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The impact of household changes on residential mobility and housing adjustments at older ages in Scotland

Workshop on UK Population Change and Housing across the Life Course
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Background

- Recent demographic, social and economic changes:
 - increased diversity across individual life courses and housing careers.
- Evidence of life course transitions and mobility in later life from UK literature
 - Ill health and support-related mobility (Glaser & Grundy 1998)
 - Relationship-driven migration (Evandrou et al 2010)
 - Health, retirement and changes in household composition trigger changes in housing consumption (Ermisch & Jenkins 1999)
- Mobility and housing adjustments at older ages in the light of:
 - The housing boom and bust and the recent economic downturn
 - Calls for older people to downsize and release family housing for the younger generation (Best 2010)
- Scotland rarely the focus of empirical investigation



Aim of the work

Investigating:

- the diversity in housing consumption among older adults in Scotland between 2001 and 2011
- and the extent to which housing is adjusted in response to changes in personal and household circumstances.

Research questions:

1. Do household changes trigger residential moves of older individuals and their households?
2. To which extent do household changes determine whether older individuals and their households upsize or downsize their accommodation?

Data and Sample

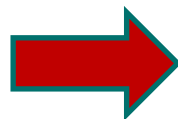
Scottish Longitudinal Study

- a large scale anonymised linkage study using data from **census** (1991, 2001 & 2011) and other administrative and statistical sources
- 5.3% sample of the Scottish population

Older adults

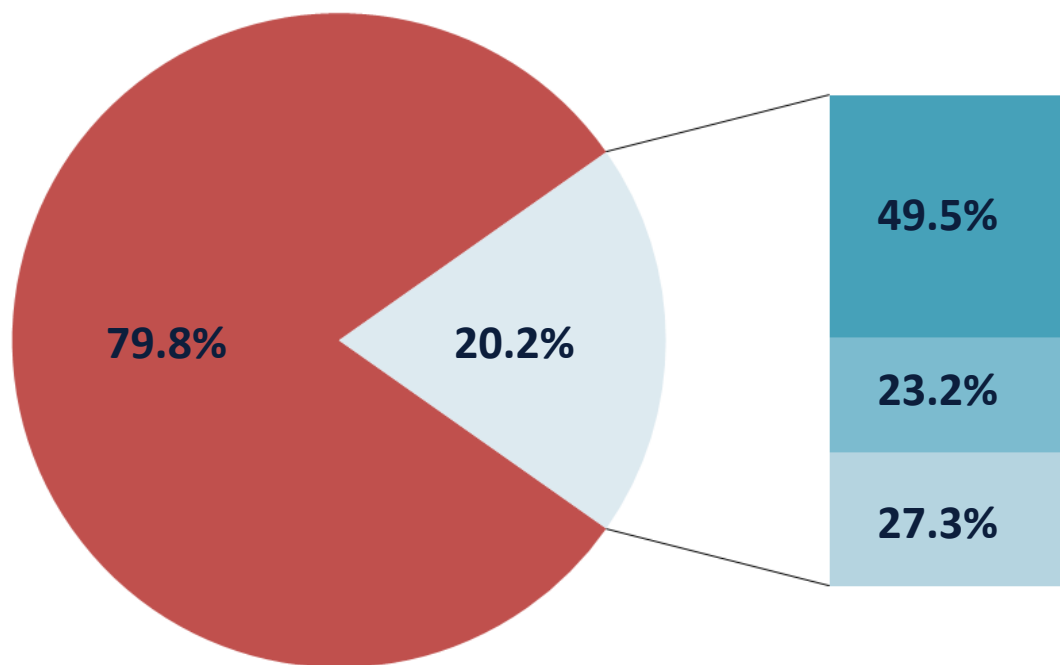
- individuals living in private households at the beginning and end of the decade (N = 30,376)

Aged 55-69 in 2001



Aged 65-79 in 2011

Residential moves and housing adjustments, 2001-2011



■ Didn't move
■ Moved: Downsize ■ Moved: Same size ■ Moved: Upsize



Methods

- Residential Moves:

- ✓ Logistic regression:

Moved between 2001 and 2011 (**1 = Yes**; 0 = No)

And then, for individual movers:

- Housing Adjustments:

- ✓ Multinomial logistic regression:

Changes upward/downward in the number of rooms between 2001 and 2011

(**1 = Downsizing**; 2 = Same size; **3 = Upsizing**)

Multilevel design (Individuals – Local Authorities)



Housing pathways and characteristics of older adults

Demographic characteristics

- women and older individuals are less likely to move
- but if they do move, they are also less likely to upsize

Socio-economic characteristics

- individuals with higher SES are more likely to move
- and when they move, they do it in order to upsize – but also to downsize.

Housing characteristics

- private renters are the most mobile, although their moves do not imply any adjustment of housing size.
- social renters in larger housing are the least likely to move
- older adults living in flats are also more mobile – but only owners move in order to upsize.



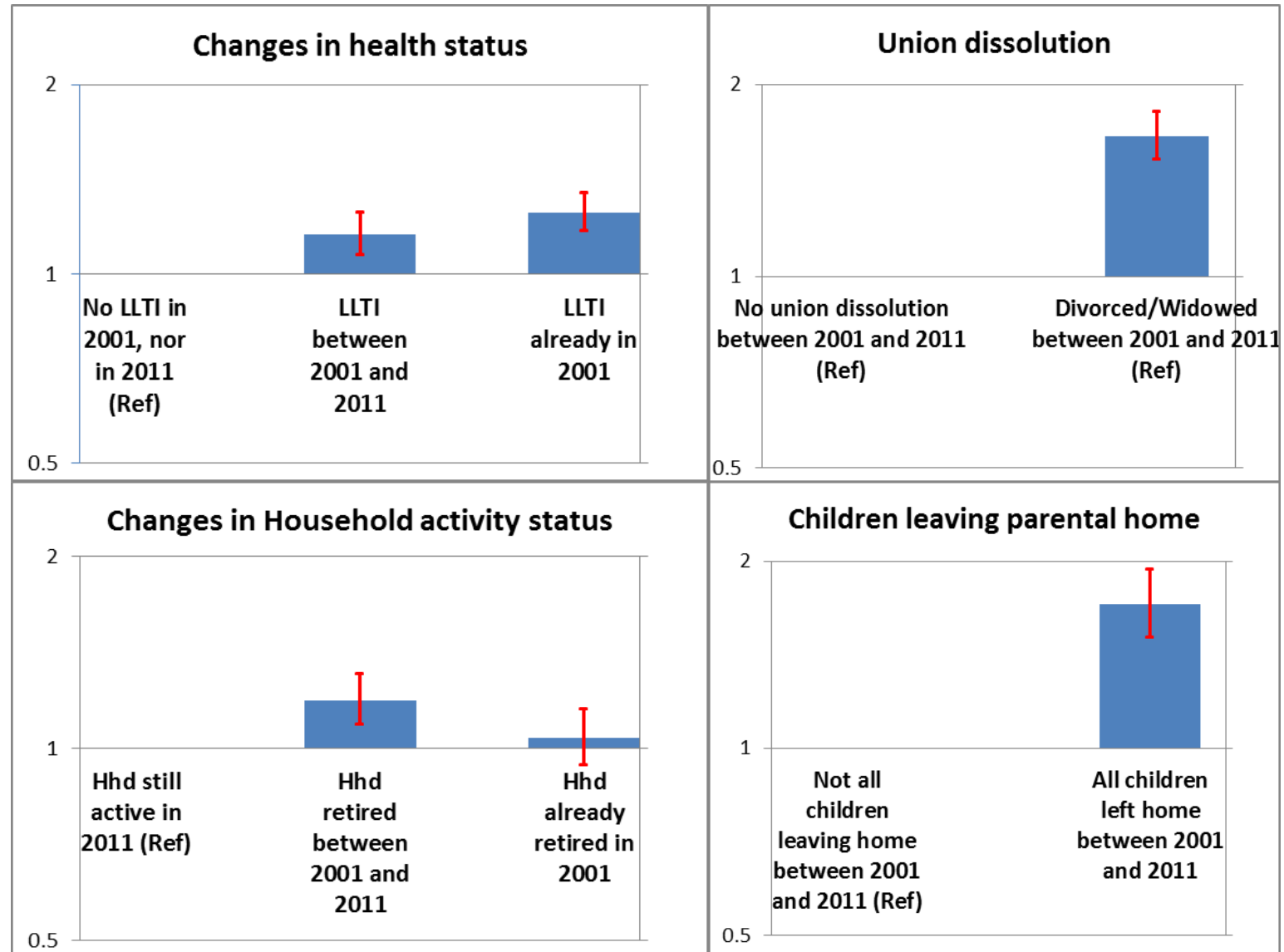
The impact of household changes

Variables in our models:

- ✓ Changes in health status between 2001 and 2011
- ✓ Changes in household's activity status between 2001 and 2011
- ✓ Union dissolution (divorce or widowhood) between 2001 and 2011
- ✓ (All) children leaving their parents home between 2001 and 2011

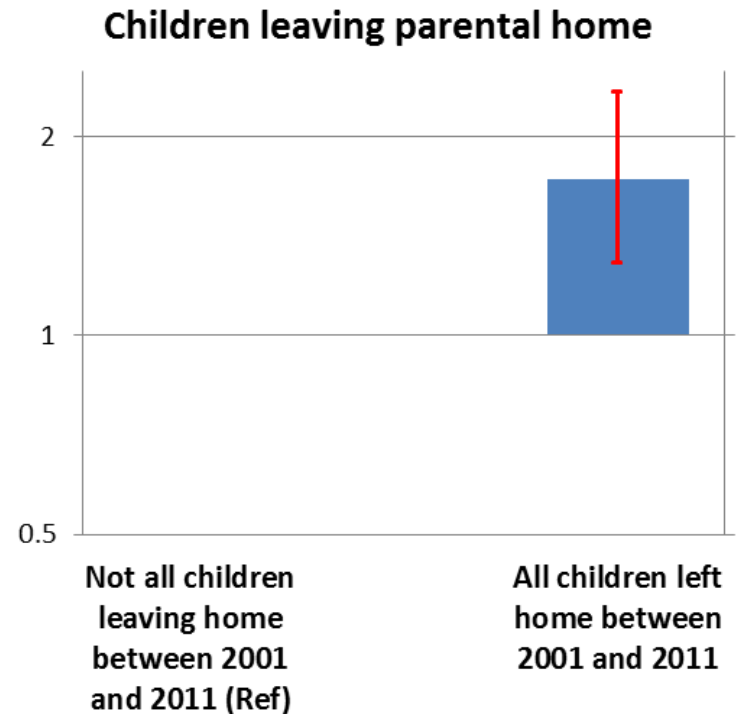
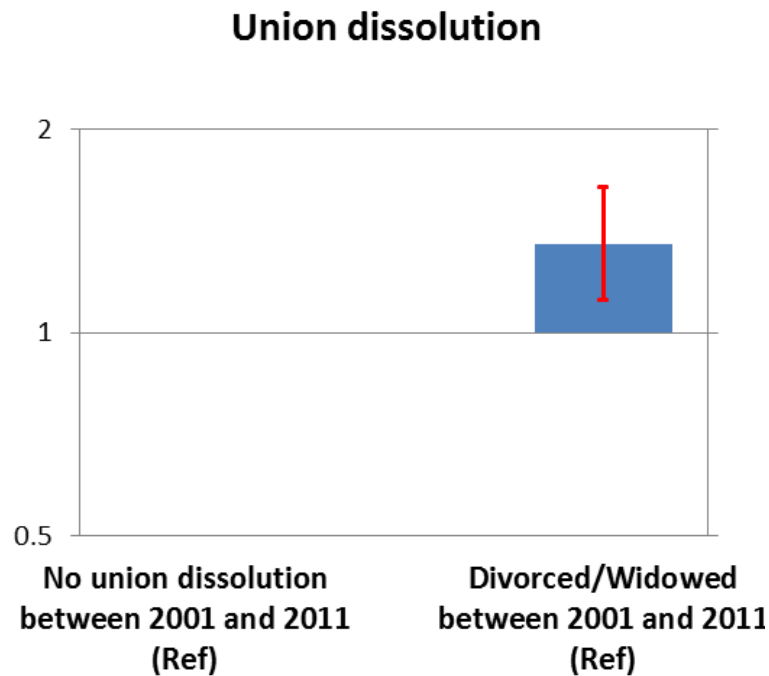
Household changes and residential mobility

Odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals



Household changes and downsizing

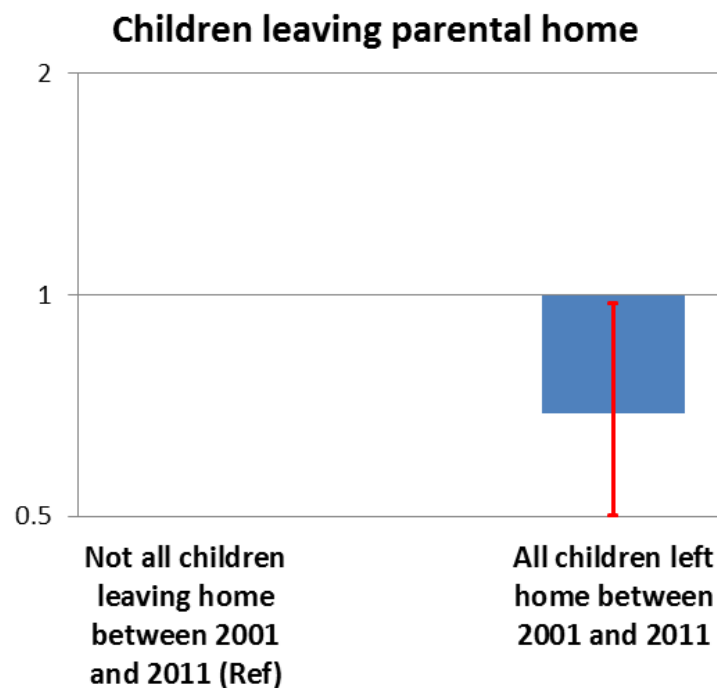
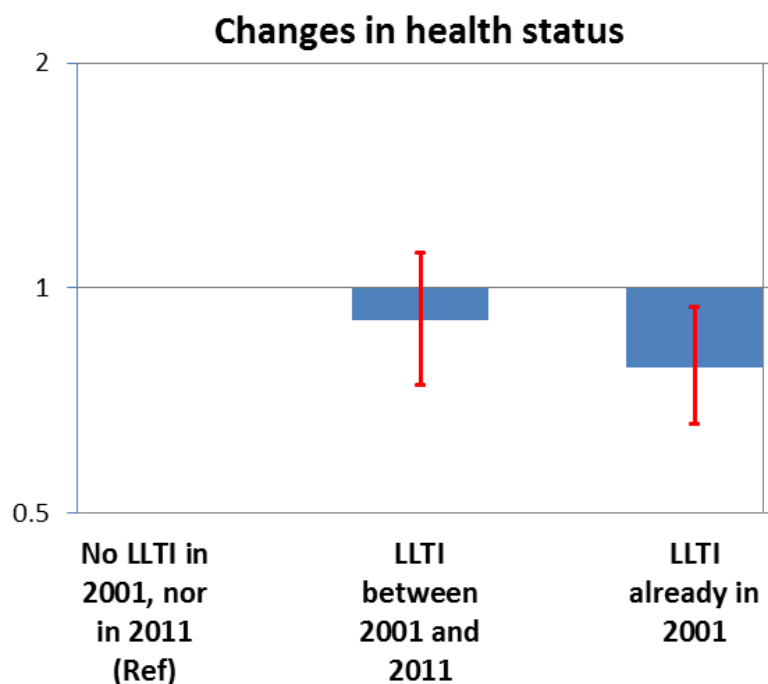
Relative risk ratios and 95% confidence intervals



Base category: Same size housing

Household changes and upsizing

Relative risk ratios and 95% confidence intervals



Base category: Same size housing



The profile of movers who upsize

- Less than 10 % of older adults who upsized did so in order to move to a complex household
- The remaining did genuinely upsize to larger housing
 - Movers with higher socio-economic status (tertiary education and a professional/managerial background) are significantly more likely to upsize.
 - Being home-owner (of a flat) is significantly associated with the likelihood of upsizing
 - Movers are more likely to upsize if they have been in good health throughout the decade – and if their children didn't leave the nest in that decade

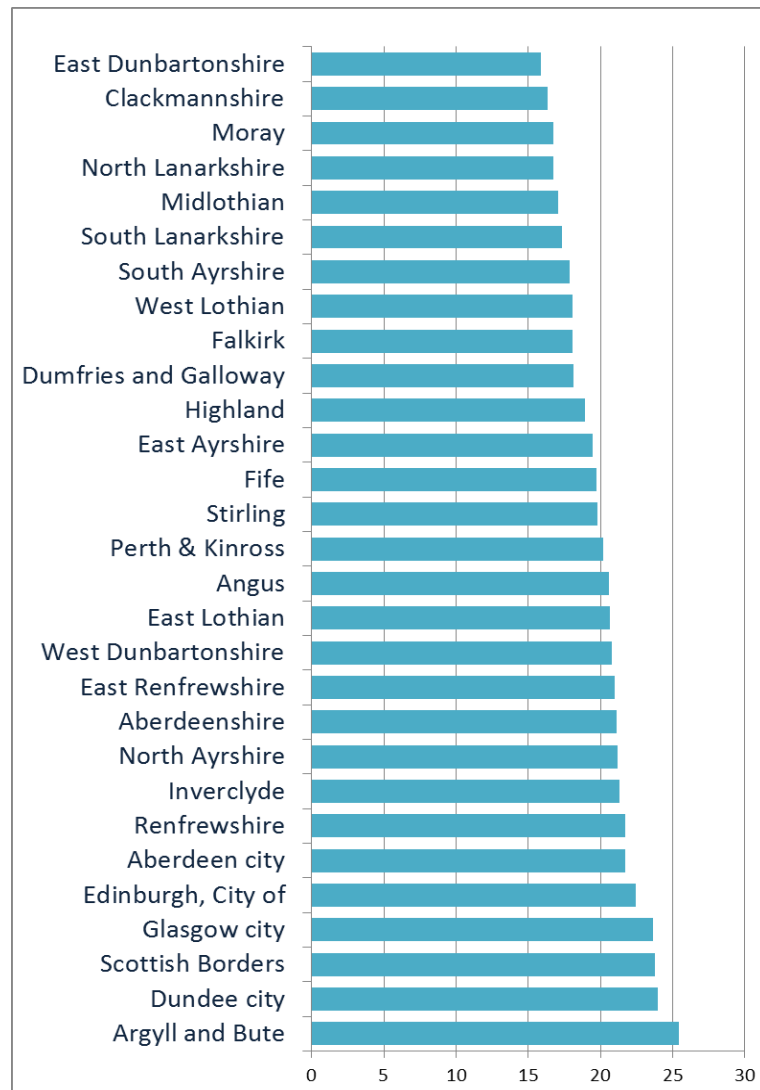


Does the picture vary across Scotland?

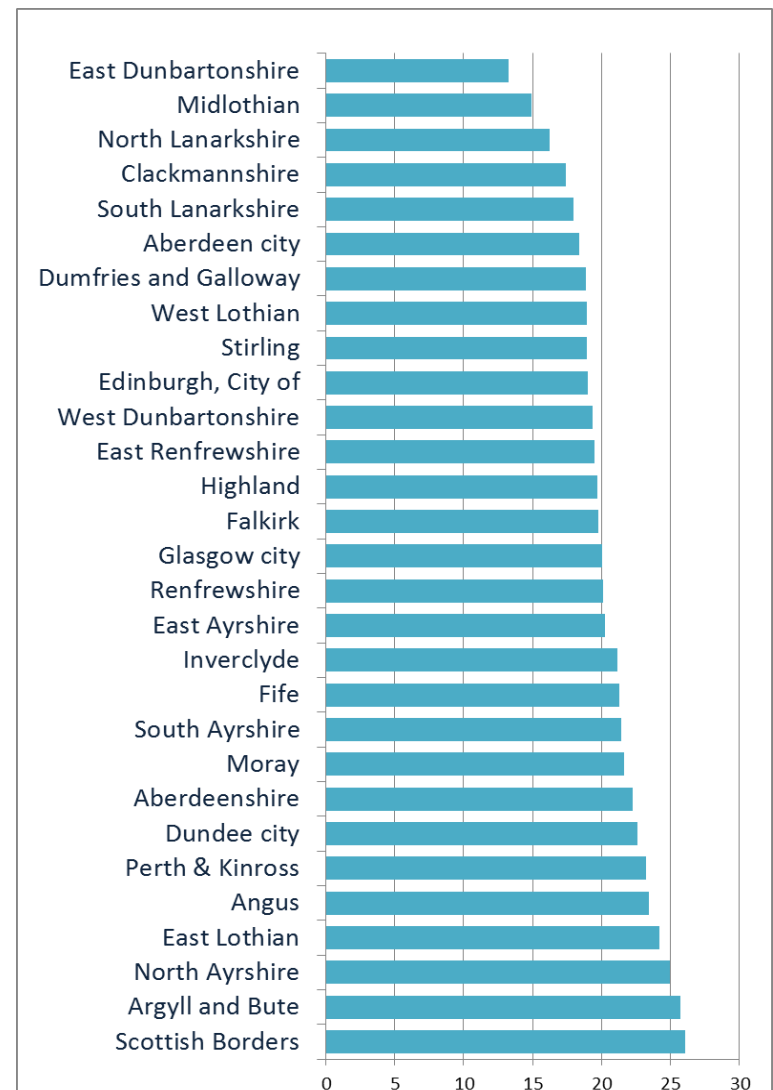
- ✓ Proportion of movers (and of housing adjustments) across local authorities
- ✓ The importance of urban/rural differences
- ✓ The role of local housing markets

Residential mobility across Scotland

% Movers between 2001 and 2011



Local authority of residence in 2001

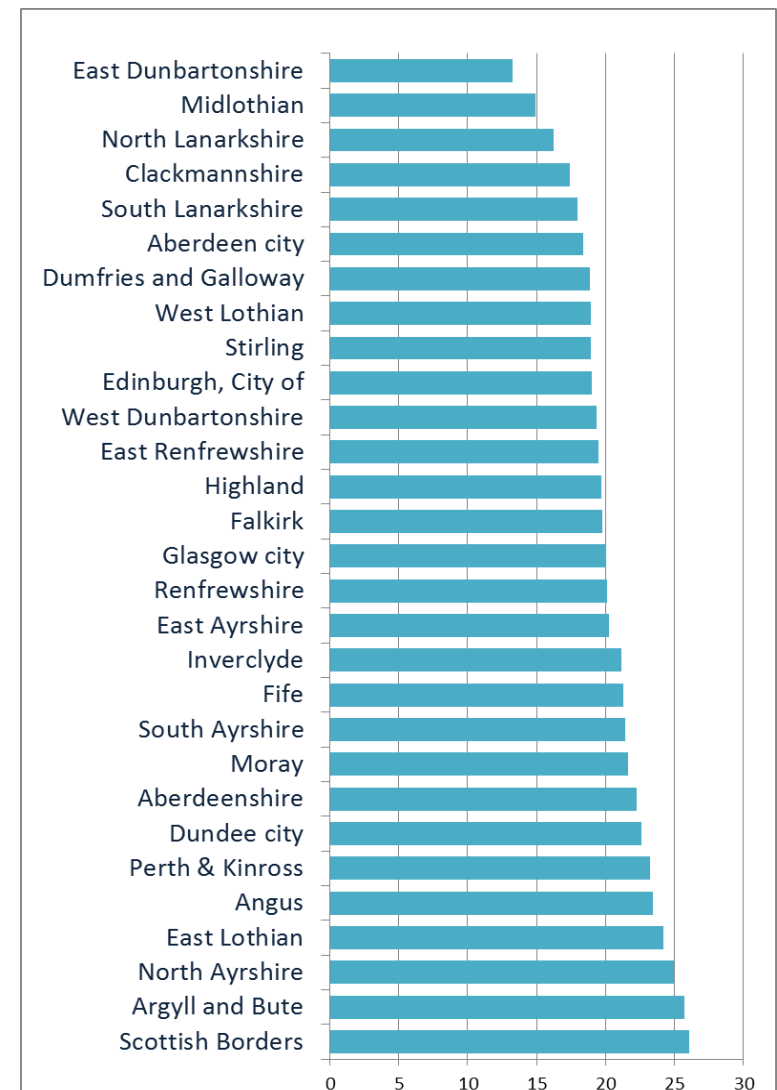
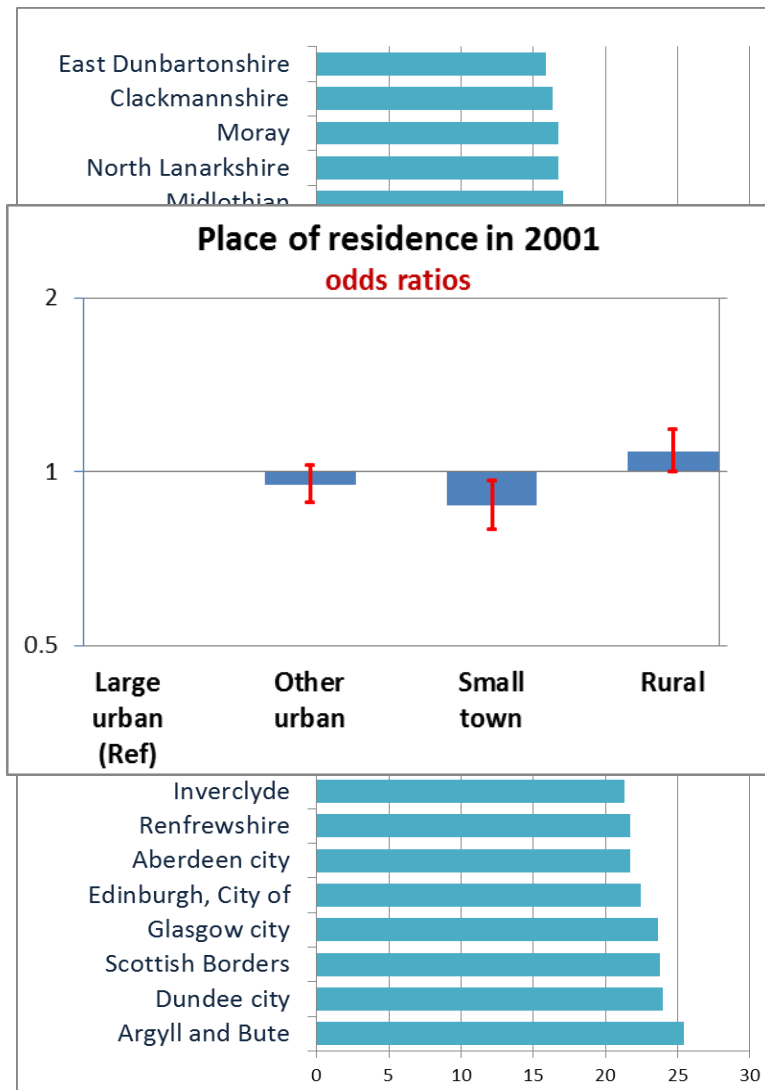


Local authority of residence in 2011

Source: Scottish Longitudinal Study

Residential mobility across Scotland

% Movers between 2001 and 2011



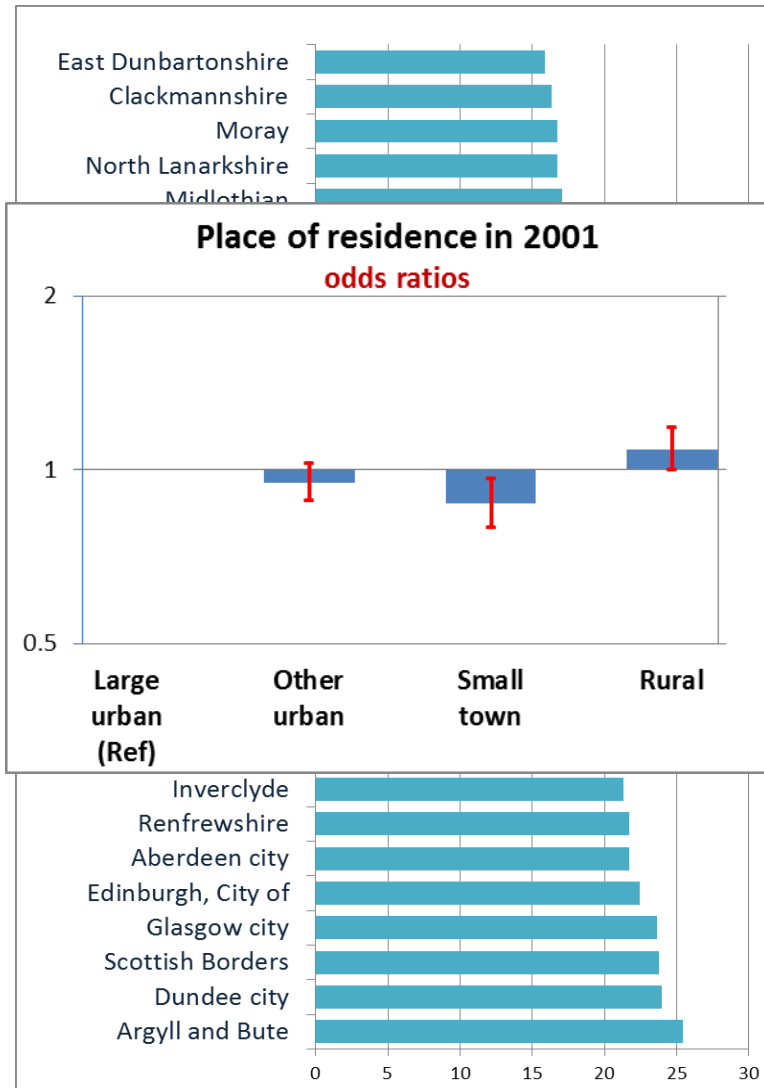
Local authority of residence in 2001

Local authority of residence in 2011

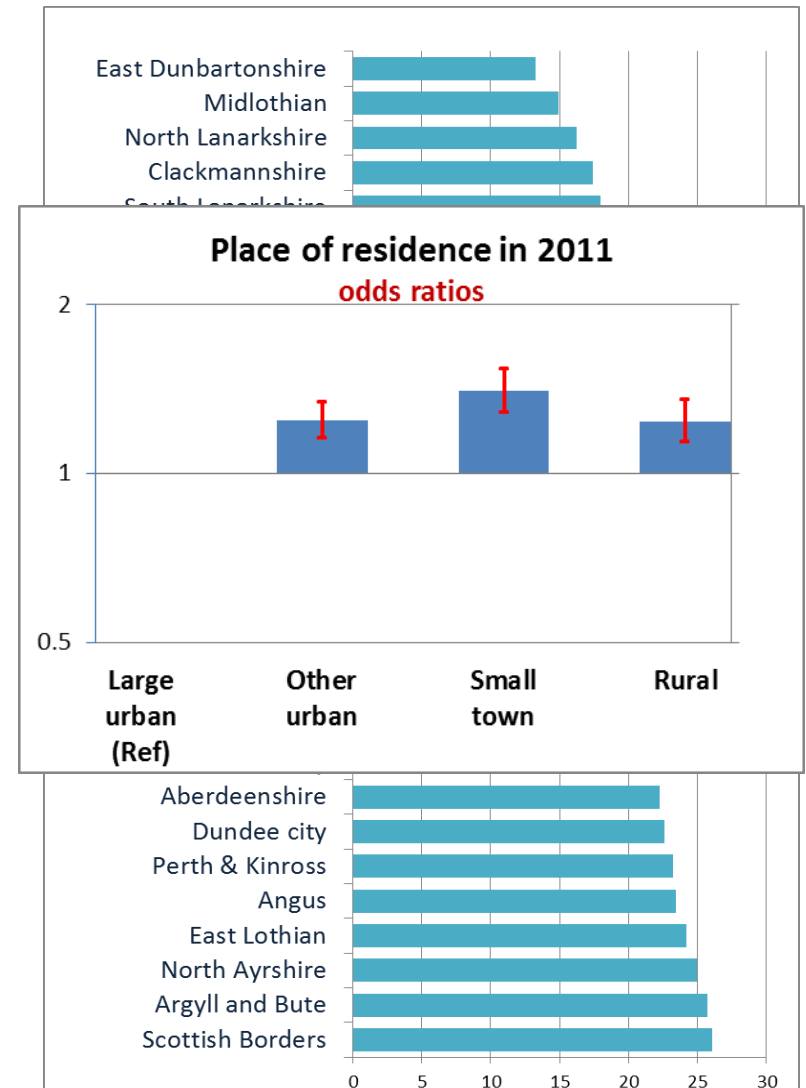
Source: Scottish Longitudinal Study

Residential mobility across Scotland

% Movers between 2001 and 2011



Local authority of residence in 2001

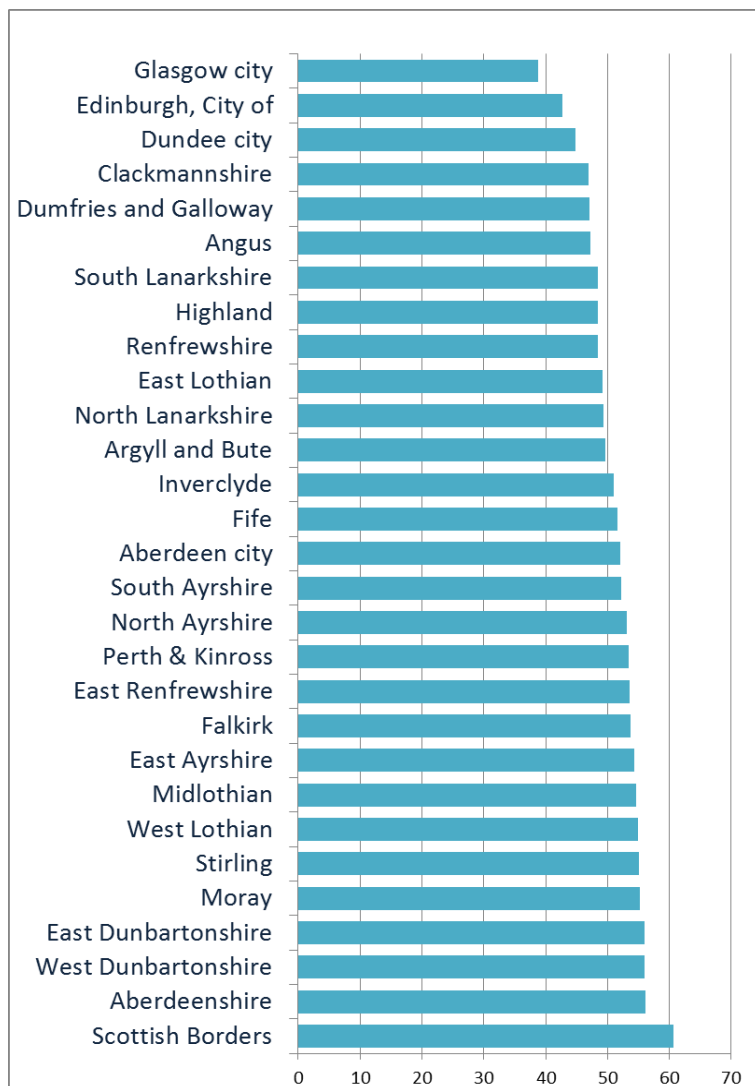


Local authority of residence in 2011

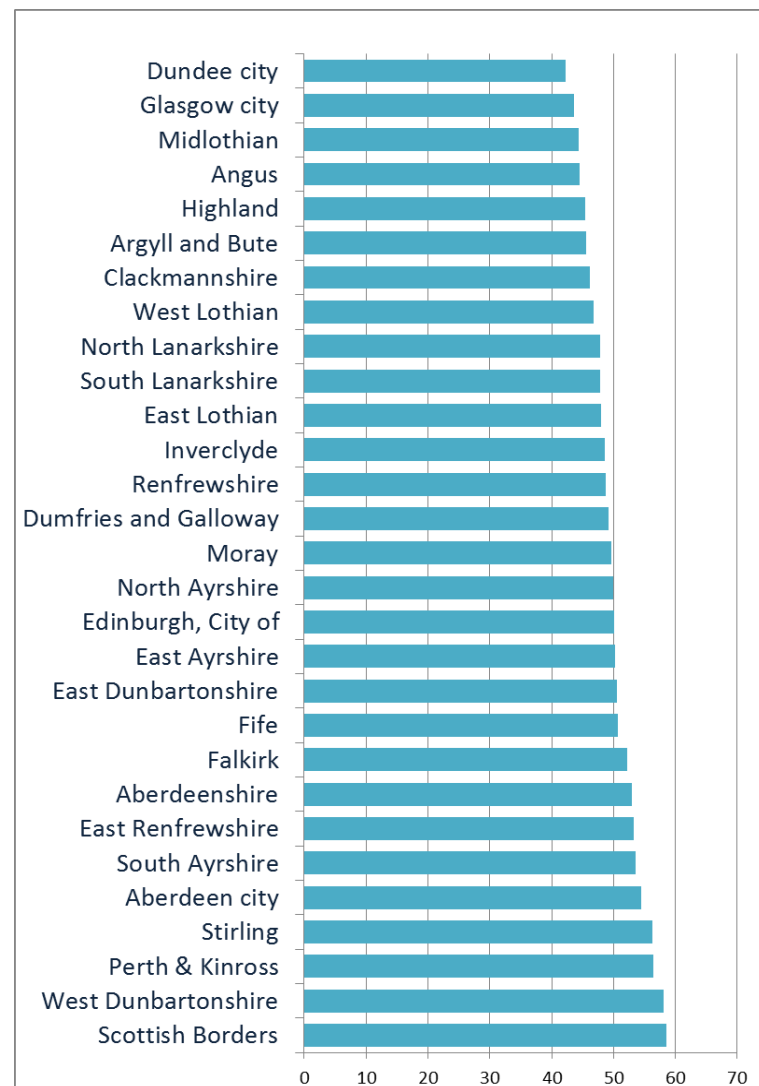
Source: Scottish Longitudinal Study

Downsizing across Scotland

% Downsizing (of all movers) between 2001 and 2011



Local authority of residence in 2001

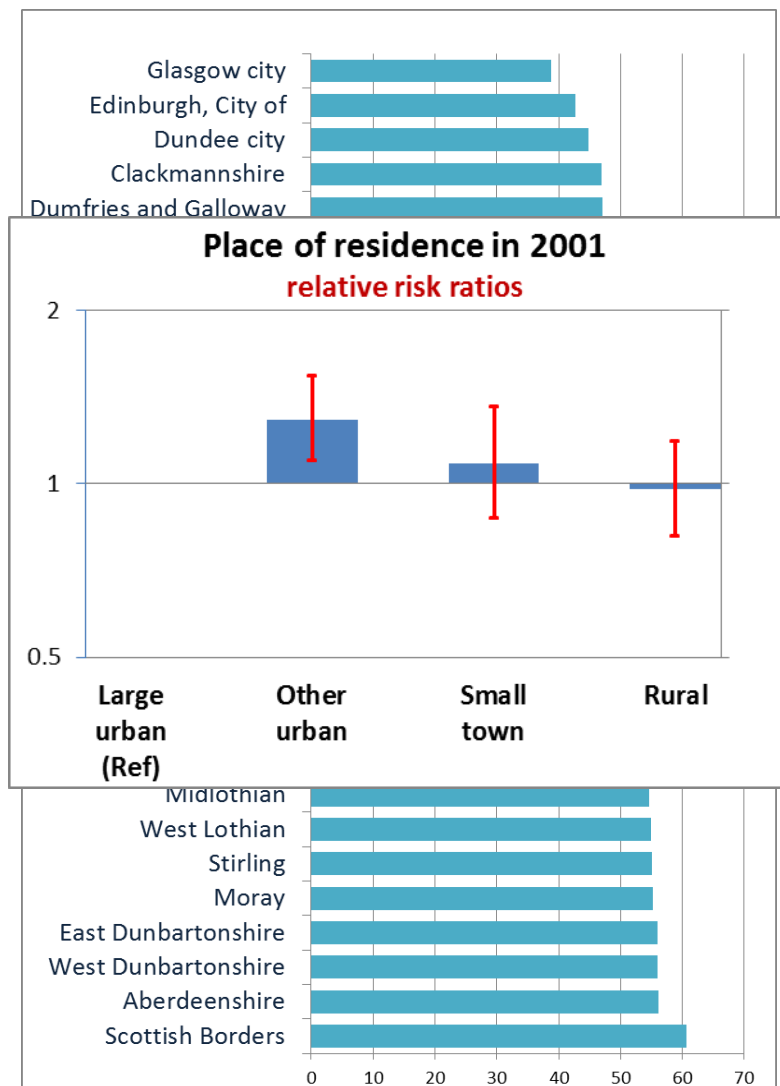


Local authority of residence in 2011

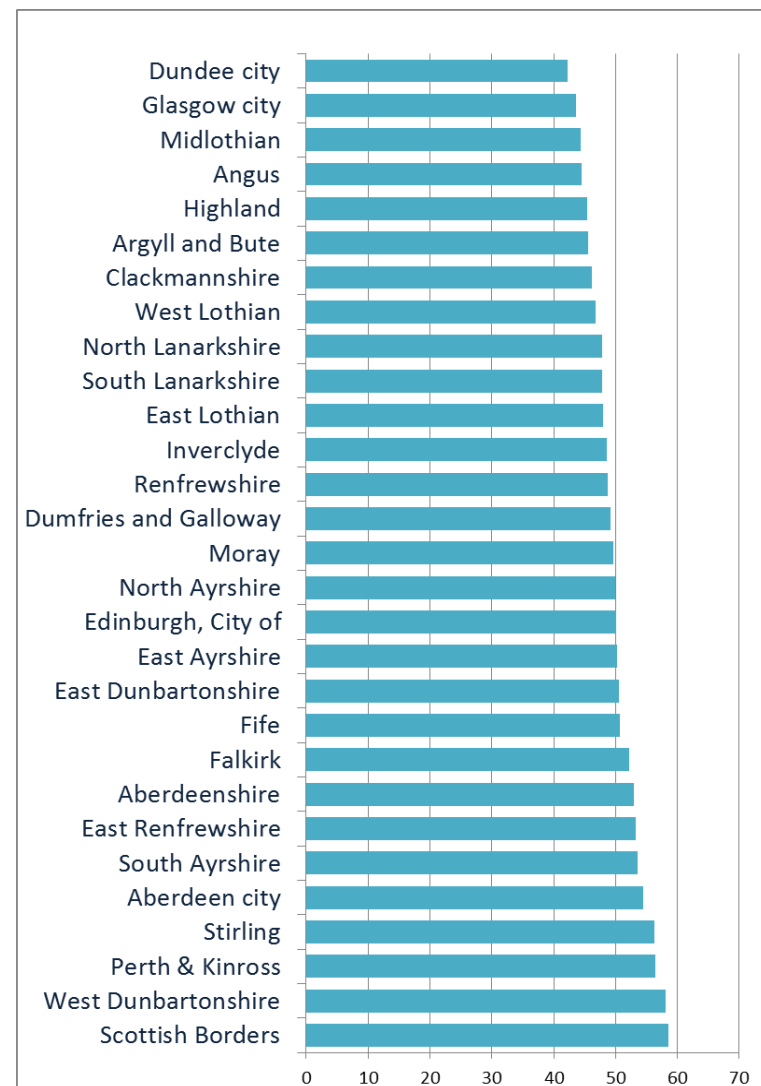
Source: Scottish Longitudinal Study

Downsizing across Scotland

% Downsizing (of all movers) between 2001 and 2011



Local authority of residence in 2001

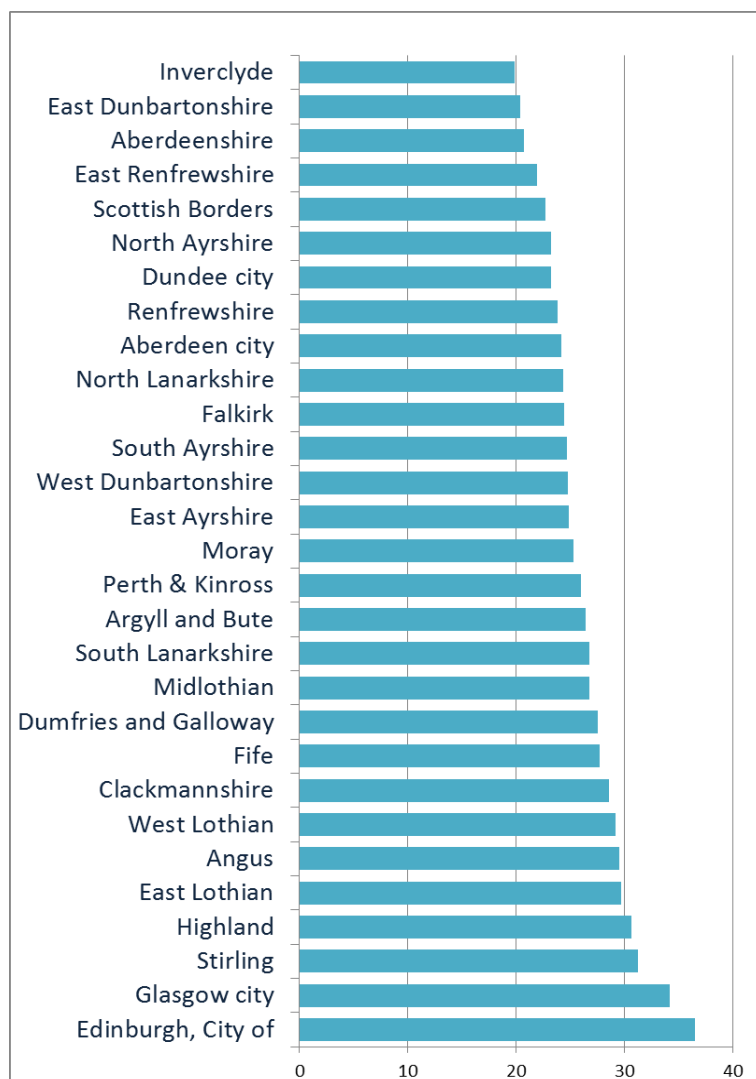


Local authority of residence in 2011

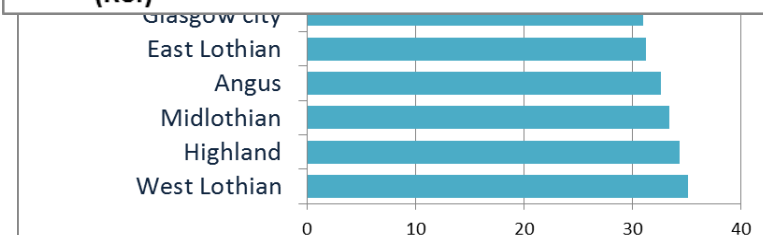
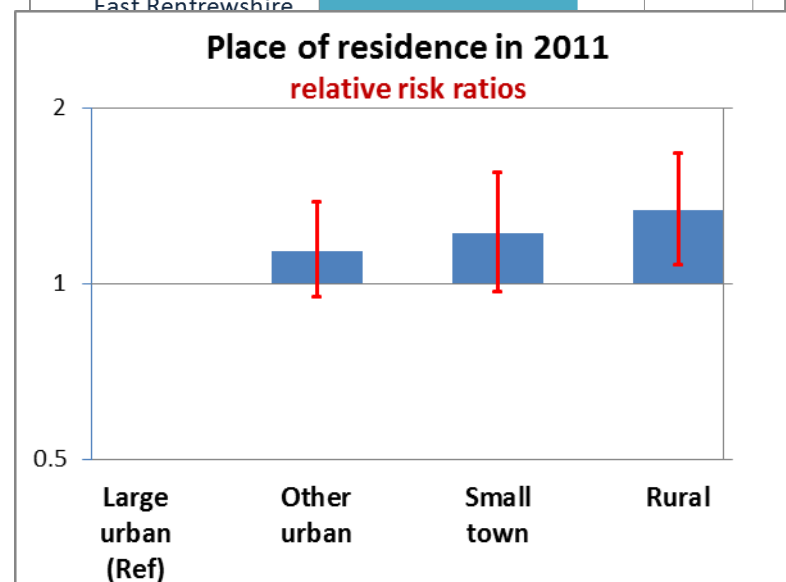
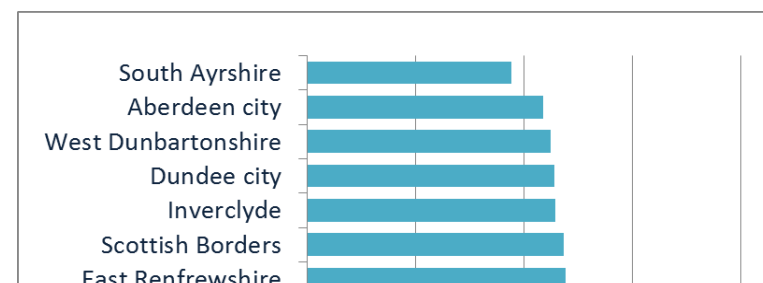
Source: Scottish Longitudinal Study

Upsizing across Scotland

% Upsizing (of all movers) between 2001 and 2011



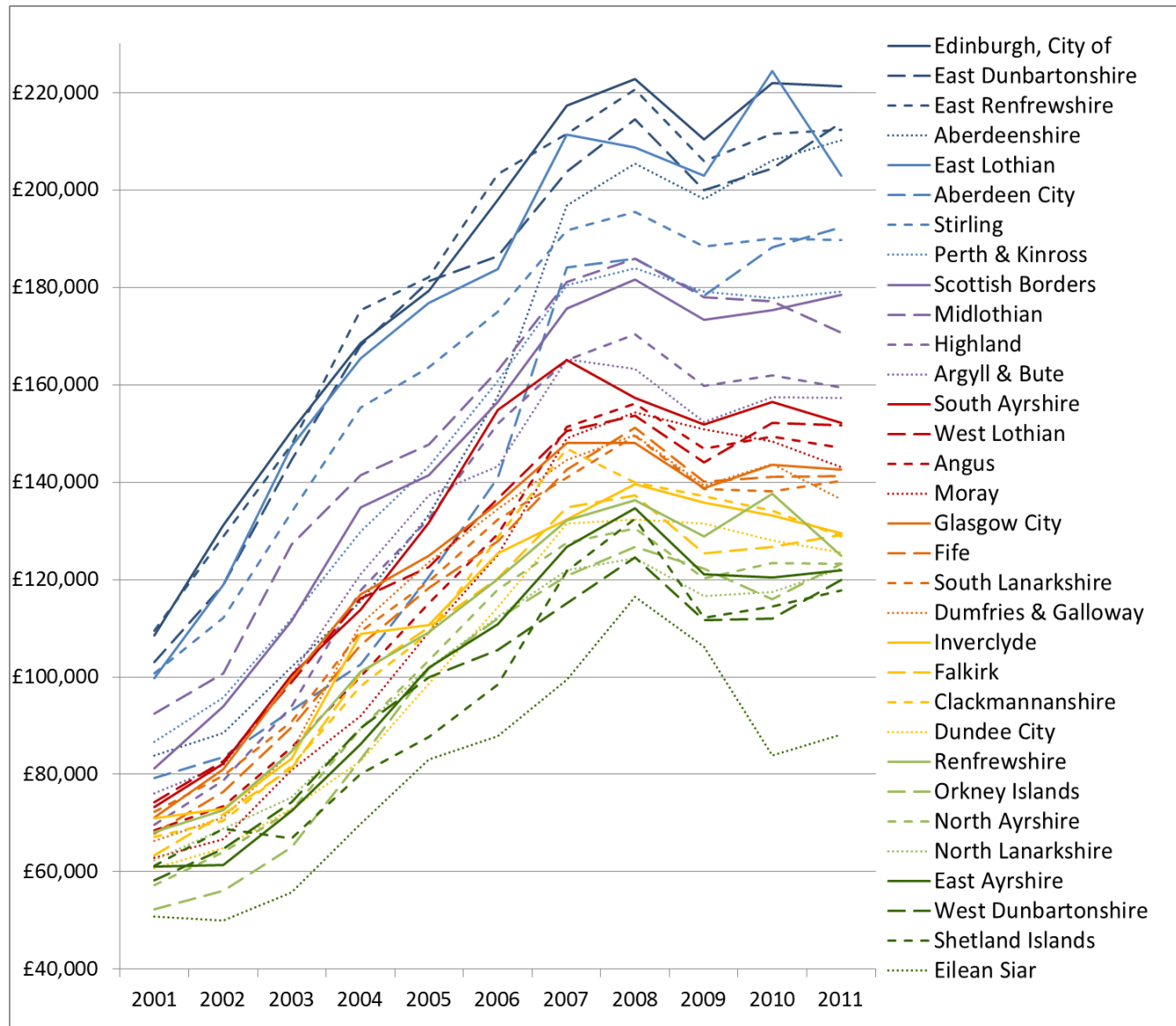
Local authority of residence in 2001



Local authority of residence in 2011

Source: Scottish Longitudinal Study

Housing prices in Scotland



Source: Registers of Scotland. Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics



Conclusions

- Just under 20% of older adults in Scotland moved address between 2001 and 2011. Of those who did move, nearly half downsized - but 27% upsized.
- Household changes are the main trigger of residential mobility at older ages, and of downsizing for movers.
- Upsizing is more sensitive to individual socio-economic status and less sensitive to household changes.
- The propensity to move and to adjust housing size vary geographically. The urban/rural character of the place of residence is a significant determinant of patterns of residential changes. These, conversely, do not appear to respond to local housing prices.



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