Statistics for the non-Household Population, Experience from the England & Wales Census 2021

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Overview

• Definition – Non-household population
• Challenges faced
  • COVID 19 pandemic
  • Confusion between households and communal establishments
• Adaptions made
• Learnings

• Paper covers 2021 Census for England & Wales only
Non-Household Population

- ‘Communal Establishments’ (CE) also know as ‘Group Quarters’ or ‘Collective Dwellings/Residences/Living Quarters’

- In the United Kingdom censuses these are defined as establishments providing managed residences and includes students halls of residence, care homes and prisons

- In 2011, 1.7% of the population lived in a CE
  - Geographically clustered
  - Can have different profile to wider household population

- In the paper we set out how the design for CEs was intended to work in 2021
Challenges Faced

COVID-19 Pandemic
- Making initial contact
- Uncertainty with address to use

Confusion between Household and Communal Establishment (duplication, response type)
Pandemic Response

• Direct contact with students through universities
  • Using online data collection approach without needing to deliver paper to the hand of the student
• Copying students from parents address questionnaire to term-time address
  • Linking to term-time address to check a response has not been provided
• Collecting administrative data from universities and private hall providers
  • Number of students with a contract to stay, regardless of whether they were there in March 2021
  • Used to adjust for any undercoverage
• Validating census estimates through administrative data
  • Understand student numbers by combining a range of administrative sources and cohort analysis
  • Working with local government ahead of publication as part of quality assurance
How well does administrative data capture student moves?

Source: Higher Education Statistics Authority
Confusion between Household and Communal Establishments

- Clerical resolution and detailed analysis of information collected
  - Duplication of addresses
  - Complex address structures
  - Mix of household and communal establishment form types

- Built on capability developed in constructing the address frame
- Record level investigation provides depth of insight but not breadth
- Automated solutions using record level learning provide breadth
Clerical and automation working side by side

- Develop understanding of addressing issues that exist in admin data sources/supplies
- Targeted investigation based on a range of evidence

- An iterative development of automated address
- The embedding of these processes into teams using address, or address-based data
- Learning can be reused without detailed investigation
Learning from Census 2021

- Closer partnership with organisations who run communal establishments (contact and coverage estimation)
- Communal establishments have evolved over time so how we define and measure these population needs to evolve as well
- Complex address structures can be problematic regardless of how data are collected (through census, surveys or administrative data)
- Processes need to be in place to identify and learn from how this complexity is translated into the data collected – using a combination of micro and macro approached