Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Beyond 2011 Statistical Options

1. The last six months has seen substantial progress on Beyond 2011 statistical research. We are currently pursuing two leading options - an eCensus (data collection via internet completion) and an administrative data model plus surveys. A third option may be a hybrid in 2021 which would combine both methodologies, although this option is not being actively researched at this time.

2. We have been researching the 'Integrated Census' model which was been developed in Israel. This model uses administrative data alongside a large (20%) coverage survey to estimate the population at a small area of geography (around 4,000 people). While it would not be feasible to use this model every year, due to the large sample size, it does offer the potential of a smoother transition to an administrative data based model, starting with larger sample sizes less frequently which could be reduced in size and increased in frequency over time. Our initial research suggests this model has an over-count bias of around 2% at the Scotland level, caused mainly by individuals being present on administrative data who are no longer in Scotland. However, if the administrative data could be further cleaned we do believe this model would be feasible.

3. We have been looking at the sample size requirements for an attribute survey to produced statistics on the characteristics of the population. Our initial research suggests a 4% annual sample would provide datazone information once a decade and Local Authority data annually.

4. Our research plans for the next six months include:

    a. working with Information Services Division to investigate the potential of creating an activity flag to help remove people from the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) who are likely to no longer be in the country,
    b. researching at modelling small area population data,
    c. continuing research into address matching,
    d. considering enumeration of special populations, and,
    e. researching the production of occupied dwelling statistics (as a proxy for household).

NRS – Alternative Sources
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