

SMALL AREA POPULATION ESTIMATES - PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

1 Introduction

1.1 This report gives a brief update of work in progress within the GROS Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) project, and is provided for information.

2 Background

2.1 In March 2001 GROS published an experimental set of small area population estimates using information from the Community Health Index (CHI) controlled to the Registrar General's 1999 mid-year estimates (MYE). Similar estimates for mid-2000 were completed in November 2001. The SAPE project aims to evaluate and further develop the methodology used to produce the 1999 and 2000 estimates, and will implement agreed changes in the production of 2002 SAPE in Spring 2003. The work is being undertaken as part of the GROS contribution to Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics.

3 Evaluation of existing SAPE methodology

3.1 A comparison has been made of the experimental 1999 and 2000 SAPE as part of the evaluation of the existing methodology. Councils were asked to provide possible explanations for observed differences between 1999 and 2000 populations in certain wards. The response from the councils so far has been encouraging, and the results will be collated for presentation at the next SAPE working group meeting, planned for end-June 2002.

3.2 Councils have also been providing feedback on the SAPE in general, and many of those councils that produce their own estimates have supplied them to us for comparison with our 1999 and 2000 SAPE.

4 Development of CHI migration methodology

4.1 A methodology to improve the estimation of council level migration in the GROS mid-year estimates is being developed. This work is being carried out within the SAPE project, because in addition to its use in the MYE, it also has potential for use within a small area estimates methodology. It is anticipated that a methodology for estimating migration at council level will be recommended by end-June. Specifically, progress has been made in the following areas:

4.2 A program to control CHI migration flows to NHSCR migration flows has been produced and is ready for testing. It can be used as it is to control within-Scotland CHI migration to within-Scotland NHSCR migration at health board level by age and sex. This program could also be adapted to control other flows identifiable from the CHI (cross-border, overseas, armed forces) to the relevant NHSCR totals.

4.3 A methodology for estimating the migration of zero year olds was presented to the working group on 18 April, and has been approved, in principle. This method will be validated, and the working group informed of results by correspondence or at the next meeting towards the end of June.

4.4 A methodology for estimating the migration of people who migrate but then die before the date of the second CHI extract has been approved by the working group, and will be implemented in the production of council level migration estimates, for use in the GROS MYE.

4.5 A methodology to impute missing postcodes in CHI migration data has been proposed to the working group, and has been accepted, in principle. The recommended methodology will be validated and results presented to the working group at the next meeting.

4.6 An initial investigation into the use of CHI transfer indicators to estimate cross-border and international flows, and moves to and from the Armed Forces has been carried out, and the results are encouraging. This work will continue during May and June, and results will be presented to the working group at the next meeting.

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