

FORECASTING SOUTHAMPTON'S POPULATION

DECEMBER 2013

The public health information team has produced a series of briefing notes which present and explain data on a range of issues. The briefing notes cover topics that are of particular relevance to the population of Southampton City. Data is presented graphically and includes time trends and comparisons within the City and elsewhere as appropriate. New and updated briefing notes are added regularly to our website www.publichealth.southampton.gov.uk/healthintelligence/briefings.aspx we hope that you find them useful and welcome your comments (contact details below).

Introduction

There are currently two main sources of population projections for Southampton's resident population; Hampshire County Council's Small Area Population Forecasts (SAPF) and the Office for National Statistics Sub-National Population Projections (SNPP). This note explains the difference between these two sets of projections, describes the predictions they are making and makes recommendations about which to use.

Explaining the different sets of projections

The latest local authority level ONS projections are the 2011-based interim SNPP¹ which provide projections of Southampton's resident population for the period 2011-2021 by age and gender; they can be accessed at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/snpp/sub-national-population-projections/Interim-2011-based/index.html>

The ONS SNPP are trend based – that means they show what the population will be if the assumed trends continue. The assumed trends are the fertility, mortality and migration patterns that were observed over the 2006-2010 period. Therefore, these are not forecasts and they do not attempt to take into account the impact of policy changes, economic factors or the capacity of areas to accommodate population.

The latest HCC SAPF are 2012-based and run to 2019. They are available by age and gender and for small geographies at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/population-statistics/pop-estimates/small-area-pop-stats.htm>

SAPF are forecasts of the population based on future dwellings supply; that's all the sites with planning permission or allocated in local plans. ONS fertility and mortality rates are used but with local correction factors. An alternative set of forecasts are produced for Southampton that use better, local intelligence on average household size and migration.

When comparing the two projections it is important to understand why they start from a different base population in 2012. The SAPF uses a population based rolled forward from the 2001 Census whereas the SNPP uses the ONS mid 2011 population estimate (which is itself based on the results of the 2011 Census).

There are no published projections available of the GP registered population.

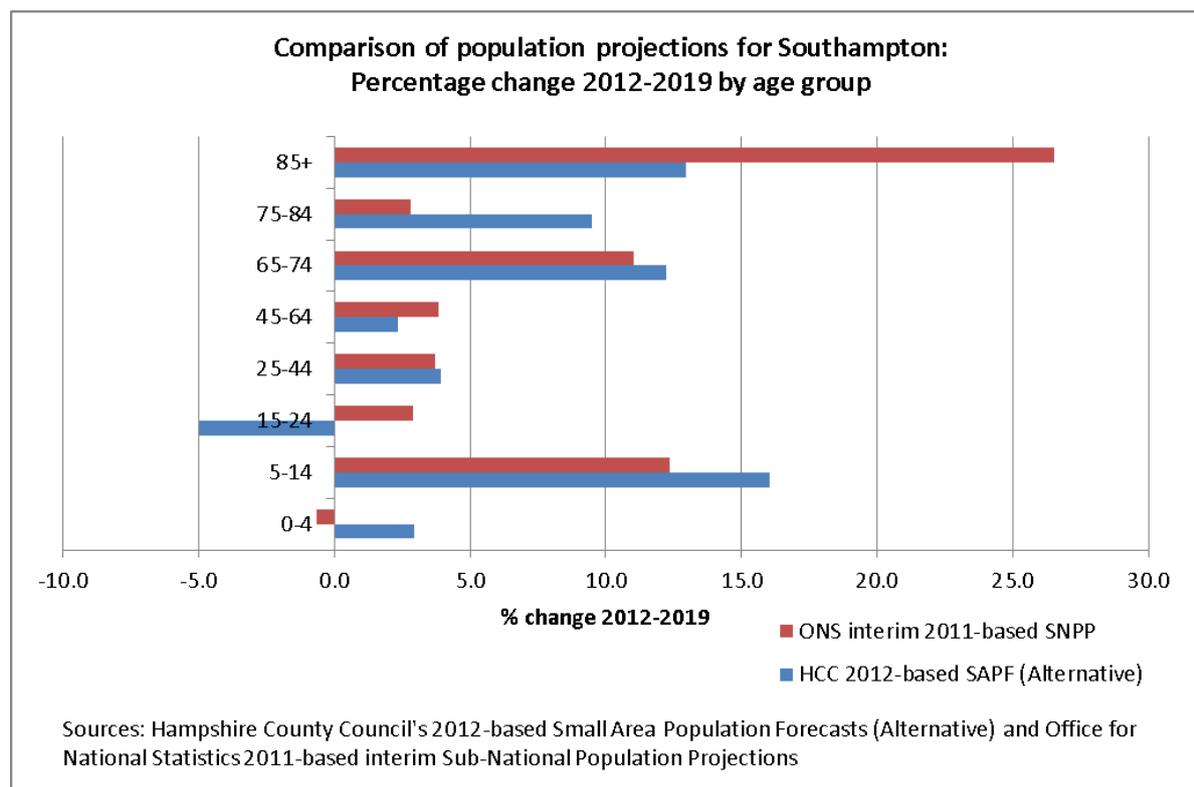
¹ Note that the ONS have recently produced 2012-based national projections using a range of scenarios but these are not currently available at local authority level.

What are the projections for Southampton?

The table and chart below show the comparative projections for the period 2012 to 2019 from the SAPF and the SNPP.

| HCC 2012-based SAPF (Alternative) | | | | ONS interim 2011-based SNPP | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Age Group | 2012 | 2019 | % change 2012-2019 | Age Group | 2012 | 2019 | % change 2012-2019 |
| 0-4 | 16,900 | 17400 | 3.0 | 0-4 | 15,500 | 15,400 | -0.6 |
| 5-14 | 24,300 | 28,200 | 16.0 | 5-14 | 23,500 | 26,400 | 12.3 |
| 15-24 | 48,400 | 46,000 | -5.0 | 15-24 | 48,500 | 49,900 | 2.9 |
| 25-44 | 69,100 | 71,800 | 3.9 | 25-44 | 70,000 | 72,600 | 3.7 |
| 45-64 | 47,100 | 48,200 | 2.3 | 45-64 | 49,400 | 51,300 | 3.8 |
| 65-74 | 17,200 | 19,300 | 12.2 | 65-74 | 16,300 | 18,100 | 11.0 |
| 75-84 | 11600 | 12700 | 9.5 | 75-84 | 10,600 | 10,900 | 2.8 |
| 85+ | 5,400 | 6,100 | 13.0 | 85+ | 4,900 | 6,200 | 26.5 |
| Total | 239,900 | 249,700 | 4.1 | Total | 238,800 | 250,800 | 5.0 |

Sources: Hampshire County Council's 2012-based Small Area Population Forecasts (Alternative) and Office for National Statistics 2011-based interim Sub-National Population Projections



For comparison with the resident population data, there were 266,700 people registered with GPs in Southampton in 2012.

Which projections should you use?

Through understanding the assumptions behind the projections you can assess which is best to use for your particular purpose.

For funding allocations the Government has to use a standard set of projections that is consistent across the country so for these the SNPP are used. However, for planning purposes the SAPF provide a more realistic prediction of the likely changes in population over the next few years. It is the SAPF data that is used for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in Southampton.

The SAPF are particularly useful for looking at changes at smaller geographies within the city. For instance, Bargate ward is set to see a 24% increase in the number of dwellings between 2012 and 2019 which is forecast to increase its population from 18,700 to 22,150.

The predicted changes by age and sex in the SAPF could be applied to the GP registered population to give an indication of how that might change.

A limitation of the SAPF data is that it does not yet take account of the results of the 2011 Census. However, HCC are currently working on an update and the 2013-based SAPF, to be released in May 2014, will incorporate the Census data.