

Telling the story in statistics

Strand organiser: Phil Humby (ONS)

13:30 - 15:00 Tuesday 10 September: Telling the story in statistics

Standards for statistics matter for everyone

Penny Babb & Marie McGhee - Office for Statistics Regulation

Have you had to persuade others that your work is important, rigorous and impartial? Producing valuable information that benefits everyone in society begins by applying professional standards.

This presentation will explain how the Code of Practice for Statistics drives statistics producers in government to show that they are trustworthy and produce statistics that are both of suitable quality and valuable. All official statistics should serve the public good.

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) is the statistics regulator for the UK and responsible for maintaining the Code of Practice. We oversee all official statistics producers to check that they comply with the standards of the Code.

OSR also runs a scheme that encourages analysts and organisations beyond official statistics to apply the Code standards of trustworthiness, quality and value (TQV). This presentation will show how you can benefit from applying these standards in your own work.

We are refreshing our Code to make sure that its standards are explained clearly with helpful guidance and tools. We will share our ideas for the refreshed Code – you can help shape it by sharing your insights.

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Scotland's Census 2022 – What the outputs tell us and future publications.

Christopher McCrum - National Records of Scotland

Scotland's Census 2022 – What the outputs tell us and future publications.

Scotland's Census took place in 2022 and NRS are releasing data from the census throughout 2024 and 2025. This talk will look at what has been published so far, and what the outputs tell us about the population of Scotland. Initial results show Scotland's population is changing, the first publication told showed that the population is ageing. The topic data that will be published throughout the spring and summer will let us build up a more detailed picture of Scotland's population in 2022. We will publish data of a range of topics by age and sex.

In addition to looking at what the data has told us so far we will cover what is yet to be published from the Scotland's Census. As we work through the outputs schedule we will publish multivariate tables and open up the Flexible Table Builder to allow users to build their own tables. This is a new innovation for Scotland's Census and will increase the range of data available to users. We will also discuss upcoming origin destination, microdata and analytical reports. These outputs will give users access to data at a level of detail that isn't available anywhere else.

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The changing shape of childcare in England

Anita Patel, Rebecca Vincent, James Kolasinski - Ofsted

The number of Ofsted registered childcare providers has fallen by a third in the past decade. This has contributed to a fall in childcare places offered across Ofsted registered early years, now 1.27 million places.

Last year, the chancellor announced a phased increase in the provision of free childcare to support working

parents, between April 2024 and September 2025. This will require a substantial increase in places from Ofsted-registered early years and childcare provision alongside other types of early years provision in schools. The ability to deliver the increased entitlement hinges on how local childcare markets respond to reforms, making new places accessible to parents.

Working closely with the Department for Education, Ofsted will monitor childcare supply and demand of places as the new reforms are rolled out (April 2024 to September 2025). The analysis will examine the population of children across different geographies in England and how well this is matched to accessible, local childcare. The analysis combines hyperlocal travel time data with assets from Ofsted and ONS using a two-step-floating-catchment model. It will determine the relative sufficiency of childcare at a hyperlocal level across different parts of the country and how these patterns of childcare availability are changing during the roll-out of reforms.

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Demographic challenges in a nutshell

Sam Mold - Department for Work and Pensions, Becky Haynes - Department for Work and Pensions, - , - ,

The Department for Work and Pensions welcomes around 100 new analysts every year. Demography affects everything the department does, so it is important for new starters to understand the demographic challenges facing the department so they can be better equipped in their roles to take demographics into account, whether that be in modelling and forecasting, policy development or operations.

But how do you distil the whole of demography into a few slides with a clear and relevant narrative? This presentation aims to give it a go.

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People experiencing homelessness

Samantha Trace & Matthew Morrison - Office For National Statistics

People experiencing homelessness are a group that is hard to define, as different publications apply different definitions, and may include people who are inadequately housed or don't have a fixed address, as well as rough sleepers. This group is also, harder to engage with in surveys, and there are few large scale direct surveys of this population.

In this analysis, we have applied a very limited definition of homelessness – only those returning their Census from a shelter or hostel for the homeless - to report findings from this specific sub-group of homeless people. This group had an estimated population of around 14,000 across England and Wales, which is much lower than other estimates of the overall homeless population in this area.

Still, the 2021 Census is a rich and rare source of direct survey information with national coverage that can provide a wide range of characteristics for this population. Our analysis covers regional variation, with London having a disproportionately large proportion of this population.

Analysis of the characteristics revealed that this homeless population tended to have, on average, higher levels of disability, worse health, lower levels of employment and lower educational attainment, than the general population excluding this group, even when compared by age group. Additionally, some ethnic minority groups were disproportionately represented in this group.

While the data do not directly explain the variations in characteristics that we found in our analysis, we may draw tentative conclusions from the body of literature, on the reasons driving these differences.

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