Population estimates Comparison project update

**TAGRA(2013)14**

introduction

This paper provides a progress update on the ‘Population estimates comparison project’. The project is being undertaken in two phases:

Phase 1will concentrate on investigating different population estimates for NHS GG&C and comparing them to equivalent population estimates for the rest of Scotland. Phase 2will make recommendations for potential future work and extend the project further to support the Beyond 2011 Programme.

**OBJECTIVES**

* to provide a better understanding of the differences between population estimates in Scotland calculated by NRS (the Census and the Mid-Year-Estimates) and estimates derived from administrative data sources, such as the CHI, NHSCR, Local Authority (LA) data, etc.
* to review and document available data sources and assess whether the data quality of administrative data sources 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 estimates.
* to assess whether the population of NHS service users in GG&C 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 estimates 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

An application to the CHIAG to be given access to CHI records so they can be examined in more detail has been approved. A meeting is scheduled for Friday 26th July to discuss what information will be available and how it can be used.

National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Glasgow City Council (GCC) are still in discussion to enable a NRS statisticians to gain access to GCC Council Tax and Benefits data which can be used for further population comparisons. A Data Access Agreement was sent to GCC for approval in May.

The Improvement Service proposal around a pilot Data Cleansing Exercise in GCC (Customer First) and NHSCR is still being considered. GCC are also assessing options around adoption of the Citizen’s Account Service as part of the wider Digital Glasgow Strategy work streams. The Improvement Service have also successfully conducted a Customer Data Matching and cleansing pilot exercise with the Glasgow Housing Association.

Current work

First results from the 2011 Census were published in December 2012. The Scotland level results showed an increase of 0.9% against previously published 2011 mid year estimates. 27 Local Authorities showed an increase against published figures, whilst 5 Local Authorities (Glasgow City, Edinburgh City, Fife, Argyll & Bute and Perth & Kinross) showed a decrease on most recent estimates.

Population statistics due to be published over the next month are:

**Census 1C (part I) 23 July 2013**

Population estimates by single year of age and sex for Scotland, Council Areas and Health Boards.

**Mid Year Population Estimates 8 August 2013**

Mid 2012 population estimates (and re-based 2011 mid year estimates) based on the Census figures to be published on 23 July. A report will be published at the same time explaining the difference between the Census and the mid year estimates. The re-based mid year estimates will feed into the NRAC exercise for 2013/14.

**Census** **1C (part II) 15 August 2013**

Population estimates and household estimates by Postcodes, Output Areas and Datazones. Geography products will also be made available on 15 August. These include the 2011 Census Output Area (OA) boundaries (shapefiles), Postcode to OA and OA to other geography look-up files as well as other supporting information.

The summary report on Aggregate Comparisons, presented at the Population Estimates Comparison Project Board meeting on the 7th May will be updated to include further analysis suggested by the Project Board. Census data will also be included in an updated report once Release 1C (part II) and the mid year estimates have been released. The updated report will be presented at the next Project Board meeting in September.

NRS are 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 is an ongoing piece of work which is due to be completed in December 2013.

Linkage of the NHSCR extract with Census data is ongoing and producing encouraging results.

milestones

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| **Ref** | **Description** | **Delivery Date**  | **Comment** | **RAG****Status** |
|  | Project Initiation Document | 15/07/2013 | After the previous meeting further changes were suggested. These changes have been taken into account and the final version of the PID has been sent round the Project Board. | **Green** |
|  | Re-based MYEs for 2011 and 2012 MYEs | 08/08/2013 |  | **Green** |
|  | Next Project Board meeting | September 2013 | Either the 3rd or the 5th September. TBC. | **Green** |
|  | Interim Report: Analysis 2 | September 2013 | More detailed update on Analysis 1 report (Aggregate Comparisons – presented at Project Board in May) | **Green** |
|  | Privacy Impact Assessment | Autumn 2013 | This will follow on from the Beyond 2011 PIA which will be written in two documents – one general descriptive document and one specific Privacy document. | **Green** |
|  | Re-based MYEs for 2002 to 2010 | November 2013 |  | **Green** |
|  | Report on possible / suitable data sources | December 2013 | Ongoing development of drafts | **Green** |
|  | Report on Record level linkage work | December 2013 | Ongoing development of drafts | **Green** |
|  | Inventory report of data sets contributing to project objectives | December 2013 | Ongoing development of drafts | **Green** |
|  | Phase 1 report to TAGRA | December 2013 |  | **Green** |
|  | Phase 2 report | March 2014 |  | **Green** |

**CONCLUSION**

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