

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

Local Authority Projections of Disabled Populations

Glasgow City Council is participating, with a number of other authorities in England, in a research exercise being conducted by the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR) at the University of Manchester. The purpose of this research is to estimate future rates of disabilities and to apply these to the projected populations of the authorities concerned. This work is undertaken by Alan Marshall as part of a PhD study and is supervised by Ludi Simpson. One of the expected outputs from the study is an additional module in the POPGROUP software, which will allow POPGROUP users to produce their own population projections by disability in the future. This work was brought to the attention of PAMS at the meeting of 26 June 2007. The present paper updates on progress since then.

Recent Progress

In January 2008 the second output from the project was received: An evaluation of datasets and methodologies available for estimates and projections of the disabled population for local authorities, with consideration of different types and levels of disability.

The methodology chosen for the estimates and projections involves the use of the following disability types: locomotor (mobility), personal care, sight, hearing and communication. Data from the Health Survey for England will be used to estimate relationships between disabilities and age/limiting long-term illness. These relationships will be applied to District/Council area data on population by age and limiting long-term illness (from the Census) to estimate **local** disability prevalence for District/Council areas across the UK. Data from the Scottish Household Survey will be used to check the model in terms of the accuracy of the assumptions used.

Details on the evaluation carried out and the methodology to be used are available in the form of six working papers, which can be downloaded from the disability projections project website:

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/popgroup/disability.htm>

The papers are listed below:

1. Review of disability data and definitions. This paper explores the data that is available on disability in the UK and considers some of the issues associated with the measurement of disability.
2. Review of disability projection methodologies in the UK and overseas. This paper gives a review of the methods used to project disability: macro-simulation, micro-simulation and prevalence rates.
3. Graduation of age schedules literature review. This paper describes and evaluates methodologies to represent the relationship between age and disability.
4. Comparison of models for estimation of district disability schedules. This paper compares the performance of some techniques for the estimation of disability type schedules (by age and limiting long-term illness).
5. Meeting the disability information needs of local authorities. This paper presents findings from a consultation with local authority staff involved in the policy and planning of disability service provision.
6. Research Design. This paper draws on working papers 1 to 5 to inform a strategy to produce estimates and projections of disability for District/Council areas. It contains a complete specification of estimation and projection methodologies.

The final projection of the disabled population for each of the participating authorities is due for delivery in January 2009. It will be guided by the findings from the evaluation carried out in 2007 and will follow the specification given in working paper 6.

Contacts

Further information on this study is available from:

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