

Case studies: the use of population projections - Session 7 #ScotPAMS15

Esta Clark will lead a discussion around the use of population projections in the Scottish Government with examples from David Horn (fiscal modelling) and Paudric Osborne (health).

Population and Migration Statistics Conference
Edinburgh Zoo

1 December 2015

Session overview

- Uses and limitations of projections
- Two case studies from Scottish Government economists
 1. Fiscal modelling, David Horn
 2. Health, Paudric Osborne
- Discussion

Uses of projections

- central and local finance allocation;
- informing the provision of nurseries or day care centres;
- informing local and national policy;
- housing and land use planning;
- health care planning;
- modelling and projecting health care indicators;
- weighting surveys;
- benchmarking other projections and as a control for smaller area projections;
- teacher workforce models both at a national and local level;
- looking at the implications of an ageing population; and
- making national and international comparisons, etc.

Limitations

- A projection is a calculation showing what happens if particular assumptions are made.
- The population projections are trend-based. They are, therefore, not policy-based forecasts of what the government expects to happen.
- Many social and economic factors influence population change, including policies adopted by both central and local government. The relationships between the various factors are complex and largely unknown.

Case Studies from Scottish Government Economists

Discussion

- How do you use population projections?
- Examples of decisions made using projections?
- What difficulties do you face using projections and explaining results to others?

Thank you for participating

Next up: SILC - Parallel Workshops Mansion House

10) Data Linkage speed dating

11) Data Linkage: separation of functions
in action

12) SLS case studies: using linked data

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