

Multi-source Topic ReportsIssue

1. This note provides information on the multi-source topic reports project.

Action

2. **The Census Academic Advisory Group is asked to:**
 - **note the paper;**
 - **consider whether individual members would like to act as consultants for any of the reports (e.g. advising on content or possibly writing parts of the report) or whether they have colleagues who we could approach.**

Background

3. ONS is currently planning a new series of multi-source topic reports (MSTRs) that will be authored by a variety of Government Departments. The aim is to take advantage of new information from the 2001 Census and draw on a range of other sources to provide a more comprehensive statistical picture of a topic area than would be provided by solely Census-based products. This work will be informed by another project that ONS is currently undertaking to ensure that the most appropriate source for a given purpose is used. It is intended that the reports will have a UK focus wherever possible.
4. The reports will primarily be electronic, but some may also be made available on paper. Depending upon the topic they will range from short overviews through to more in-depth stories or collections of articles.
5. It is intended that the summary will be produced as soon as possible after the required Census data are available (spring / summer 2003), and more in-depth analysis will follow throughout 2003 and possibly into 2004.

6. Social Analytical and Reporting Division at ONS has a co-ordinating role for the series, but topic experts from across ONS and other Departments will be leading the work on individual reports. Reports on the following topics are currently planned:

Topic	Lead Department
• people and places (a socio-demographic overview of the UK)	ONS
• ethnicity, nationality and religion	ONS
• inequalities	ONS
• gender	ONS
• older people - the over 50's population	Department of Work and Pensions
• Wales and its' people	ONS
• health, including disabled people	ONS
• families	ONS
• housing and households	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
• labour market	ONS
• rural areas	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

7. We are also hoping that reports on Education and Training, Transport, and Children may be added to the series and we are following up other suggestions.
8. Topic experts are currently working on the scope of their reports and they have informed us that they would find it helpful to have advice from academic experts on what the reports should cover. We are therefore seeking volunteers to take on this advisory role. There may also be the opportunity to write part of the reports. Unfortunately it currently appears unlikely that we would be able to pay for this work.
9. If you feel that you would be able to help or can suggest someone who could be approached please contact Sarah Tamplin at ONS (sarah.tamplin@ons.gov.uk or telephone 020 7533 5882).

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