

Birth, Marriage and Death statistics from registration systems

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Workshop at
“Using and Improving Population and
Household Statistics” seminar
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Some points from the “Workshop Details” note

General

- “We aim to get groups of people together discussing any difficulties that they have had obtaining or providing suitable data.”
- “We also hope that areas of success will be highlighted with hints for others.”
- “... introduction to the specific topic plus a few questions to generate discussion”
- “Notes will be taken ... and shared with all participants after the event”

Specific

- “Paul will explore how the changes in the registration process have impacted on users.”
- “Frank will give a short presentation on what statistics GROS produce on births, deaths and marriages, and any possible changes being considered.”
- “The workshop will then be opened up for users’ views, questions and suggestions on what they would like GROS to do.”

Outline of talk

- Birth, Marriage (Civil Partnership, Divorce, Dissolution and Adoption) and Death statistics which GROS currently produces
 - publications
 - other figures available on Web
 - in response to ad-hoc requests
 - data supplied regularly to approved users
- How to get the statistics
- Improvements
- Your views:
 - on the possible publication of daily and/or more weekly figures for Deaths
 - on a proposed change to the publication of Divorce statistics
 - questions that you want to ask – e.g.:
 - what data does GROS hold?
 - could GROS produce for me?

Birth, Marriage and Death statistics: publications

Scotland's Population: the Registrar General's annual review/report

- published in August
- overall position and trends, described in chapters:
 - Births – 7 pages
 - Adoptions and Gender Recognition – 1 page
 - Marriages and Civil Partnerships – 4 pages
 - Divorces and Dissolutions – 3 pages
 - Deaths – 13 pages
- summary tables:
 - overall trends,
 - numbers by Council,
 - international comparisons
- a separate chapter analyses, in greater depth, a topic which changes from year to year
 - 2008 - improving choice in the registration system
 - 2007 - fertility
 - 2006 - demography: local perspectives
 - 2005 - causes of death
 - 2004 - 150 years of civil registration
 - 2003 - migration
 - 2002 - fertility

Birth, Marriage and Death statistics: publications (2)

Births, Marriages and Deaths

- quarterly – e.g. April-June 2009 published 10 Sept 09
- preliminary annual – e.g. 2008 published 12 Mar 2009
- six standard tables, including
 - numbers by sex for LAs and HBs
 - deaths by sex and age-group for LAs and HBs
 - deaths by cause (main groups) for HBs

Birth, Marriage and Death statistics: publications (3)

- *Drug-related Deaths in Scotland*
 - published in August
 - 13 tables
 - 3 give numbers for LAs, 3 give numbers for HBs
- *Increased Winter Mortality*
 - published in October
 - 4 tables
 - one gives estimates for HBs
- *Babies' First Names*
 - published in December
 - summary figures for Scotland in publication
 - 4 accompanying tables on Web site
 - 1 table gives top 10 names for each sex for each LA

Birth, Marriage and Death statistics: other figures available from Web site

Vital Events Reference Tables

- published in August
- separate sections:
 - Summary: 7 tables (incl. 3 for both LAs and HBs)
 - Adoptions: 2 tables
 - Births: 15 tables (incl. 2 for both LAs and HBs)
 - Stillbirths and Infant Deaths: 7 tables
 - Deaths: 17 tables (incl. 2 for both LAs and HBs)
 - Marriages: 8 tables
 - Divorces: 7 tables
 - Civil Partnerships: 3 tables

Birth, Marriage and Death statistics: other figures available from Web site (2)

- Time-series tables
 - published in August
 - Births: 6 tables (incl. 1 for LAs and 2 for HBs)
 - Deaths: 7 tables (incl. 1 for LAs and 2 for HBs)
 - Marriages: 1 table
 - Divorces: 1 table
- Weekly births and deaths – Scotland totals
- Monthly deaths – gives HB figures

Birth, Marriage and Death statistics: other figures available from Web site (3)

- Sections on deaths from particular causes
 - all published in August
 - Alcohol-related deaths: 3 tables (incl. 1 for LAs and 1 for HBs)
 - Clostridium difficile deaths: 7 tables (incl. 3 for individual hospitals and 3 for HBs)
 - MRSA deaths: 5 tables (incl. 2 for individual hospitals and 2 for HBs)
 - (probable) Suicides: 5 tables (incl. 1 for LAs and 1 for HBs)
- “High Level Summary of Statistics”
 - 3 pages on births
 - 2 pages on deaths

Birth, Marriage and Death statistics: other figures available from (SNS) Web site (4)

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics web site

- Births:
 - numbers
 - percentage born to unmarried parents
- Deaths:
 - all ages
 - under 75 (all causes)
 - under 75 from Coronary Heart Disease
 - under 75 from Cancer
 - under 75 from Strokes
- geographies available may vary
- usually, separate figures for each sex

Birth, Marriage and Death statistics available in response to ad-hoc requests

- “Unpublished tables”
 - some may have been published at one time, but most are produced for distribution to users with an interest in specific aspects of the statistics
 - e.g. 27 tables on the numbers of stillbirths and/or infant deaths broken down in many ways
- Ad-hoc tables and anonymised sets of data
 - produced by writing new computer programs, provided that:
 - staff time available to do the work
 - no concerns about the potential disclosure of information about identifiable individuals

Birth and Death data supplied regularly to approved users

- Weekly, quarterly and annual datasets (Births, Stillbirths and Deaths)
 - supplied to Health Boards and Information Services Division of NHS National Services Scotland
 - weekly data used (e.g.) to update HB/hospital computer systems' records of patients who have died
 - quarterly and annual data take account of any subsequent changes to (e.g.) coding of cause of deaths, following receipt of further information
- Regular data supplied to other approved users – e.g.:
 - Scottish Longitudinal Study
 - Scottish Cot Deaths Trust
 - (UK) National Confidential Enquiry into Suicide ...
 - Volatile Substance Abuse Mortality Study

How to get Birth, Marriage (etc) and Death statistics from GROS

Publications and material on Web sites:

- GROS Statistics Web site: www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics
- menus down LHS and in middle of page have links to the separate sections for “Births”, “Marriages and Civil Partnerships”, “Divorces and Adoptions” and “Deaths”
- each section has links to the publications and the other figures which are available on the GROS Web site
- for the data which are available from the Neighbourhood Statistics Web site, go to www.sns.gov.uk

To make an ad-hoc request:

- contact GROS Statistics Customer Services:
- phone: 0131 314 4299
- e-mail: customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Improvements since mid-2008

include:

- Added Web sections on Alcohol-related deaths, Clostridium Difficile deaths, MRSA deaths and (probable) Suicides
- Seven new Vital Events Reference Tables
- Eight Vital Events Reference Tables expanded markedly, plus improvements to some other tables
- Four new Time-series Tables
- Seven new tables and other new material added to *“Drug-related Deaths in Scotland”*
- New Web pages of information about (e.g.) death certificates, sources of information for coding the causes of death, birth and death statistics on other Web sites
- Added Births and Deaths by datazone (for calendar years and mid-year to mid-year periods) to the Neighbourhood Statistics Web site

Improvements planned / in progress

- Demography Division Statistics Plan 09-10
(available from GROS Web site)
 - Rewrite Vital Events IT system (dates from mid-90s)
 - Electronic provision of Divorce data
 - Add new statistical material to Web site (e.g. on healthcare acquired infections: already done some of this)
- Also hope to ...
 - get “complete” statistics of mothers’ numbers of previous live births using data from NHS
 - consult Health Boards re. standard datasets
 - respond to users’ views (e.g. points raised today)

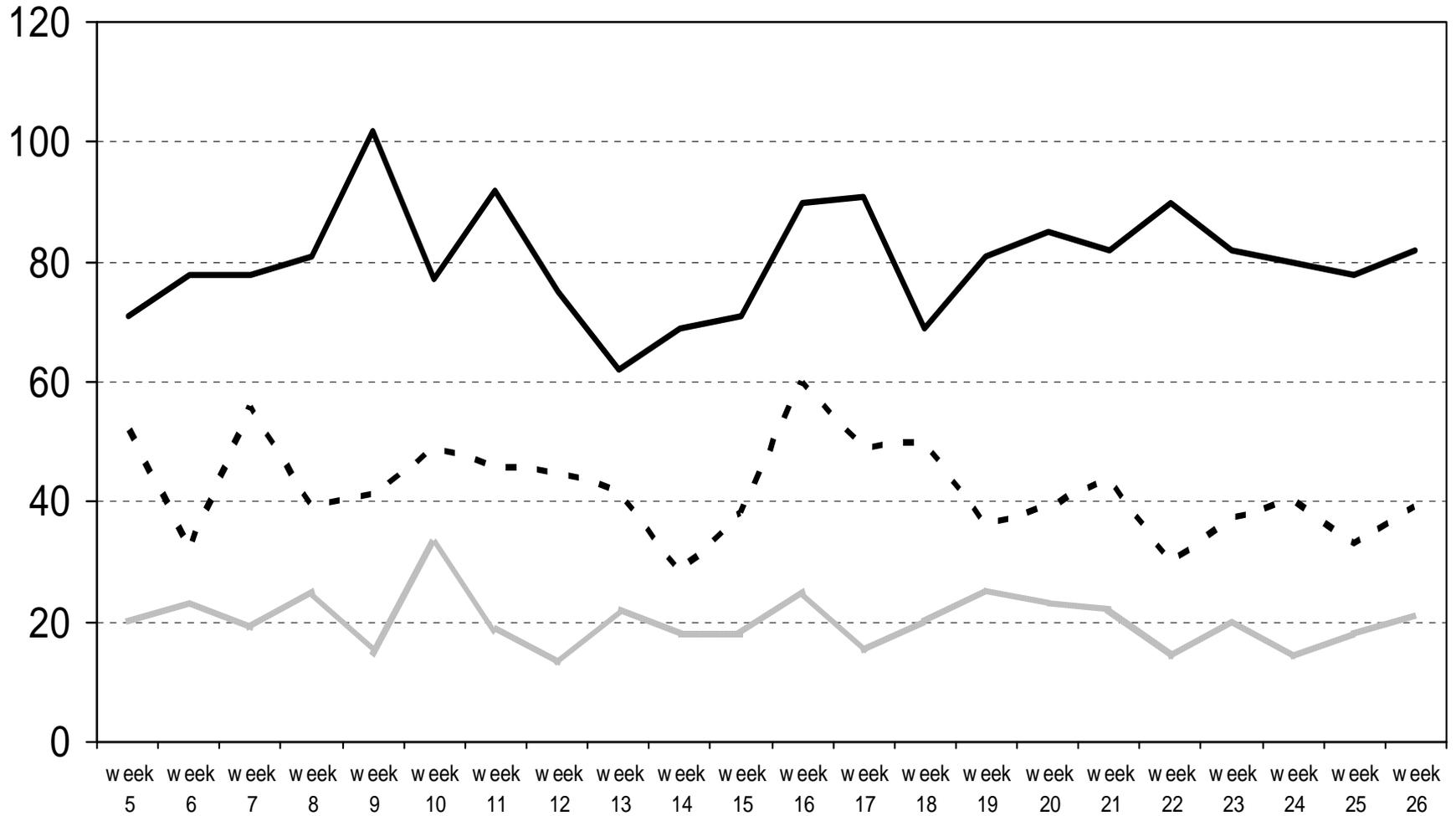
What are your views ...

- ... on two specific questions
 - on the possible publication of daily and/or more weekly figures for Deaths
 - on the future arrangements for the publication of Divorce statistics
- ... are there any questions, suggestions, issues or requests that you want to raise about any aspect of GROS's statistics about Births, Marriages (etc) and Deaths?

Possible publication of daily and/or more weekly figures for Deaths

- H1N1/swine flu => emergency planners ask for more frequent statistics about Deaths
- GROS currently:
 - publishes weekly Deaths registrations – in total, and caused by Respiratory diseases – see <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/weekly-and-monthly-data-on-births-and-deaths-registered-in-scotland/weekly-data/index.html> .
 - sends Health Protection Scotland (and UK Health Department, etc) daily Deaths data by Registration District, Date of Death, Date of Registration, Postcode, Age and Sex – for use in HPS's weekly Situation Reports (see <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/resp/swineinfluenza.aspx>)
 - provides Scottish Government Civil Contingencies Unit with daily Deaths by local authority of occurrence, which SG distributes to Strategic Co-ordination Groups around Scotland
- In theory, GROS could publish those daily figures.
- GROS could also publish more weekly figures for Deaths (e.g. broken down by age and sex, or broken down by Health Board and by Local Authority)
- GROS has not done so yet, because
 - as yet, no sign of any demand from GROS's users for such figures
 - such numbers may fluctuate markedly from one week to the next => sometimes apparently large percentage increases (see *the next slide*) => could lead to unnecessary concerns
- **What are your views on this?**

Weekly numbers of deaths registered



— Edinburgh

- - - Aberdeenshire

— Argyll & Bute

Publication of Divorce statistics

- Divorce data are provided by Scottish Courts Service
- So far, GROS has been the main publisher of Divorce statistics:
 - 3 pages on Divorce statistics in “*Scotland’s Population*”
 - 7 “Divorce” tables in Vital Events Reference Tables
 - some summary and time-series tables show the trends in the overall total number of divorces
- Now proposed that Scottish Government Civil Justice Statistics will become the main publisher of Divorce statistics:
 - GROS would publish only:
 - time-series of the overall total number of divorces
 - breakdown by sex, age at divorce and duration of marriage
 - a page or so in “*Scotland’s Population*” commenting on these
 - SG would publish:
 - the kinds of figures that (at present) appear in all the other Vital Events Reference Tables of Divorce statistics
 - any new tables for which SG feels that there is a need
 - any commentary / analysis that SG feels appropriate on the topics covered by the above tables
 - the GROS Web site and “*Scotland’s Population*” would include links/references to the SG publication
- What are your views on this?

What do you think, or want to know, about GROS's statistics of Births, Marriages (etc) and Deaths?

What do users need from GROS? For example:

- What data (if any) does GROS hold on a particular topic of interest to you/users?
- How should GROS improve its current publications and Web site material – e.g:
 - publish (more) figures on a particular topic?
 - analyse certain topics in more depth?
- Are there points about the statistics which GROS should explain better or in more detail?
- Could GROS produce statistics on a particular topic, as an ad-hoc request for me?