TAGRA(2013)03

Population estimates Comparison project update

introduction

This paper provides a progress update on the ‘Population estimates comparison project’. The project is being undertaken in two stages: the first phase of the project is to compare the differences in population counts for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, and the second phase will cover the remaining health boards/local authorities.

**OBJECTIVES**

* + to provide a better understanding of the differences between population counts in Scotland that are derived from administrative data sources, such as MYE (Mid-Year (Population) Estimates), Census, CHI (Community Health Index), NHSCR (NHS Central Register), Local Authority (LA) data, etc.
  + to review and document available data sources and assess whether data quality can be improved
  + to establish the suitability and accuracy of relevant data sources and determine whether it is possible to use them to contribute to population statistics
  + to assess whether the population of NHS service users in Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board area is significantly different to the population estimates produced by NRS, particularly given the significance of the MYE in determining the allocation of NHS resources
  + to identify any potential disparities in the population counts for particular geographical areas or subsets of the population, with the intention of documenting, explaining and assessing the implications of these differences where possible.

Progress to date

On 20 February representatives from NRS, the Improvement Service, NHSCR and Glasgow City Council met to discuss the possible creation of (population) ‘golden records’ in Glasgow City Council (GCC). This idea was based on work the Improvement Service had done with North Lanarkshire Council. GCC to determine next steps.

National Records of Scotland (NRS) and GCC are in discussion to enable a NRS statistician to gain access to GCC Council Tax and Benefits data which can be used for further population comparisons.

NRS have compared the Community Health Index (CHI) and Mid Year Estimates (MYEs) at local authority level over the past 5 years for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde. A report will be presented to the next Project Board meeting on the 7th May.

Current work

NRS will be documenting the different sources of population data, including how they are collected. This will be useful to help explain differences in population estimates between different sources. This report will be presented to the next Project Board meeting on the 7th May.

In addition, record linkage of the NHSCR extract with Census data is currently being undertaken and an update on this work will be provided in due course.

milestones

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| **Key Milestones**: | | | | | |
| **Ref** | **Description** | **Baseline Date** | **Revised Date** | **Comment** | **RAG**  **Status** |
|  | Agree Project Initiation Document | 07/05/2013 |  | Draft of PID is finished. Expected to be signed off at next Project Board Meeting | **Green** |
|  | Prepare Privacy Impact Assessment | April 2013 |  |  | **Green** |
|  | Investigate possible / suitable data sources | September 2013 |  | Ongoing | **Green** |
|  | Pursue data access | September 2013 |  | Ongoing | **Green** |
|  | Record level linkage work | September 2013 |  | Ongoing | **Green** |
|  | Inventory report of data sets contributing to project objectives | May 2013 |  |  | **Green** |
|  | Interim Report 1: Aggregate Comparisons | May 2013 |  |  | **Green** |
|  | Interim Report 2: Record Level Linkages (to date) | August 2013 |  |  | **Green** |
|  | Interim Report 3: Census 2011 Linkage | August 2013 |  | Dependent on Census release | **Green** |
|  | Phase 2 | April 2014 |  |  |  |

**CONCLUSION**

TAGRA members are invited to note the progress update on the ‘Population estimates comparison project’. A further update will be available for August’s TAGRA meeting.