

Census – Alternatives

Background for workshop

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National Records of Scotland

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- Background
- Statistical options
- Admin data sources
- Charts with comparisons
- What we would like you to do

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Background

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Census

- conducted only every 10 years
- costs about £65m
- increased mobility of the population
- response rates to surveys are dropping
- technology has moved on

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McLelland Review

‘Although sensitive to information protection and privacy issues, the citizen would expect that public bodies will share and move information across internal boundaries, particularly where there is an advantage to the citizen or the community when this happens’

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Current state of play

- National Records of Scotland (NRS) work exploring use of administrative sources over past few years
- Office for National Statistics (ONS) Beyond 2011 programme for E&W established April 2011
- Successful Scottish Spending Review bid, Sept 2011
 - Assessing alternatives to the census
 - Wider data linkage framework for statistical and research purposes

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Data Linkage Framework

- Steering Group comprising SG, NRS, ISD, ESRC, ICO, SOLACE, SHIP
- Proposals (still to be put to Ministers) to establish
 - A Data Linkage Centre
 - A programme of public engagement.
 - A privacy and ethics committee
- UK Admin Data Task Force being set up

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Aims of NRS Beyond 2011 Project

- To assess the feasibility of having an alternative to a traditional census
 - for producing population and socio-demographic statistics in Scotland
 - a decision is required in 2014
- To explore potential of improving the quality of intercensal population statistics

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Statistical options

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- Census type solutions
 - Traditional Census
 - Rolling census (over 5/10 year period)
 - Short form (everyone) long form (sample)
 - Decennial headcount plus annual survey
- Admin data + surveys
 - Aggregate analysis
 - 100% linkage to create population spine
 - Sample linkage
- Address register + survey

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Criteria for assessment of options

- Public acceptability
- Cost
- Fitness for purpose
- Accuracy
- Frequency
- Geography
- Technical feasibility
- Etc

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Administrative data sources

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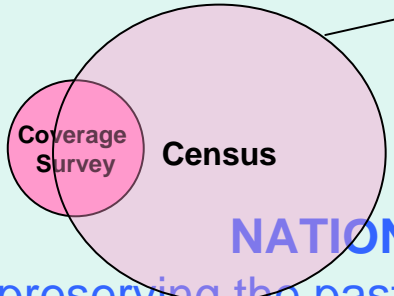
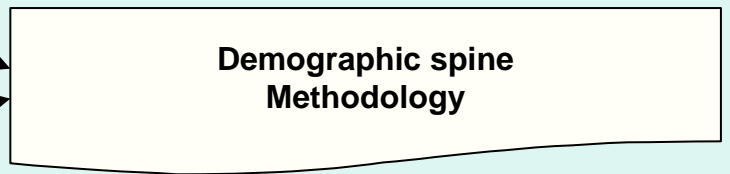
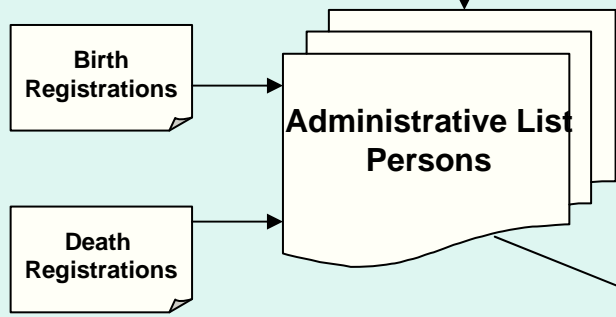
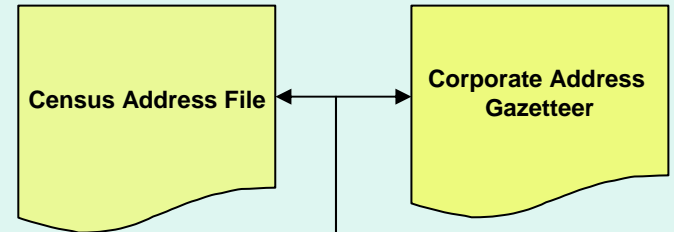
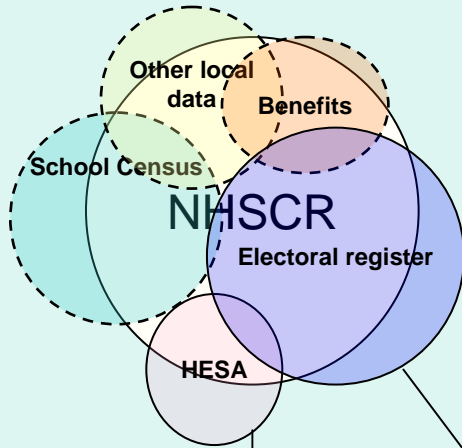
- School Census
- Child Benefit
- DWP State Pension Age Benefits
- NHS central Register and Community health Index
- Council Tax systems
- DWP Other Benefits
- Electoral Register
- Higher Education Student Record (HESA)
- National Insurance Recording System (NIRS)
- One Scotland Gazeteer (OSG)
- Local Data Sources

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Person Universe

Address Universe



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Challenges in using admin data

- Coverage : gaps, duplication
- Definitions, geographical scope
- Timing, currency
- Breadth of information
- Quality (completeness, accuracy, consistency)

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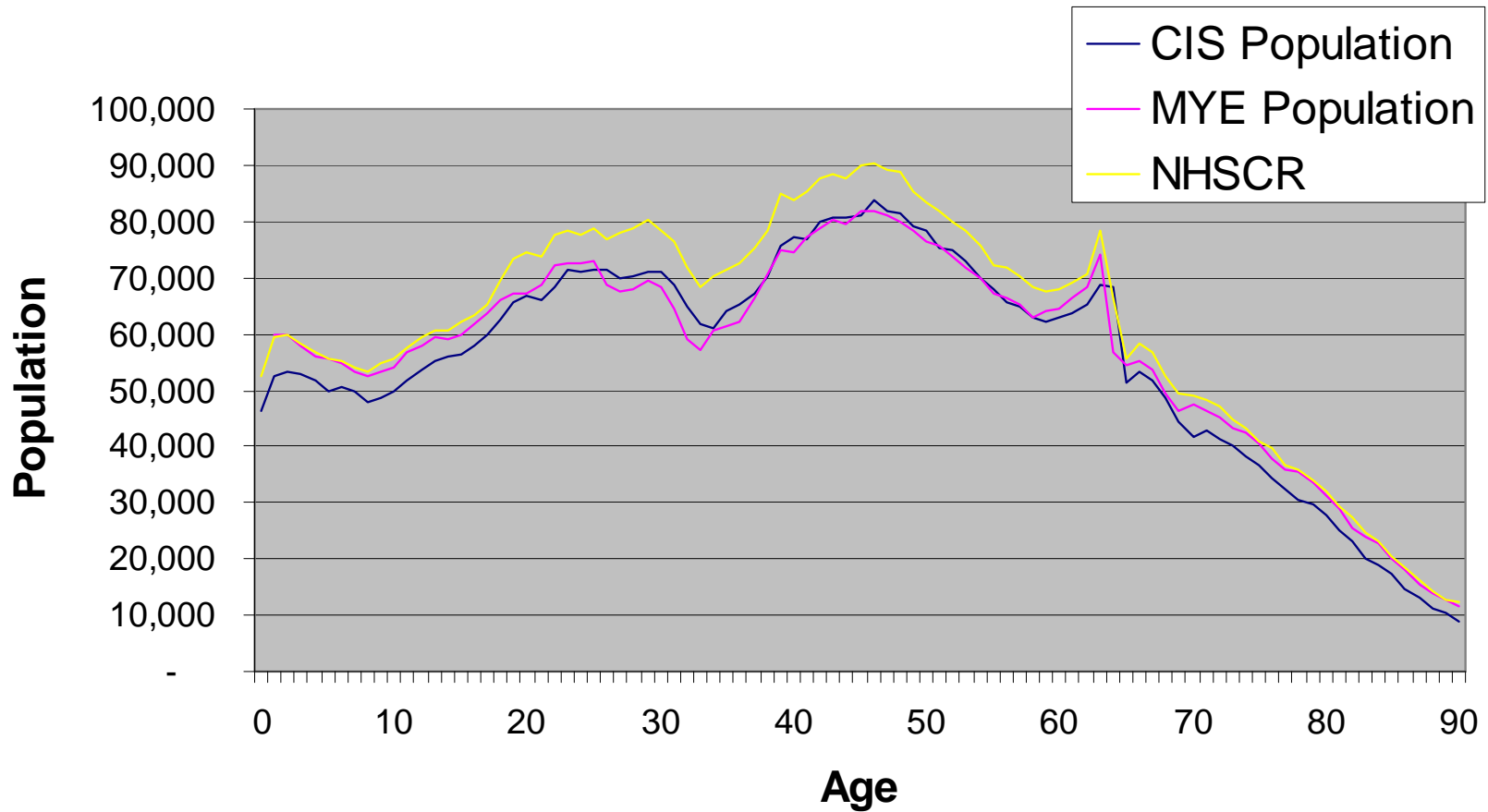
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Charts with comparisons of aggregate data

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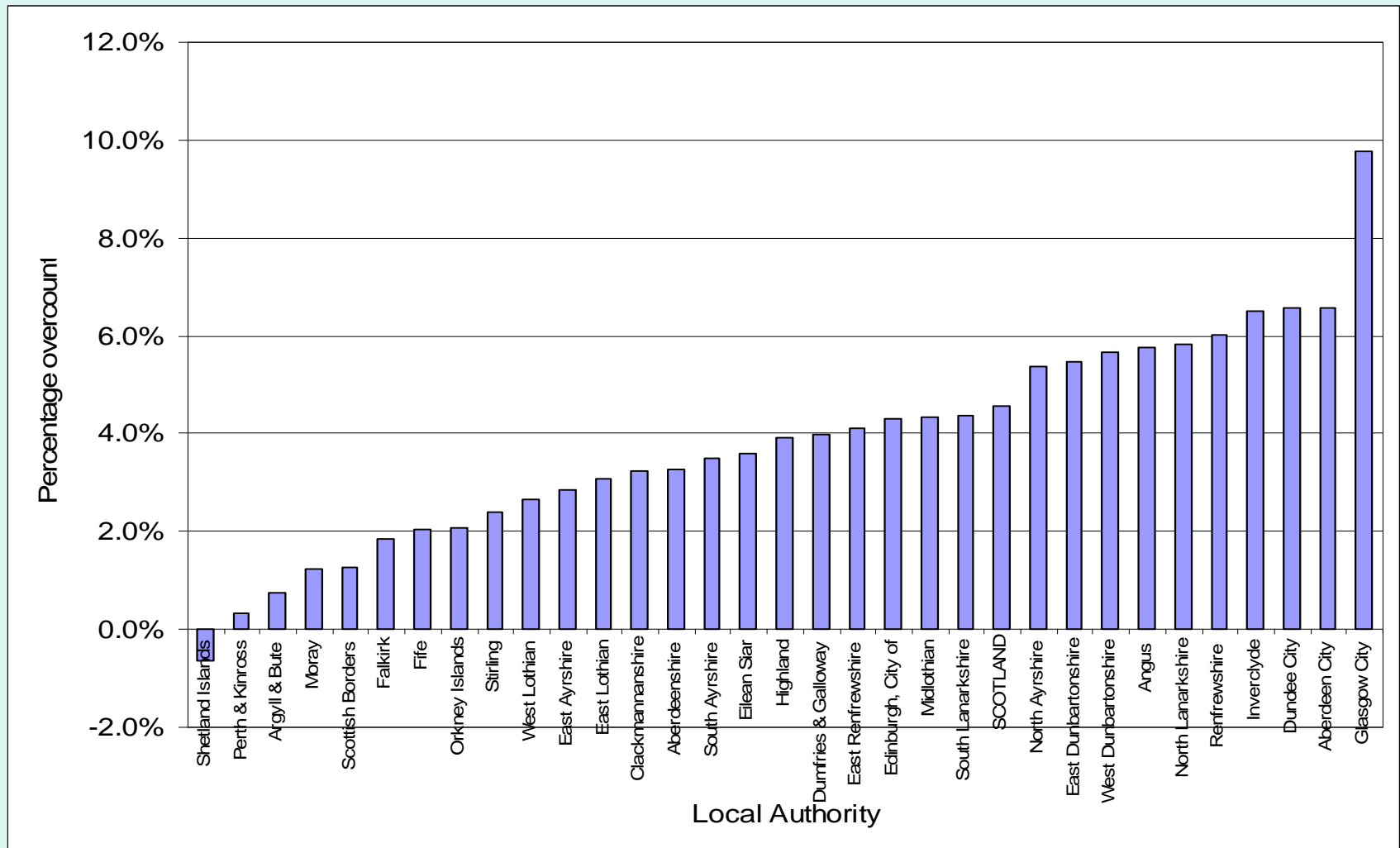
CIS, NHSCR and MYE by Age



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Comparison of NHSCR and 2010 Mid Year Estimates, total overcount by Local Authority



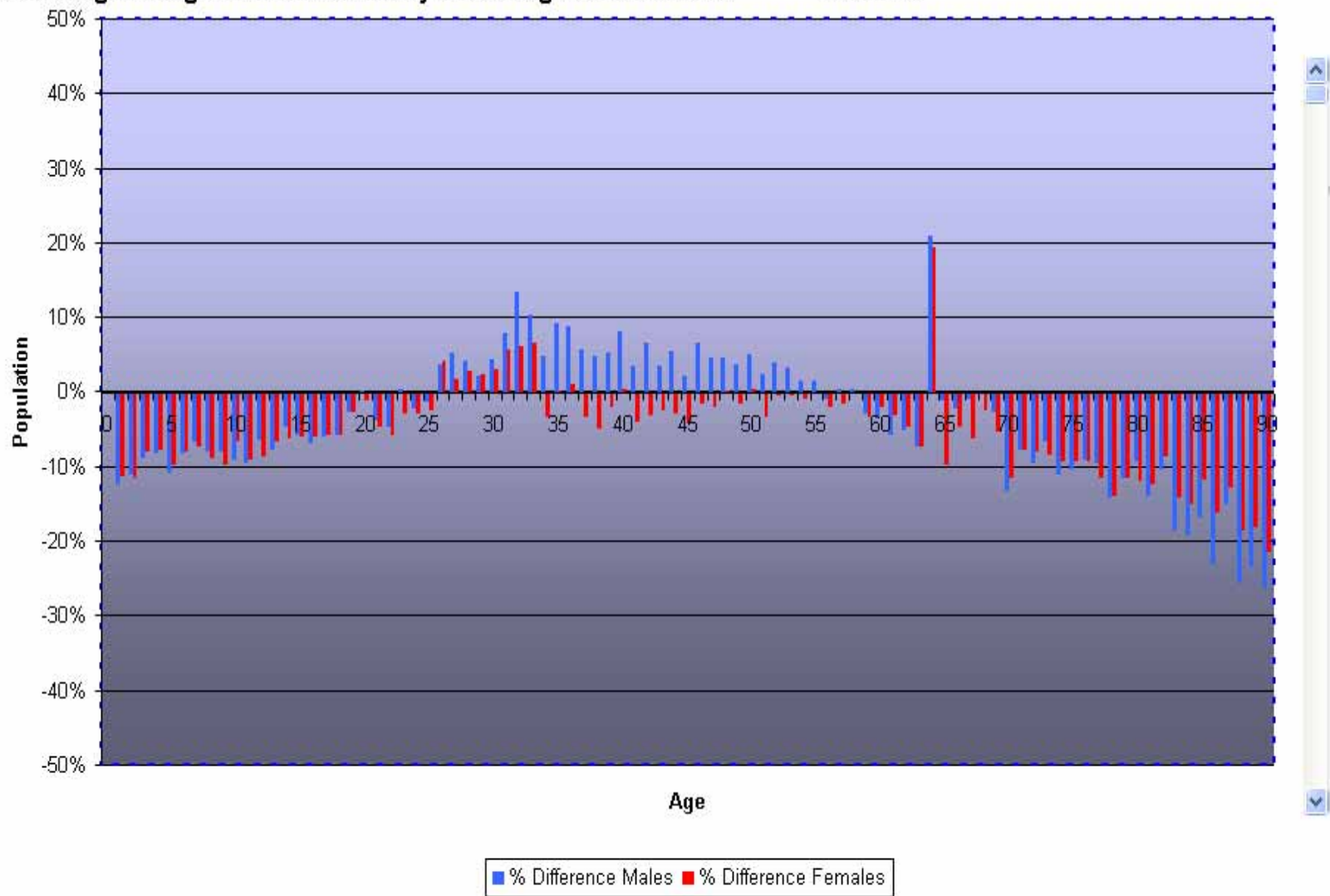
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Percentage change from MYE to CIS by Year of Age and Gender for

Scotland

1



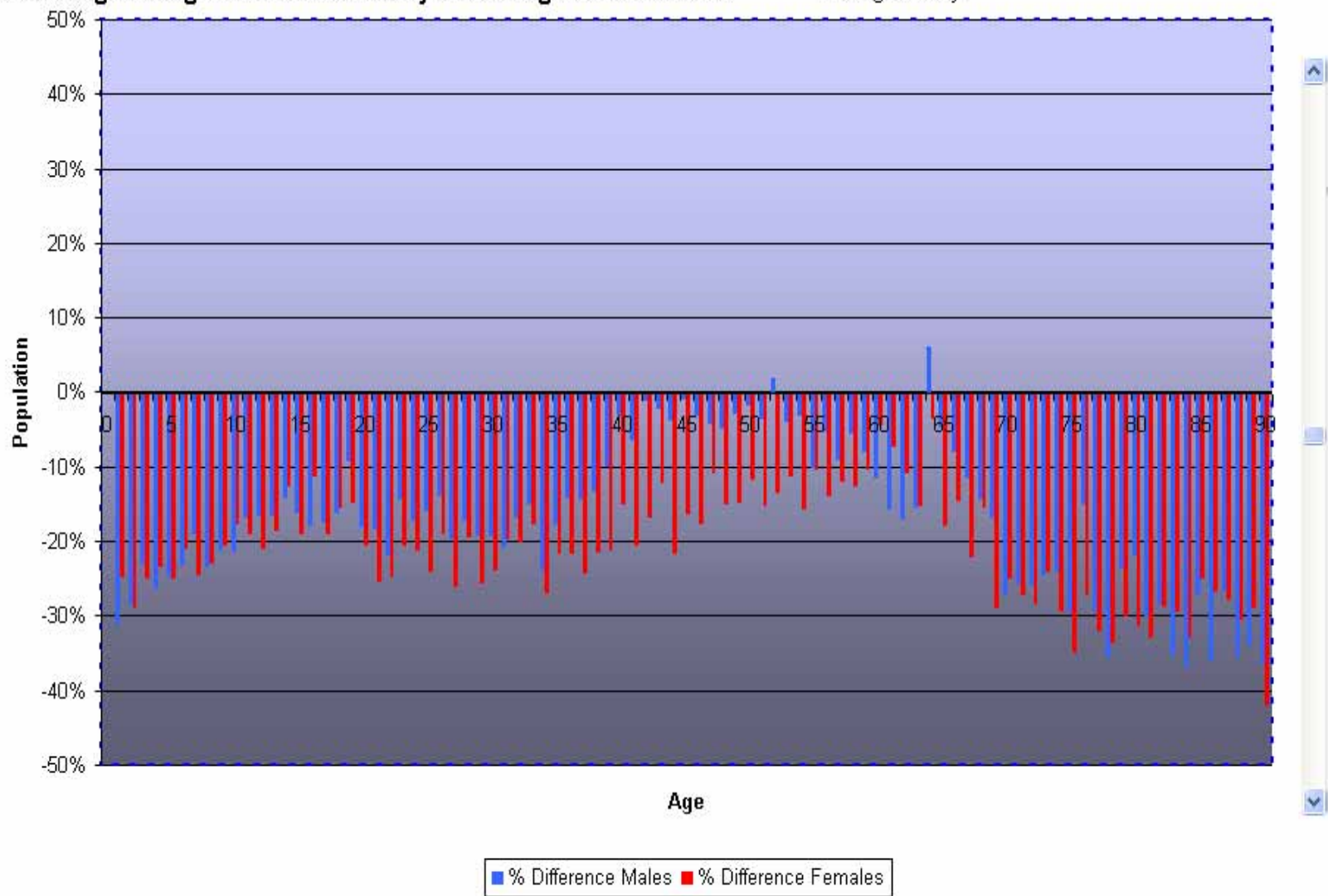
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Percentage change from MYE to CIS by Year of Age and Gender for

Glasgow City

17



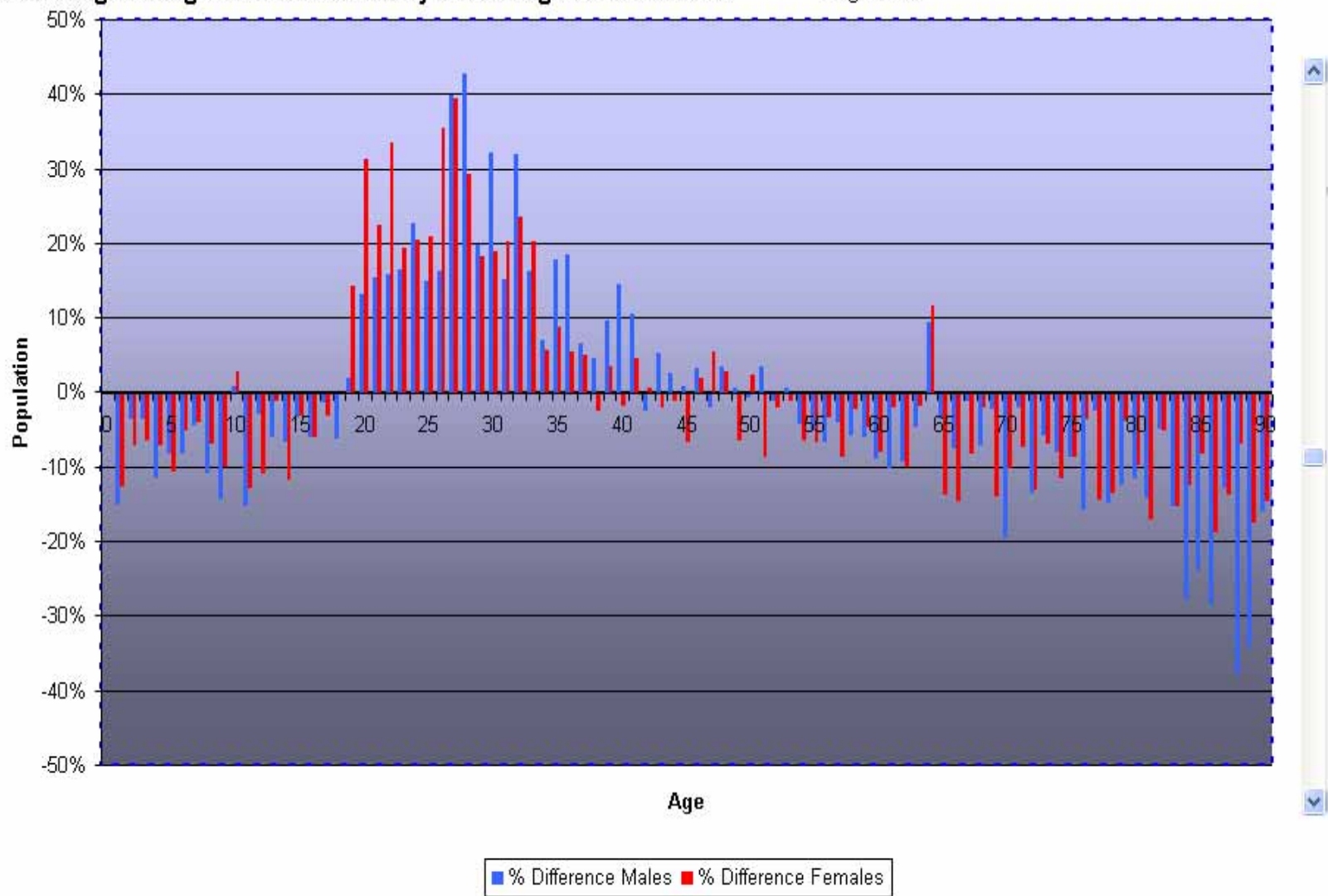
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Percentage change from MYE to CIS by Year of Age and Gender for

Highland

18



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Next steps

Need for

- Record level linkages
- Access to more data
- Better understanding of the data

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Stakeholder engagement

- ONS is planning a public consultation Oct 2011 to Jan 2012
 - To identify alternative data sources
 - To identify user needs and priorities
 - To invite views on the importance of different demographic statistics
 - To invite views on the trade-off between accuracy, frequency and geography

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What we would like you to do

- To provide views on the importance of different demographic statistics
- To provide views on the trade-off between accuracy, frequency and geography

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- Group 1 Conference Room 1
- Group 2 Conference Room 5
- Group 3 Conference Room 6
- Group 4 Conference Room 7

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