

Census 2001

One Number Census Quality Assurance information: Quality Assurance themes

Prisons

Problem

During the QA process it was found that the 2001 Census had generally enumerated more people in prisons than expected by the 2000 Mid-Year Estimate (MYE). Whilst the magnitude of the number of prisoners was not great this pattern raised a question as to whether there was a definitional difference between the 2001 Census definition of a prisoner and the definition used to construct the 2000 MYE. In most cases the Census had enumerated more prisoners than expected but in some areas, particularly those with high security prisons, the Census enumerated less.

Results

The MYEs definition of prisoners includes those persons who have been sentenced and have served 6 months or more of their sentence. The Census definition includes those sentenced for more than 6 months regardless of how long a person has served prior to Census day. In addition, the Census definition will include those persons who have no other usual residence. These differences in definitions would therefore result in a expectation that the Census count of prisoners would be higher than the MYEs. A cumulative chart was constructed to highlight the number of prisoners counted by the Census compared to the estimated number of prisoners from the MYEs.

Given the definitional difference between ONC and MYE it was decided to accept the Census count on the condition that individual prisons were examined for evidence of significant underenumeration. This was done by comparing the Census counts with Home Office (HO) data for individual prisons. An adjustment was

made if the difference was 100 or more and the notional response rate was below 75% (the notional response rate being the ONC count divided by the HO figure).

As a result of this check, a total of nine adjustments to prisons were made. The table below gives a full list of these prisons.

EA	LAD	LAD Name	Establishment
KE	47UF	Wychavon	Long Lartin
NP	00DB	Wakefield	Wakefield
EE	42UH	Waveney	Blundeston
NM	00FB	East Riding of Yorkshire	Full Sutton
ST	29UH	Maidstone	Maidstone
NL	00DA	Leeds	Leeds
SH	19UJ	Weymouth & Portland	Weare
NX	00BN	Manchester	Manchester
SR	45UC	Arun	Ford