

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)**POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS UPDATE****Introduction**

This paper summarises the recent work on population statistics. PAMS is asked to note the paper and other comments. Written comments will also be welcome to bryan.cunningham@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Staffing

Bryan Cunningham is leaving the branch in late November to take up a post in the NHS.

Stacy Miller is also leaving in early December, she has been working on a project looking at the availability and quality of data on student accommodation and quality assurance of the SAPE.

Mid-year estimates

We are currently working on improving the internal distribution of migrants to local authorities as part of the MYE. We have also conducted analysis that allows us to separate migrants into 'International' and 'UK' migrants in the local authority estimates.

Small Area Population Estimates*SAPE 2006*

The SAPE 2006 was published on the 6th of November 2007. It is available on the GROS & SNS website. More detailed Single Year of Age data is available on request.

SAPE 2003-2005

The revisions for SAPE 2003-2005 were released simultaneously with the SAPE 2006.

Quality Assurance of SAPE

On-going improvements are being made to the SAPE methodology and the quality of the data. Various administrative data sources have been used to quality assure the SAPE and to identify problem areas. These data sources include the Community Health Index, child benefit database, school census, and older persons database. Student term-time address data has been collected from universities to help improve the population estimates of student areas. A paper on this work will be circulated to PAMS members in December/January. Due to the revisions to the 2003-2005 SAPE, there was no time to consult with local authorities and health boards before the publication of the SAPE this year.

Historic SAPE 1996-2000

Historic SAPE for 1996-2000 (produced under contract by CACI) were published in August 2007. These have been quality assured by the Health Department and ISD, who were the customers for this work. The SAPE for earlier years (1991 – 1995) are problematic in some areas and so GROS are considering amending these before release as they are deemed to be of insufficient quality.

Population Projections

The 2006-based national population projections for Scotland and the other constituent countries of the UK were published on 23 October 2007 and the sub-national population projections for council, NHS board areas and National Parks will be published in January 2008.

Proposed migration assumptions for the 2006-based sub-national population projections were circulated to local authority contacts at the end of October and responses are requested by 20 November 2007.

The Population Projections Working Group met in September. Some outcomes are listed below.

- GROS plan to use different local mortality scaling factors for different age groups (0-59, 60-79, 80+) in the 2006-based sub-national projections. The projection system is currently being updated to allow this and will be tested prior to the 2006-based projection publication.
- Plan to replace census data with Community Health Index (CHI) data in calculation of age distribution of migrants at Council area level
- Plan to publish projections for 25 rather than 20 years
- Plan to produce output in an appropriate format to allow Councils to input into POPGROUP
- Plan to produce some sub-national variant projections

Revised 2004-based sub-national population projections were published on 27 September 2007 following the revisions to the mid-year population estimates. Revisions resulted in small changes to all Council areas and NHS boards and larger changes to the 6 councils in Grampian and Tayside.

Life expectancy

Life expectancy for administrative areas 2004-2006 were published in September 2007.

Centenarians

In line with ONS, we have used the Kannisto-Thatcher method to estimate the numbers of people over 85 by single year of age in 2006. (We also have estimates for 2001-2005). We are considering publishing this data in the form of a short report.

The KT method relies on death data to form past estimates of centenarian profiles and the average profile of the last five years is used to produce a current estimate. However, as more deaths are recorded, our estimates improve, so our estimate of 2006 in one years time may

well be more accurate in one years time and more accurate again in two years time etc. We have to take a view on whether it is worth releasing estimates that are subject to continuous change.

Our current plan is to have written the report by early December and to publish in January.

Dissemination and User Engagement

At the previous PAMS meeting, GROS invited local authorities to consider hosting a member of staff for a day or two in order that they can find out more about what the main issues facing local authorities in their use of GROS population statistics.

A number of local authorities have offered to do this, including Fife, Argyll & Bute, Stirling, Falkirk, North Ayrshire and Borders.

A visit was made to Stirling to coincide with a meeting of the Research and Information Network, at which Andrew White and Esther Roughsedge made presentations. In addition, Harvey Snowling visited Paul McNamara and his colleagues, and was shown some examples of the work of the Research Team at Stirling Council and how GROS population and household data is used.

We plan to arrange a few visits following the publication of the sub-national population projections in January.

Cecilia Macintyre

November 2007