance Education Programs in Secondary Level** refers to the program that usually targets individuals who: (1) left education after completing primary education but before completing lower secondary education, allowing them to re-enter the education system and complete a lower secondary education program or (2) completed lower secondary education but wish to enter an education program or occupation for which they are not yet qualified.

**Postsecondary** or Post-secondary Non-tertiary Education provides learning experiences building on secondary education, preparing graduates for labor market entry as well as tertiary education. Programs are not considered to be tertiary education and are typically vocational and terminal programs that prepare graduates for the labor market.

**Short-cycle tertiary education** captures the lowest level of tertiary education and also includes advanced technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Programs at this level have more complex contents than programs in senior high school and post-secondary non-tertiary education, but are shorter and less theoretically-oriented than a Bachelor's program. Although they are usually designed to prepare for employment, they may give credit for transfer into a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree.

**Bachelor-Level Education** is designed to provide participants with intermediate academic and/or professional knowledge, skills and competencies, leading to a first degree equivalent qualification. It typically has duration of three to four years of full-time study at the tertiary level. Traditionally offered by universities and equivalent tertiary educational institutions, it does not necessarily require the preparation of a substantive thesis or dissertation.

**Post baccalaureate course** refers toany course for which an undergraduate degree or bachelor’s degree is required.

**Master-Level Education** is designed to provide participants with advanced academic and/or professional knowledge, skills and competencies, leading to a second degree or equivalent qualification and has a substantial research component but do not yet lead to the award of a doctoral qualification.

**Doctoral-Level Education** is designed primarily to lead to an advanced research qualification and devoted to advanced study and original research. Typically offered by research-oriented tertiary educational institutions such as universities, doctoral programs exist in both academic and professional fields. The theoretical duration of this program is three years full-time in most countries, although the actual time that students take to complete the program is typically longer.

**V. Dissemination of Results and Revision**

The 2020 CPH special release and statistical tables are publicly available at the PSA website, https://psa.gov.ph/population-and-housing.

**VI. Citation**

Philippine Statistics Authority. Technical Notes, 2020 Census of Population and Housing, https://psa.gov.ph/population-and-housing/ technical-notes.

**VII. Contact Information**

**Joseph P. Cajita**

Chief Statistical Specialist

Population and Housing Census Division

National Censuses Service

Censuses and Technical Coordination Office

(02) 8376-1903

j.cajita@psa.gov.ph

For data requests, you may contact:

**Simonette A. Nisperos**

Information Officer V

Knowledge Management and Communications Division

Information Technology and Dissemination Service

Censuses and Technical Coordination Office

(02) 8462-6600 loc. 820

info@psa.gov.ph | kmcd.staff@psa.gov.ph