

Regional, subnational & local demography: its impact on policy making for places session abstracts

Session organisers: Ben Corr (Greater London Authority) & Dr. Mark Fransham (London School of Economics)

Wednesday 16 September 11.00am

Supporting users to produce sub-council population projections: Filling a gap in official statistics - Sarah Letsinger, Denise Patrick; National Records of Scotland

Official population projections are routinely produced at National and Council level, however, for planning purposes there is a demand within local government for sub-council area projections (SCAP). Many local councils don't have the capacity to produce these projections. In order to meet this demand, National Records of Scotland (NRS) funded a collaborative project with the Improvement Service and academics from the Universities of Edinburgh and Manchester to deliver a package to support the production of sub-council area projections. This involved the delivery of in person training, production of online training materials, development of a data tool and production of standard projections. This presentation will discuss the outputs from this project and the benefits it provides to local Government and policy making.

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How do changes to ONS migration methodology impact on Housing Trends and Future Housing Need - Piers Elias, Demographic Support

The subnational population projections (SNPPs) produced by ONS form the basis for the subnational household projections (SNHPs). These projections have long been used by Local Authorities to establish housing trends and help guide them in setting housing need targets. In December 2018, the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) introduced a new standard formula linking local housing need directly to the results of the SNHPs.

ONS have been using a five-year migration trend for its subnational population projections (SNPPs) for at least 20 years. As far back as the early 2000s, the Local Government side of the Central and Local Liaison Partnership (CLIP) Population subgroup queried the use of such a short-term migration trend for the purposes of long term projections, as used in the SNPPs which look forwards 25 years.

For the 2018 based SNPPs ONS changed the migration trend to two years on the basis that the updated methodology for estimating internal migration could not be extended further back than 2016 and that data from earlier years would not be as good quality.

Whilst ONS act as an independent entity, get approval from the UKSA for their changes, and discuss their changes with CLIP, changes to methodology are presented as a fait accompli without any other independent scrutiny.

This presentation will consider the impacts of the change in the length of migration trend used on the subnational population and household projections, with a focus on the potential impact on housing trends and future housing need for Local Authorities.

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Housing space in England at the neighbourhood-level, 1971 to 2017 - Christopher D. Lloyd¹, James Gleeson²; ¹Queen's University Belfast, ²Greater London Authority

While most discussions of housing in the UK tend to focus on national or regional scales, the level of diversity within regions means that measuring trends at neighbourhood level is vital for a more complete understanding of how housing markets and housing conditions are changing. Using small area data also enables identification

of hot spots of changing housing demand as well as charting changes in the composition of housing stock in neighbourhoods. This paper makes use of a new dataset, developed as a part of the ESRC PopChange project, which enables analysis of population and housing change using Census data for neighbourhoods across England since 1971. The data reveal considerable neighbourhood-level diversity in changes throughout this period. Notable trends identified include a marked increase in overcrowding in outer London over the period 1971-2011, a decrease in the number of rooms per person across much of the wider south east between 2001 and 2011, and large increases in average household size in parts of London, Birmingham, Bradford, and Oldham. Administrative data for 2015 and 2017 allow a post 2011 Census perspective on the number of dwellings per person. When measured in terms of dwellings per person, housing space increased at regional level over the period everywhere except London, but there is considerable variation and all regions contain neighbourhoods with declining numbers of dwellings per person.

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Stronger towns: What can the Census tell us? - Jemima Stockton¹, Oliver Duke-Williams¹, Tony Champion²;
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Various places in England will receive an economic boost from UK government funding, the Stronger Towns Fund (STF). We used open data to construct a local authority (LA)-level Stronger Towns Index for England based on regional STF allocation criteria: productivity, income, skills, deprivation and proportion of population residing in towns. We grouped LAs into deciles according to their index rank and examined aggregate characteristics of LAs falling in each decile. Linking deciles to the Office for National Statistics Longitudinal Study (LS), we investigated inter-decile migration patterns from 2001 to 2011. All but one of the 32 LAs in Decile 1 (weakest LAs) were in the economically weaker regions. Almost half were coastal. Greater mobility of stronger places was evidenced by decile out-migration rates: the proportion leaving in 2001 was lowest for Deciles 1, 2 and 3 and highest for Deciles 8, 9 and 10. In-migration rates (proportion entering in 2011), showed a slight decline after peaking in Decile 6. The vast majority (62.2%) of leavers from Decile 1 in 2001 moved to the 3 next weakest deciles (2-4) whilst only 12% moved to the strongest (8-10). Social renters were more likely to move to Decile 2. Individuals were more likely to change housing tenure if they changed decile than if their decile was the same in 2001 and 2011. The weakest deciles have the least mobile populations. Next we will examine effect of leaving or entering a weaker decile on change in qualifications of LS members between 2001 and 2011.

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