

## **06/16: SCOTTISH POPULATION SURVEYS CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

### **Update on Alternative Sources Work**

We have continued to focus primarily on **administrative sources**. The main difficulties we encounter relate to data access and considerable effort is being put into negotiating access. Progress and plans by data source are set out below.

**School Census.** We have completed a report on the comparison between SE ED data for 2003 and 2004 and the GROS Mid-Year Population estimates of school age children. The report is attached as annex to this paper. We recently received 2005 data and work to incorporate these data has begun. Our future plans include extending the analysis to include Child Benefit data and exploring the feasibility of using Unique Pupil Numbers to monitor migration flows in Scotland.

#### **DWP: Benefit Records**

We obtain annual extracts of data zone level aggregates on benefit recipients aged 65+. Data have been received for the period 2001- 2005 and are used to quality assure Small Area Population Estimates (SAPEs) and develop methodological improvements. Negotiations with DWP to access unrounded figures, use of data on migration flows and records from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study has continued.

#### **HMRC: Child Benefit Records**

Annual extracts of data zone level aggregates on child benefit recipients have been obtained for 2001 – 2005. The data are used for SAPEs work as above. We plan to include these data in our next report on school age children.

**DVLA.** We have carried out a comparison between DVLA car registration data from 2000 – 2004 with Census data on car ownership to assess how this source could meet information needs now served by Census. We are looking into investigating the potential of DVLA car registration data source alongside Scottish Household Survey for monitoring household trends. We have negotiated access to 2 linkable annual extracts on licence holders to research internal migration flows and will be exploring possibilities for using these data alongside the SHS to improve the migration estimates used by GROS in the production of population estimates.

#### **Electoral Register.**

We ensured that GROS was allowed access to future electoral registers under the new regulations. We obtained the compiled 2001 Electoral Register and work on comparison with Census has begun. We have now taken responsibility in GROS for compiling and publishing electoral statistics and will be considering setting up individual level data collection from Electoral Registration Officers later this year. Analysis and reporting on the electoral registration data for 2006 will be undertaken next year.

#### **Community Health Index (CHI)**

Analysis of linkage rates from Ethnicity and Health study to compare the coverage of Census and CHI has continued. Report is still in draft.

## **Data Linkage**

Work on the **Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS)** has continued, aiming for completion in early August. Current plans envisage SLS moving into Ladywell House and establishing a safe setting for user access in early September.

The study of **Ethnicity and Health** led by Edinburgh University has completed data linkage and most of the data analysis. Report was published in August 2005. A number of additional publications are being worked on at present and some additional analysis is taking place. Plans for a 'Phase 2' of the project are currently being considered. This is likely to involve a re-run of the linkage between Census and CHI and the use of additional Census variables.

**Safe setting.** GROS is establishing a safe setting in Ladywell House to allow access to data which cannot be sufficiently anonymised for public release. Initially it will be used to support the SLS and the Ethnicity and Health Project. Current plans are to have this in place by early September.

We are looking into the feasibility of conducting an **experimental data linkage project** to enable GROS to develop in house skills and capability to carry out probability matching. We've had discussions with colleagues from US Census Bureau around sharing their SAS based data matching tool and are considering options for source data.

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