Scotland’s Census 2011:
How National Records of Scotland are making the most of the data

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Census Quality and Data Exploitation
2 October 2015
Overview

- What’s available and how you can access the data
- Facilitating access
- Opportunities for collaborative working
- Working with schools
- 2021 Consultation
What’s available and how you can access the data
2011 Census Results

- Phased releases 1-3 accompanied with statistical bulletins or key points
- Origin-destination (flow) statistics
- Census microdata files (Samples of Anonymised Records)
- Alternative population statistics: workplace and ‘daytime’ population
- Commissioned tables service
- Analytical reports
“Edinburgh in baby boom as under-fives up 18%”
Edinburgh Evening News

“What we learned from the Census 2011: More women, more OAPs, more people.”

“Census shows 'highest' Scottish population ever”
BBC online

“The Daily Record

“Scotland becomes ‘a more colourful country’”
Herald online

“Almost two thirds of Scotland's residents are 'Scottish only' ”
STV

“Challenge to the Kirk as number of Scots without a religion at new high”
The Herald

“Census shows decline in Gaelic speakers 'slowed' ”
BBC

“Number of foreign nationals in Aberdeen triples”
Evening Express
Census Data Explorer

- www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk
- Table Index
- How to use the Census Data Explorer
- Events and courses
Analytical reports

- Gaelic Language Report
- Inhabited Islands Report

Household composition for population groups
Other examples of use

- Understanding Scottish Places
- Datashine Scotland
- Know Fife Dataset
Facilitating access
Accessing flow data

- Public files via NOMIS or UK Data Service
- Safeguarded files via UK Data Service
- Files transferred to contractors working on behalf of public bodies
- Data sharing agreement with National Records of Scotland
Transport Scotland Case Study

- September 2014 – identified need for flow data (Transport Model for Scotland)

- Safeguarded files were not available; required geographies not used

- Created bespoke extract of flows for ‘transport regions’ for Scottish usual residents

- Prepared a data sharing agreement
Opportunities for collaborative working
What is it?

- An alternative to requesting commissioned tables

- Scottish Government analysts come into Ladywell House to analyse the data, produce tables, and write commentary

- Census colleagues QA / SDC check the tables, and provide advice on the data processing / variables

- Currently reviewing pilot project
Equalities statistician

To improve the equality evidence base using census data.

- New data on age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, civil partnership.
- Along with national identity, country of birth, length of time in UK, language skills.
- Reliable estimates for small groups.
How did it work

- Go to NRS premises at Ladywell House and analyse the data myself (with LOTS of help from NRS)
- Set out list of tables to produce, based on available variables. Added and adjusted along the way
What were the Advantages?

- A better understanding of the data
- More freedom to experiment
- Better use of our collective time
- Improved timeliness
- More tables
- Higher quality end product
What were the outputs?

- Three large official statistics reports
- Over 100 extra tables and charts
- Clear and insightful commentary

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What were the main findings?

- people of **Polish** ethnicity in Scotland were the most economically active;
- those of **Indian** ethnicity were the most likely to be highly qualified and working in the top professions;
- **Pakistani** people were the most likely to be self-employed;
- **Chinese** and **Arab** people were the most likely to be students.

However the analysis also revealed that:

- people of **Polish** ethnicity in Scotland were likely to be in lower skilled employment;
- people of **African** ethnicity were the most likely to be unemployed;
- **Gypsy/Travellers** were much more likely to have never worked or work in elementary occupations and be in the lowest social grade.
What was the impact?
Polish are most ‘economically active’ in Scotland

Poles 'most economically active ethnic group' in Scotland

How much did this cost!!?
Future

- Develop procedure and criteria for prioritisation
- Consider implications for other users

Health warning

- Our resources are limited!
Working with schools

In collaboration with:

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Initial interest

• Student maths and social subjects teachers
• Scottish Mathematical Council conference
• Geography skills day at Loch Lomond
• Professional Development with social subjects teachers in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire
Format of training

• What does Census tell us about Scotland
• Retrieve information about your area
• Hands-on practical
• Follow up in blog – Talking about statistics

www.celiamac58.blogspot.co.uk
Educational Links

• Curriculum for Excellence
• Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Well-Being
Curriculum for Excellence

- Capacities
  - Responsible Citizens
  - Effective Contributors
  - Successful Learners
  - Confident Individuals
Curriculum for Excellence

• Broad General Education (BGE) 3-15 yrs
  o Experiences & Outcomes
    Mathematics    Numeracy

• Senior Phase National Qualifications
  o National 4/5
  o Higher (H)
  o Advanced Higher (AH)
Future developments

• Disseminate worksheet

• Links between NRS and Education Scotland

• Researching teachers experiences; future needs and extending to other open data

• Links with Royal Statistical Society educational work
2021 Consultation
Scotland’s Census 2021

- NRS is planning for a census in 2021
- Need to understand user requirements
- First stage is a Topic consultation, due October - what topics do you need in the next census?
- Any upcoming events NRS can encourage views?
- For updates and newsletter sign up, visit: www.scotlandsensus.gov.uk
Further information

- All data available at: [http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk](http://www.scotlands-census.gov.uk)
  Sign up there for our e-newsletter

- Enquiries: statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk

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