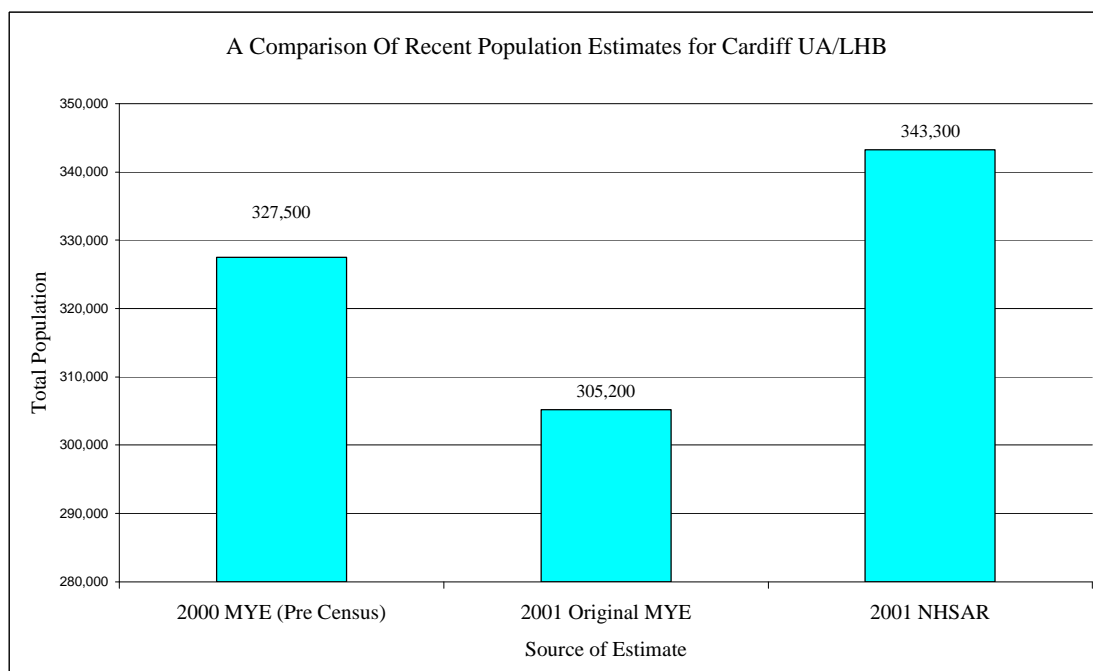


5.1.4 Current Population Estimate(s)

The latest official estimate¹ of Cardiff's total population is some 308,500 persons. This published estimate was accompanied by a revised² figure for the previous year of some 307,300 persons. The revised figure being some 2,100 higher than the original³ estimate for Cardiff in 2001.

The Registrar General's first set of revised estimates have been made in the light of evidence that the 2001 Census of Population underestimated the male population aged 20 to 39 across all of Wales and England, and not just in Cardiff. However the relatively small adjustments made to Cardiff's official population estimate, to date, fails to sufficiently correct for the shortcomings of the 2001 Census in terms of its coverage and the imputation process to correct for non respondents in Cardiff.

The figure below highlights three separate population estimates for Cardiff and demonstrates quite clearly the problem of what is an acceptable denominator to use when conducting socio-economic and health related research as the variation between the highest and lowest estimates is 11%.



¹ Office for National Statistics (Registrar General's) 2002 Mid Year Estimate; October 2003.

² Office for National Statistics (Registrar General's) revised 2001 Mid Year Estimate; October 2003.

³ Office for National Statistics (Registrar General's) 2001 Mid Year Estimate; September 2002.

Due to the uncertainties and lack of confidence in the 2001 Census based population estimates the favoured population denominator for Cardiff and its sub divisions is that derived from National Health Service Administrative Records (NHSAR) in 2001. While these estimates, or to be more precise, counts, are widely acknowledged as slightly inflated, they are, it is believed, closer to an accurate total population of Cardiff than the latest official ONS Census based estimates.

In parts of this technical ‘Needs Assessment’ document an alternative set of population denominators have been used at EDiv level, namely those produced by Cardiff Research Centre for June 1999. For a full explanation of the methodology used please see pages 15 and 16 of the ‘Cardiff Community Profile – 2002’⁴.

The table below highlights the totals for each LHB Locality area using NHSAR population for 2001.

Population Totals for Cardiff LHB Localities Using NHSAR Population @ June 2001		
LHB Locality	Total Population	% Share of Cardiff Total Population
North	87,373	25.5
West	94,307	27.5
South East	72,747	21.2
Central	88,862	25.8
Cardiff LHB	343,289	100

Source: Derived from 2001 NHSAR

By comparison the CRC estimates for Mid 1999 would give the following population totals for each LHB Locality, see Table below:

Locality Populations as a % of Cardiff Total June 1999		
LHB Locality	Total Population	% Share of Cardiff Total Population
North	81,540	25.1
West	89,380	27.6
South East	72,670	22.4
Central	80,790	24.9
Cardiff LHB	324,380	100.0

Source: CRC

⁴ ‘Cardiff Community Profile – 2002’; Bro Taf Health Authority, Cardiff Council and Cardiff LHG; 2002

In terms of population share by locality both sets of data show a very similar distribution despite being from different sources at different times. A more comprehensive picture of the distribution of population in Cardiff by EDiv and Locality area using 2001 NHSAR population counts supplied by NPHS Wales in June 2003 is presented elsewhere in the 'Needs Assessment' – See Section 5.1.7.

To conclude, it would, at the time of writing be safe to say that the total population of Cardiff in 2001 was close to 330,000. The NHSAR total for that year was some 4% higher while the 2001 Census total was some 7.5% lower than this estimate of 330,000. All the known administrative datasets suggest that Cardiff's population has continued to grow since 2001 at the rate of approximately 1% per annum.