

Recording Ethnicity at Death Registration: Scotland, 2012 to 2014

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Structure of talk

- Information collection: 2012 onwards
- The first three years' results
- Apparent death rates produced from those results
- Intended future work

Information collection: 2012 onwards

- Consent sought (undertaking shown on card)
- If Informant willing to provide
 - relevant ethnic group picked from list
 - if it is an “other” group (e.g. “Other white”), Registrar asks for more detail, and keys in whatever the Informant says (e.g. “German”)
- Otherwise, record “not willing to provide” or “Ethnic group not known” (as appropriate)

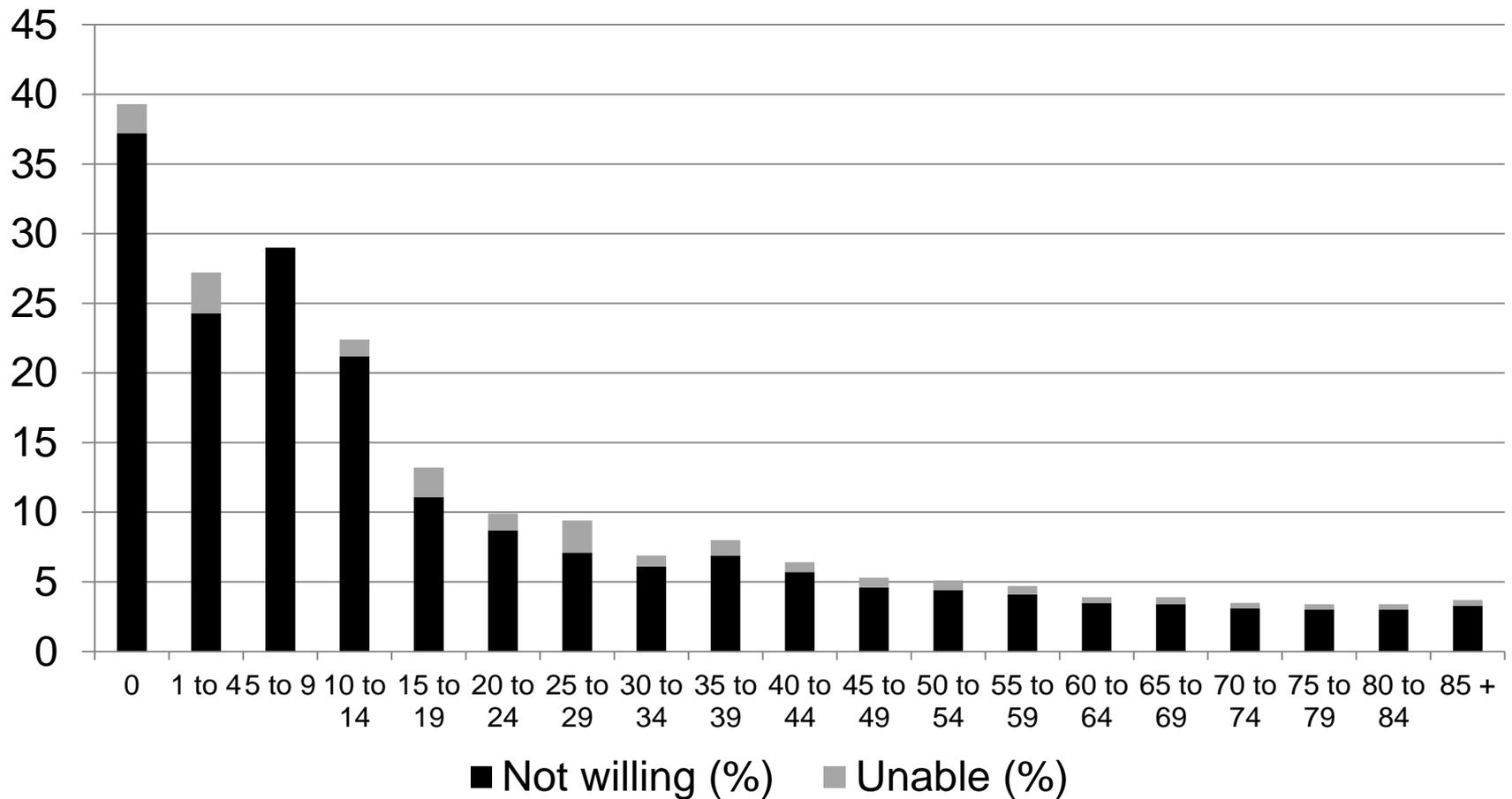
The first three years' results

- 163,876 deaths registered
- 95.9% (157,232 cases) - ethnic group was provided
- 3.6% (5,880 cases) - Informant “not willing to provide” ethnic group of deceased
- 0.5% (764 cases) - Informant “did not know” the ethnic group of the deceased

3 years' results (2)

- “Not willing” percentage has increased:
3.0% in 2012, 3.6% in 2013, 4.2% in 2014
- “Not known” has also increased slightly
(0.4% in 2012 and 2013, 0.6% in 2014)
- so “ethnicity provided” has fallen slightly:
 - 96.6% in 2012
 - 96.0% in 2013
 - 95.2% in 2014

% “not willing” or “unable” to provide ethnicity – by deceased’s age



3 years' results (3)

Of 157,232 deaths for which ethnic group given:

- 99.4% (156,309) White
- 0.6% (923) All other ethnic groups (incl. mixed)
 - 0.2% Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish, Pakistani British
 - 0.1% Indian, Indian Scottish, Indian British
 - 0.1% Chinese, Chinese Scottish, Chinese British
 - other non-White groups - each had fewer than 100 deaths, and each was under 0.1%.

3 years' results (4)

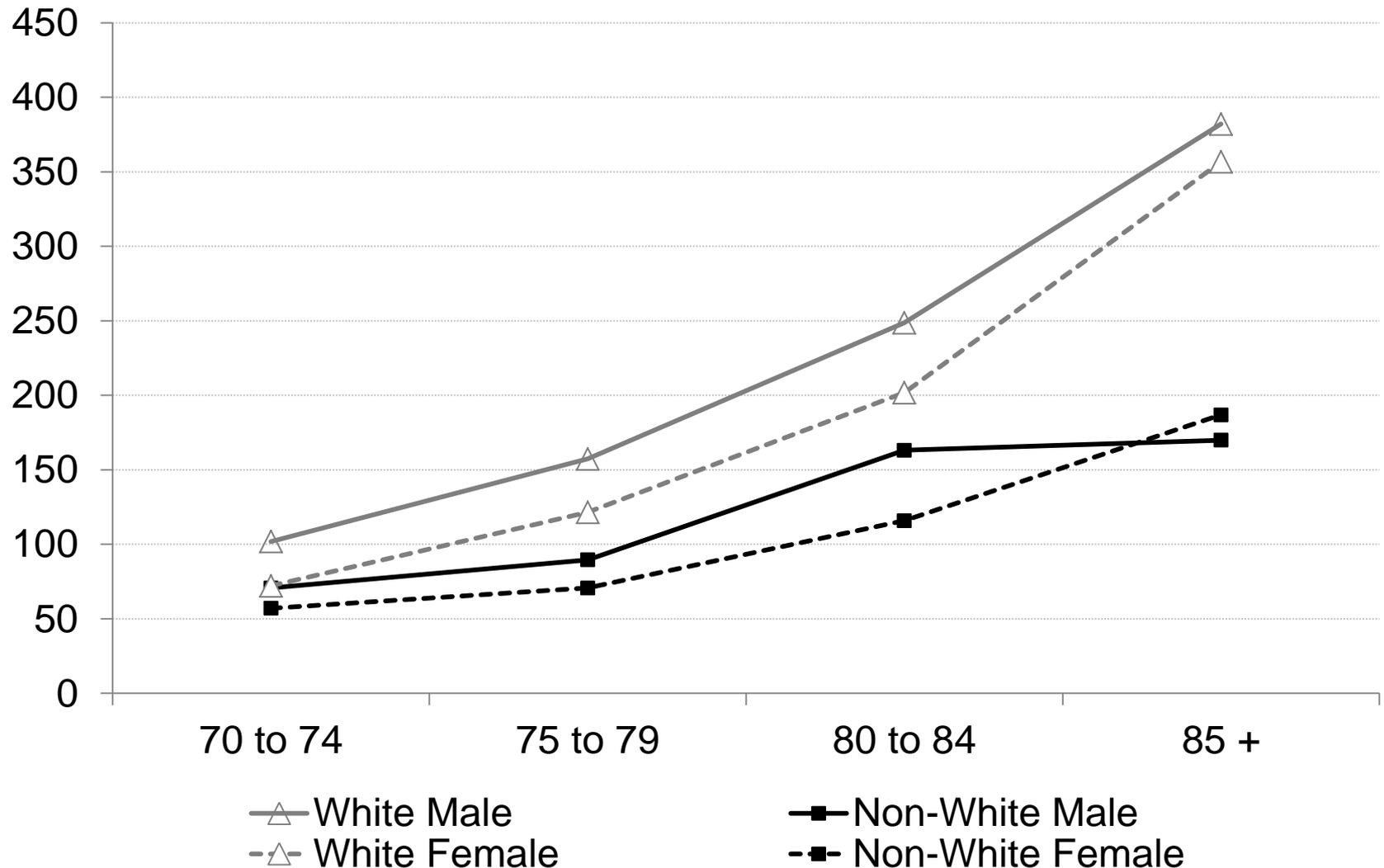
- non-White percentage unexpectedly low?
- might “Not willing” or “Not known” be more likely for non-Whites?
- **so must use carefully any death rates estimated from these data.**
- e.g. non-White deaths more than double
IF 1-in-7 of 6,644 “Not willing or Not known” deaths were non-White

apparent Death rates by ethnic group, age and sex

- estimate using population from 2011 Census
- BUT must be very cautious: “not willing” bias?
- also, rates calculated from relatively small numbers of deaths could have large percentage year-to-year fluctuations
- and the population by ethnic group, age and sex may have changed since 2011 Census
- => **the results may be unreliable**

apparent “3 year” death rates

per 1,000 pop by age on Census date; 2012 to 2014 taken together



Intended further work

- Try to match each Death record to that person's Census record (if the deceased was in Scotland on the Census date – 27 March 2011)
- Compare the ethnic groups: see (e.g.)
 - if the same in Census and Death data
 - what Census has for “no ethnic group” Death
- Hence assess quality of “ethnicity of deceased” (e.g. significant under-record for some groups?) and implications for death rates calculated using these data

Any questions?

Some additional information

- for possible reference
(e.g.during Q&A)

What led to Registrars asking ...

- 2009 – Laurence Gruer (LG) e-mail to Registrar General (RG)
- “... chairing working group ... research programme for ethnicity and health in Scotland”
- “... like to recommend that ethnic identity is recorded on the death certificate, using the same classification as the census ...”

What led (2)

- LG met RG and colleagues
- RG happy in principle, but number of points to resolve, including:
 - Legal position
 - Public acceptability
 - Support of Registrars
 - Finalising the Census classification
 - IT etc changes

How some potential problems were resolved

- Lawyers advised on how it could be done
- RG consulted interested parties about proposed approach:
 - Provision of data would be voluntary
 - It would not appear in the entry in the register of deaths, or in any extract (“death certificate”) that was produced
 - Informant would be asked for consent to sharing of data with NHS, and to use of data for research and to produce statistics

Responses generally supportive: no objections

- Colin Fischbacher spoke about the need for the data at a Registrars’ Conference
- Census classification finalised
- Identified changes to IT system, Form of Particulars, Registrars’ Handbook, etc – all implemented w.e.f. 1st January 2012

Card for Informant

(while waiting to register death)

- Explains:
 - Registrar General wishes to record information about the deceased person's ethnic group
 - what the information would be used for
 - “At the time of informing on the death you will be asked by the registrar whether you consent to the recording and sharing of the deceased person's ethnic group. Please indicate to the registrar that you **give** consent or **do not give** consent ...”
 - “... None of this information, including your choice, will be shown in the register of deaths”
- Shows the question that will be asked, and the ethnic group categories that will be used

Question to Informant

- “Are you willing to provide the Registrar General with information about the deceased person’s ethnic group? This would be shared with the National Health Service, used in research into the links between ethnic group and causes of death to help improve health and healthcare services, and used to produce statistical tables and datasets. All published information would be in numerical form, so that no individual could be identified. The information would be used for no other purposes”.

Ethnic group categories

White

- Scottish*
- Other British*
- Irish*
- Gypsy / Traveller*
- Polish*
- Other white ethnic group, please write in*

Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British

- Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British*
- Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British*
- Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British*
- Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British*
- Other, please write in*

Caribbean or Black

- Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British*
- Black, Black Scottish or Black British*
- Other, please write in*

Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

- Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups, please write in*

African

- African, African Scottish or African British*
- Other, please write in*

Other ethnic group

- Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British*
- Other, please write in*

Collection in practice

- Registrars' views:
 - all fine
 - no complaints
 - quite happy to provide the information

3 years' results: more detail

Of the 157,232 deaths for which ethnic group was given:

- 156,309 (99.4%) White
 - 87.9% White Scottish
 - 9.3% White Other British
 - 0.9% White Irish
 - 0.2% White Polish
 - 1.1% White “Other”
- 923 (0.6%) All other ethnic groups (incl. mixed)
 - 0.2% Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish, Pakistani British
 - 0.1% Indian, Indian Scottish, Indian British
 - 0.1% Chinese, Chinese Scottish, Chinese British

The rest of the groups shown on the card each accounted for under 0.1%: none had as many as 100 deaths.

3 years' results: "Other" groups

- 1,851 cases where an "Other" group was specified
 - 1,745 of them were "Other white ..."
 - Including 163 Germans, 161 Italians, 102 Americans, 90 Canadians, ...
 - Some misunderstandings? e.g. 86 of these cases had "White British" typed in

3 years' results: "Don't knows"

- 764 cases where Informant said "don't know ethnic group"
 - Some understandable, as officials (e.g. police, solicitor, nursing home, etc).
 - However, many were family (e.g. 195 sons or daughters [excluding "step-" and "-in-law" children], 54 widows or widowers) – might expect them to know deceased's ethnic group

apparent “Non-White” 3-year death rates: people aged 85+ on Census date, by sex

- Census “Non-White” population aged 85+: 206 males, 273 females
- Deaths of people who were aged 85+ on the Census date, for which a “Non-White” ethnic group was given:
 - 2012: 18 males and 15 females
 - 2013: 7 males and 24 females
 - 2014: 10 males and 12 females
- Hence, estimate “Non-White” death rates over the three years 2012 to 2014 (taken together) as follows:
 - Males: 35 deaths in total, so a rate of 170 per 1,000 when divided by the population of 206
 - Females: 51 deaths in total, so a rate of 187 per 1,000 when divided by the population of 273
- Is this credible??? Male death rates are generally higher than those for females of the same age.
- **Such rates may not be reliable.**

apparent “Non-White” death rates aged 85+, by sex

- Census “Non-White” population aged 85+: 206 males, 273 females
- Deaths, aged 85+, for which a “Non-White” ethnic group was given:
 - 2012: 23 males and 23 females
 - 2013: 13 males and 29 females
 - 2014: 17 males and 22 females
- Hence, estimate “annual average” “Non-White” death rates for 2012 to 2014 as follows:
 - Males: 53 deaths in total, so annual average is 17.667 - a rate of 85.8 per 1,000 when divided by the population of 206
 - Females: 74 deaths in total, so annual average is 24.667 - a rate of 90.4 per 1,000 when divided by the population of 273
- Again, are such results credible??? Male death rates are generally higher than those for females of the same age.
- **Such rates may not be reliable - see the next chart**

apparent death rates

per 1,000 pop; average of 2012 to 2014 figures

