Trends, Data and Definitions
The Household Reference Person

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Battles over numbers

• The adjustment to the 2011 based projections increase the number of homes from **10,200** to between 10,900 and **12,400** (depending on the approach to HRRs and discounting the part return for 25-34 year olds only).

• A similar adjustment to the 2012 based projections is likely to increase the number of homes from **11,200** to circa 12,000 to **13,500** homes.

*Pegasus Planning Group submission to Stroud Local Plan examination*
The Household Reference Person

• **The Household Reference Person (HRP)** is the individual taken to represent the household for statistical purposes.

• **Only one HRP per household**
  - projecting the number of HRPs gives future number of households.

• **Household Representative Rate** – the probability of a person from a specific demographic group (based on geography, age group, sex and marital status) being a household reference person.

• Key concept for household projections
Who is the Household Reference Person?

- No problem in a one-person household
- What about multi-person household?
Criteria for selecting the HRP

CLG projections
- type 1 - **Oldest male** (based on special Census tables) – for consistency with pre 2001 data
- type 2 - **Current Census definition** adjusted to match type 1
- post Census estimates –LFS
- Not quite there for 2012 projections!

- **2001 and 2011 Censuses**
  - Economic activity, age.

- **LFS (post 2001)** –
  - owns the accommodation; or responsible for rent;
  - or occupies through employment, or relationship to owner.
  - if joint householders: the one with highest income; if incomes equal, then the eldest one
HRPs in CLG 2012 – a muddy picture

• For Stage One household representative rates for 2011 have been derived at England level using
• aggregate household representative rates by marital status from the 2011 Census,
• household population by age, sex and marital status from the Census 2011,
• household representative rates by age profile from the LFS and previous household projections...
HRPs alternative definitions

• How do different definitions affect household statistics in 2001 & 2011 Censuses
  • The Oldest Male (CLG type 1)
  • Current Census definition
    • *lone parent household*: the lone parent
    • *couple & other households*: economic activity (in priority; full-time job, part-time job, unemployed, retired, other). If same economic activity, the oldest member or, if all same age, the first member on Census form.
Household Reference Persons in 2011

• More aged under 34 years if oldest male used
• More aged 35-64 if economic activity used
Representative rates 2011: Younger People

• under 35 rates higher if oldest male used
• 35-49 rates higher if economic activity used
Gender effects of HRP definitions

• In 2011
  • economic activity definition gives
    • 13 million male and 9 million female HRPs
  • oldest male definition gives
    • 17 million male and 5 million female HRPs

• 2001-2011. Female HRPs
  • grew by 0.75 million under economic definition
  • but fell under ‘oldest male’ rule.
Gender of HRPs 2001

Male HRPs

Female HRPs

Age

(millions)

Economic Status, Age

Oldest male

Economic Status, Age

Oldest male

Age

<25  25-34  35-49  50-64  65-74  75-84  >84

(millions)

<25  25-34  35-49  50-64  65-74  75-84  >84
Gender of HRPs 2011

Males HRPs

- Economic Status, Age
- Oldest male

Female HRPs

- Economic Status, Age
- Oldest male
Household Representative Rates (HRR): younger people

- Female rates higher if economic activity criteria applied; male rates lower

- 2001-2011 changes
  - fall in male rates 25-49 under economic definition
  - increase in male under 25 rates under “oldest male” rule
  - increase in female 35-49 rates under economic definition
Male HRRs

2001

- Age: <25, 25-34, 35-49
- Rate values for each age group:
  - <25: Low
  - 25-34: Moderate
  - 35-49: High

2011

- Age: <25, 25-34, 35-49
- Rate values for each age group:
  - <25: Low
  - 25-34: Moderate
  - 35-49: High

Legend:
- Blue: Economic Status, Age
- Red: Oldest male
Female HRRS

2001

2011

rate

Economic Status, Age
Oldest male

Age

<25  25-34  35-49

<25  25-34  35-49
Do differences matter?

• Interaction between age /gender rates and future population
• Compatibility of Types 1 and 2 households
• Changing roles of gender and economic status in household formation?
• Debate about household formation among younger people
Which definition?

• Oldest male
  – Archaic & Sexist (but some BAME communities?)
  – Need special Census tables for latest data
  + Long data series (how relevant is older data?)
  + Simple, not affected by definition change

• Economic activity
  ? More relevant today
  + Relates to wider economic influences on housing?
  – Only 2001 & 2011
  – Definitional changes in EA statistics
    • 2001 Census did not record for aged 75+
    • 2011 Census recorded for aged 75+ (150,000 economically active)
Conclusions

• Impact of different definitions of the HRP
• Need to understand reasons
• Debate over younger households.
• Promote understanding of metadata
• Urgent need for CLG to complete 2011 HRP analysis and issue revised projections
• “Male first” rule archaic or justified by simplicity & use of pre-2001 trend data?