

Coverage Adjustment in 2011 – Learning Lessons from 2001

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The 2001 Censuses of the UK were the first-time in the UK there had been a major coverage assessment programme using a large-scale post-enumeration survey, called the Census Coverage Survey (CCS), to assess coverage at low levels of geography for key outputs. The programme went further than just assessment and the published Census database was adjusted at the level of households and individuals through imputation to reflect the estimated coverage patterns. The result of the programme in 2001 was an adjusted database and while there have been additional adjustments for estimates it does form the basis of our current series of population estimates.

The experience and data generated in 2001 is crucial as we plan for the 2011 Census. In this talk we review the main elements of the 2001 Census adjustment highlighting what worked well and where improvement is possible. We then go on to give an overview of the work being done to prepare for the 2011 Census demonstrating how this builds on our 2001 experiences. This will include the design of the CCS in 2011, the overall approach to estimation, integrating overcount and dependence adjustments, and the creation of the final database.