

What's needed locally?

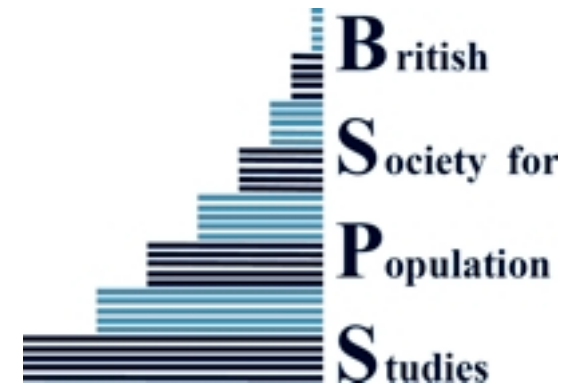
Ludi Simpson

The Census: Now and in the Future

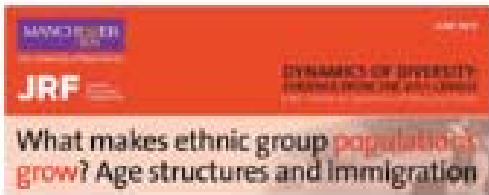
Social Research Association

26th June 2013

My involvements



www.ethnicity.ac.uk



Who feels British?
The relationship between ethnicity, religion and national identity in England



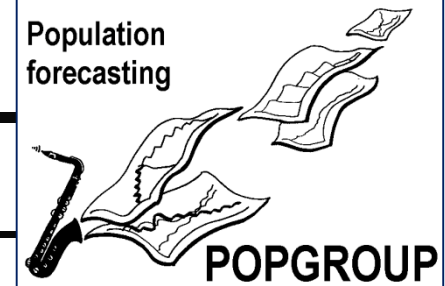
Has neighbourhood ethnic segregation decreased?

2011 Census – the best yet

Population Sustainability in Rural Communities

Table 7 PDNP—Household type, population and average household size

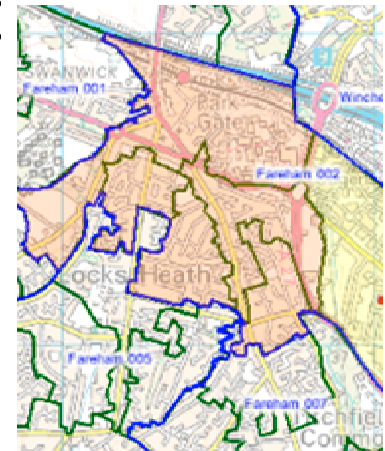
Household types	2001	2016	
One person	4,115	5,299	28.8
Lone parent	617	479	-22.4
2+ adults	10,103	9,359	-7.4
All households	14,835	15,137	2.0
Private household population	34,592	32,502	-6.0
Average household size	2.33	2.15	-7.7



Population forecasting

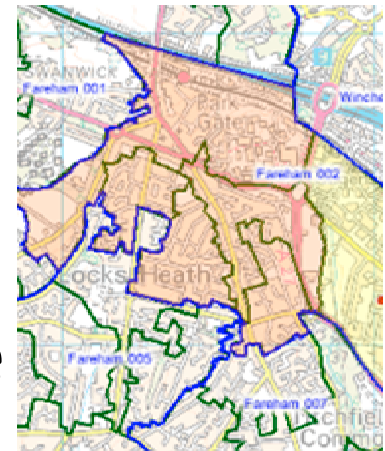
Statistics about the population – who needs them?

- National and local authority populations, age and sex (Treasury)
- Regional and local authority characteristics with moderate approximation (EU)
- Small area statistics (users have yet to make the case)



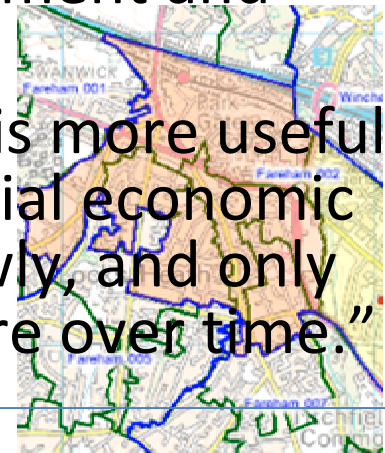
Plan

- Example cases for local statistics
 - LAs
 - Academic researchers
- The nature of needed local statistics
- The nature of the case for them
- The options so far proposed
- Some concerns
 - Criteria; methods; legislation
- Your engagement key to the outcome



Local Plans (Bristol UA)

- “The National Planning Policy Framework stipulates that local planning authorities should ensure that Local Plans are based on ‘adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area’.”
 - “housing information, ethnicity, employment and travel to work”
 - “Local detail, even at 10 year frequency is more useful [than annual data] ... Most of the big social economic and environmental changes happen slowly, and only the detail can inform the changing picture over time.”



Local detail: The value of being sure of the surprising.

Parish Councillor - fund-raising (Suffolk)

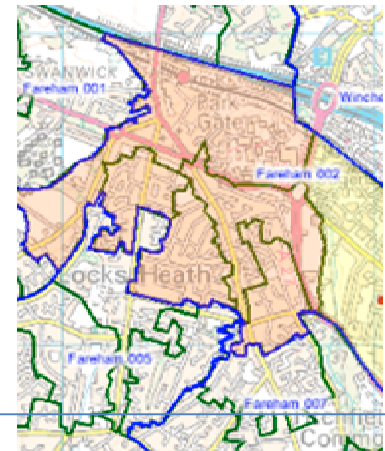
- “We need data that corresponds to the administrative boundaries. We can't put in a funding bid with data for only part of our town or with data that extends beyond our town. Grant funders would not accept this as evidence to support a funding bid. It's also worth mentioning that our town boundaries seem to change every few years and I don't know how flexible the MSOA boundaries are, by comparison.”
 - “the town would be unable to meet the needs of a growing population”



How approximate can such local evidence be before losing its value?

Sustainability appraisals (Oxford)

- “These are a European requirement.
 - people in overcrowded accommodation; in the most deprived areas of working age in employment; with a limiting long term illness; with no qualifications; households with 2 or more cars... people doing unpaid carework; travel to work by mode.”



How local is the implied EU requirement?

Distribution of funds is reliant on local area data

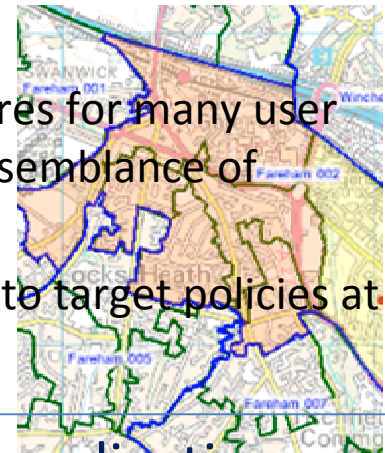
- Index of Multiple Deprivation use of census data
 - National: entry into HE; adult skills; household overcrowding; without central heating; crime and road accidents
 - Local: eg. Unemployment; People with no qualification; Limiting Long term illness; Lone Parent (with dependent children); Households without access to a Car; Social Rented housing.

- Without attribute data for areas smaller than wards/MSOAs

...

- “We would be completely unable to prepare accurate figures for many user defined neighbourhoods, or even revised wards, with any semblance of accuracy.”
- “We would be unable to distinguish local areas of need or to target policies at precise areas.”

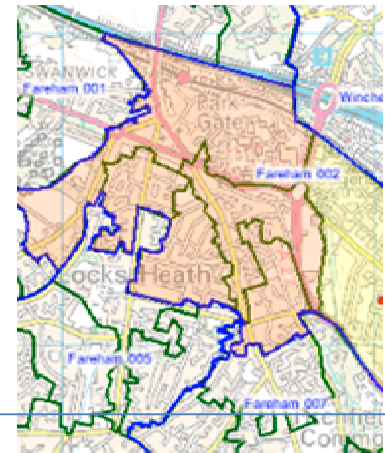
- (Tees Valley)



Specify the critical level of accuracy needed for each application

Child Poverty Needs Assessment (Kingston)

- “Required under Child Poverty Act 2010”
- “household and family characteristics, housing tenure, number of rooms, social classification, occupation, by type of household and age”
 - “Varies 5% to 45% between LSOAs in Kingston”



How can this be economically costed?

Equality and Diversity

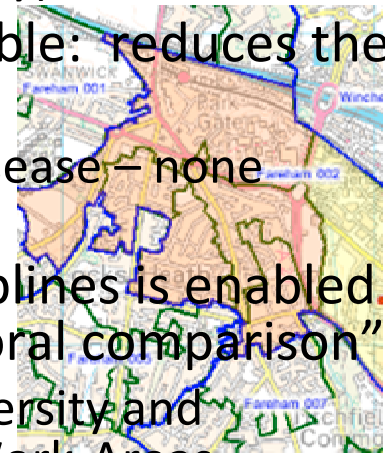
- “Ethnicity is the most used table and 2001 Census data was used all through the decade as no other source is available.” (Tees Valley)
- Recruitment monitoring for discrimination legislation
- ‘Community-Based English Language Competition’ based on language and English proficiency (Bristol and others)



Can ONS share submissions in full, if others are to *make* the case?

Academic research funding for use of small area data currently available only from the Census

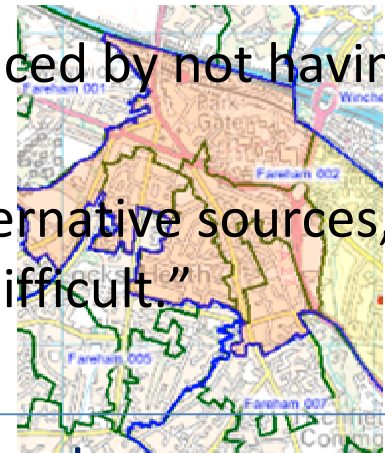
- ESRC: almost £10m direct funding, based on 2001 small area census data
- Other not quantified: funded by NHS, other government departments, other research councils
- “All the best HEFCE work on widening participation at universities would fail as it is done using small area geography:
<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/whatwedo/wp/ourresearch/polar/>”
- “...critical for us in targeting the sampling” (U.Society)
- Association of other datasets at smallest area possible: reduces the aggregation bias.
 - obesity and travel to work; investigate clusters of disease – none possible without OA data
- “high-impact research across a wide range of disciplines is enabled by small area stats and spatial detail enables temporal comparison”
 - Risk of young psychopathology; risk of diabetes; diversity and segregation; obesity and travel to work; Travel-To-Work-Areas



How much is it worth to your local authority to continue to get data at this level of accuracy?

Oxford

- “The ability to identify small areas of particular need has helped us to leverage in funding from other bodies e.g. £700,000 of energy efficiency funding from a utility company and funding for targeted interventions from Sport England.
- If we needed to spend money in order to leverage in £700,000 from a utility company then there is a good chance we would do that
- That said, the value of it would be significantly reduced by not having the national context.
- There could be arguments over the reliability of alternative sources, making decisions over prioritising resources more difficult.”



Local surveys do not replicate the value of a national system

Can you estimate the financial consequence of not having local statistics? (Manchester)

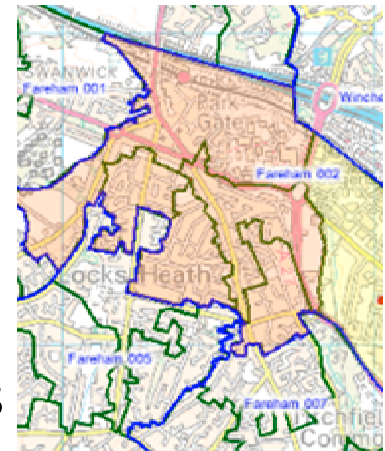
- Congested roads - inability to predict commuter flow – carbon costs
- Progress with low life expectancy and quality of life halted because unable to evaluate, costing NHS
- Closure of schools or not providing new schools in areas of growth meaning insufficient places – costs to firefight instead of plan
- Social exclusion because off the radar – potential health costs due to mental health issues, possible crime increase
- Poor life chances because of inefficient targetting of areas with low/no qualifications not contributing to local economy
- Increase demand on benefits because of inefficient workless projects



How to economically cost such impacts?

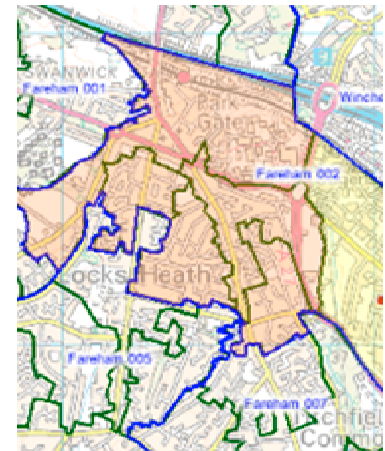
Health inequalities – a good example of an economic case?

- 5-15% of £6.5bn NHS budget distributed on basis of SMR<65, rather than Healthy Life Expectancy
 - HLE Census based, highlights inequality more than SMR
- Of 0.5m deaths pa, half in more deprived areas
 - Suppose 250k in deprived areas could have been reduced further by 10%, 25k fewer deaths
 - Valuing extra year life at £25,000
 - Saving of £625m pa, 6.25bn in 10 years
- Would pay for
 - Census, or
 - Accurate annual small area illness estimates



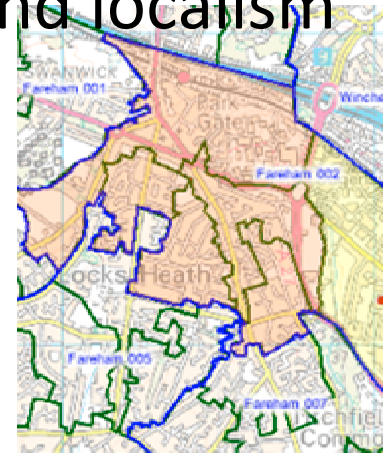
Key needs in a national system of small area statistics

- Area comparisons (competition)
- Cross-tabulation of characteristics (social groups)
- Accuracy for small areas (surprises)
- Change over time (evaluation)
- Small areas
 - How small, how accurate?



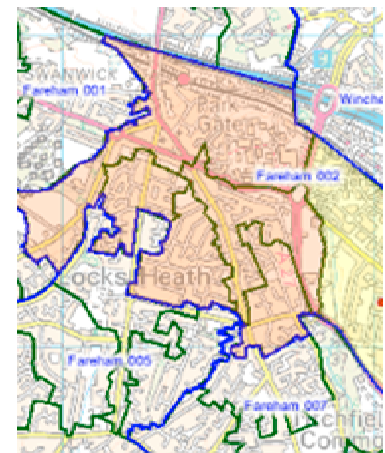
How to quantify the value of small area statistics?

- Loss of lives and quality of lives (inequality affects the progress of all)
- Democratic loss (rational distribution of resources)
 - Required by both national priorities and localism
- Loss in global market (knowledge base, reputation)



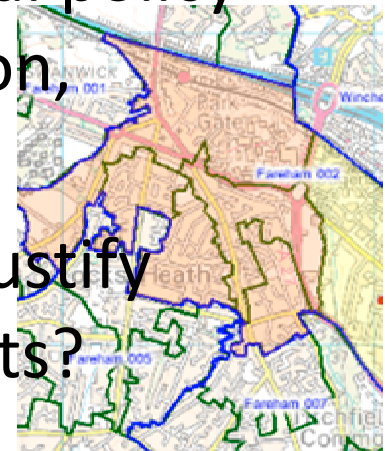
Options for local statistics

- Census, made more efficient
- For population estimates
 - Linked administrative records plus a coverage survey?
 - Short-form census
 - Population register is not an option
- For attributes
 - Linked administrative records?
 - Mega-survey, for local authorities and areas of 5000 population?
 - Smaller areas modelled



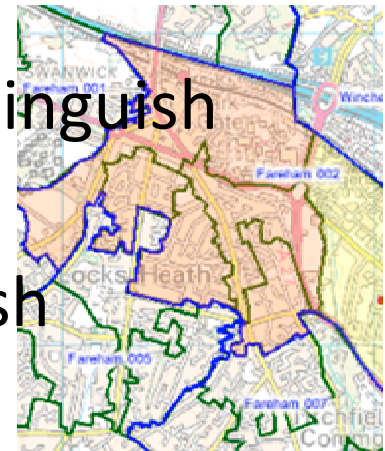
Concerns

- How to satisfy the treasury with a case for information?
 - The distribution of £10bn public money reduced in accuracy by say 1% - what is the cost?
 - Statutory duties to implement national policy – equality legislation, planning legislation, EU demands – how to cost these?
 - Shouldn't those proposing a *change* justify it by estimating the costs and benefits?



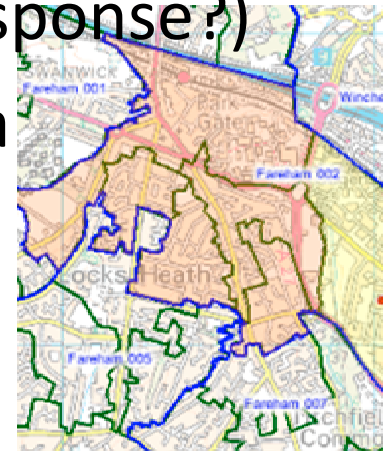
Concerns

- Content of the statistics portfolio
 - Case to be made for small areas
- Accuracy criteria
 - One size does not fit all: specific case requirements
 - Young people not leaving home – distinguish areas or time points 10% apart?
 - Unemployment inequality – distinguish minority groups 5% points apart?



Concerns

- Uneven methodological development
 - Improved census
 - Local attributes from administrative data
- Legislation for administrative records
 - Compulsory coverage survey (80% response?)
 - Statistical lead for administrative data
 - Assured continuity
 - Political will and time available



Engage with ONS review or lose good small area statistics

- Recognise and formulate reliance on small area statistics
 - Comparative, cross-classified, time series, *accuracy*
 - How small?
 - Consider economic value
 - Make it known (benefits.realisation@ons.gsi.gov.uk)
- Engage with consultation on options in Autumn 2013
 - Match options to your case for small area statistics

